

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 4 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation 11am Funeral Liturgy for Maureen Ann Jones SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Genesis 12:1-4; Ps 32; 2 Timothy 1:18-20; Matthew 17:1-9</i> 6pm Family Mass Adelaide Treacy Ints	
Sunday 5 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Private Intention 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction	
Monday 6 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Lent Feria <i>Daniel 9:4-10; Ps 78; Luke 6:36-38</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Catherine Greenwood RIP	
Tuesday 7 March <i>Public liturgy and live stream</i>	Lent Feria <i>Isaiah 55:1:10, 16-20; Ps 49; Matthew 23:1-12</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am For You, the people of the Parish	
Wednesday 8 March <i>Public liturgy</i>	Lent Feria <i>Jeremiah 18:18-20; Ps 30; Matthew 20:17-28</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion	
Thursday 9 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	Lent Feria <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10; Ps 1; Luke 16:19-31</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Eileen Bloomer RIP	
Friday 10 March <i>Public liturgy</i>	Lent Feria <i>Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Ps 104; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Josephine Hanon RIP. 3pm Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 11 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Exodus 17:3-7; Ps 94; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42</i> 6pm Michael Carmody RIP	
Sunday 12 March <i>Public liturgy and live-stream</i>	10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int) 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction	
Parish Priest Parish Administrator St Mary’s Catholic Academy Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle Safeguarding Rep Archdiocese of Birmingham NSPCC Gift Aid Co-ordinator Hospital Chaplaincy Macclesfield District Hospital	Fr Martin Pratt Mrs Alice Murray Mrs G Turner Mrs R Waugh Appointment pending Mrs M Lawton University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk tel 01538 493888 tel 01538 493777 tel 0121 230 6240 tel 0800 800 500 ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk tel 01782 676400 ext 76400 tel 01625 663386

Pope’s prayer intention for March Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life Can you set aside one day each month to pray for Vocations? If so, could you sign the list at the back of church, please.

Please pray for the sick: Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura.

Due to data protection legislation, in order for a name to be printed in this newsletter, the consent of the person who is unwell needs to be given.

Praying for the Faithful Departed Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Ann Jones and Judith Broun. Maureen’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Saturday 5 March at 11am and Judith’s Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 23 March at 10.30am.

Anniversaries: Arthur Hambleton, Wilfred Spencer, Mary Joan Plant, Kathleen Mary Smith, Albina Kuzzlana, James William (Bill) Owen, Bernard Fenton, Richard Hanley, Frank Shaw, Josephine Theresa Gr Winifred Bircham, Marshall Stephen Boylan, Ada Hambleton, Vera Duffin, Anthony William Matthews, Sister M Aloysius I.B.V.M, Albert Sharpe, Antoni Kendrick, Hilda Wood, Betty Weller, Marguerita Kurdziej, Dennis Joyce, Annie Moss.

Dear friends,

Holy Moments How are your Holy Moment? Keep looking for the opportunities to open yourself to God and collaborate with him in Holy Moments at home, at the shops, on the way to work, here in church. No Holy Moment is insignificant. Each Holy Moment is making the world a better place.

Lent at St Mary's We have made a great start to this holy season. Let's keep this enthusiasm!

Mass Sunday Mass at 6pm Saturday and 10am Sunday
Confession Saturday 10am – 1030am. If you can't make it, please do call to make another arrangement.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Daily before Mass and Saturday 10am – 1030am followed by Benediction

Stations of the Cross Friday at 3pm and Sunday at 4pm
Rosary Before weekday Mass
Keep your 5 minutes of prayer.
Share your time, talent and treasure!

Getting ready for Holy Week The Season of Lent is geared to renewing the God given dignity which we received from Him at our Baptism and helping us to prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Christ's actions which gave us salvation including our Baptismal dignity. This year will be first year since 2019 when we can celebrate Holy Week as fully as we can. I would like to invite as many as possible to be involved in the celebrations in church. I want this Holy Week to be a community celebration with as many people as possible being involved. Here's how:

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday at the beginning of Holy Week celebrates Christ's entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem. Weather permitting, before both Masses we shall gather in the Avenue to recall Christ's arrival at Jerusalem. Mass on this Sunday is also marked by the proclamation of the Passion from Matthew's Gospel. At both Masses, I would like to invite 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion.

Thursday 6 April Holy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper re-remembers the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet, the establishment of the Eucharist (Mass and the Blessed Sacrament) and the Priesthood. At the end of Mass, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of repose with watching into the night, recalling Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. I would like to invite

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 12 people to have feet washed during Mass
- A Eucharistic Minister
- Can you pray in church after Mass?

Friday 7 April Good Friday 3pm Celebration of the Passion. This solemn liturgy is characterised by three actions: the proclamation of the Passion from John's Gospel; the Veneration of the Cross; and, Holy Communion

- A reader for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Second Reading
- 2 additional readers to proclaim the Passion
- 4 people to assist with the Veneration of the Cross
- 2 candle bearers
- 2 Cross bearers
- 2 people to prepare the altar cloths
- A Eucharistic Minister

Saturday 8 April Holy Saturday 7pm Easter Vigil This is known as the "Mother of all Vigils" because of its importance as the most importance act of worship in the Church's liturgical books. There are four parts: the Service of Light, we gather outside the church at the New Fire to bless and light the Paschal Candle and process into the church with lighted candles; the Liturgy of the Word which includes three Old Testament readings, an Epistle and a Gospel reading; next, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises – this is the moment our Lenten programme is aiming at – and the blessing of Holy Water; finally, the liturgy of the Eucharist. I would like help with

- Preparing, lighting and extinguishing the New Fire
- 2 people to assist with lighting candles at the New Fire and for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- 4 readers to proclaim the Bible Readings
- If you can help with any of these, please do sign the list in the sacristy.
- 2 people to unveil the statues during the singing of the Gloria
- A Eucharistic Minister

15 -1 6 April Annual Mission Appeal by the Spiritans Each year, the Archdiocese of Birmingham invites a Missionary Congregation to make an appeal in all the parish churches. This year it is the turn of the Spiritans. Their Congregation was founded in 1703. Today there are over 3000 professed members of the Congregation with lay Associates. Their mission continues in more than 60 countries around the world. Here is a link to their website <https://spiritans.co.uk>

Church cleaning I am incredibly grateful and will be always thankful to the teams of cleaners who have enabled us to be safe in church over the last three years. It is still important for us to keep the church clean: it makes being at Mass more comfortable and uplifting. The very strict requirements for cleaning are not necessary now. Recently two of my priest friends were here and they commented on how beautiful the church is, how clean, how well kept and that all the brass was shining! It is very impressive, and I know that I am very fortunate. In the last few days, some of the people who have dedicated themselves to the church cleaning have acknowledged that it has become a draw on their time. I am appealing for your help, please. Can you help immediately after Mass on Sunday to keep our beautiful church in its impressive condition? If so, please see Fr Martin or one of the members of the cleaning team

Monday 13 March, tenth anniversary of the election of Pope Francis To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "virtual" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. Please go to <https://www.decimus-annus.org/it/site/index>

Ecumenical events during Lent in Leek

Lent Lunches begin on 1 March and then every Wednesday until 29 March 12 - 1:30 pm to support Christian Aid. Come & enjoy hot soup, a roll, butter, & a drink at Trinity Church, Derby Street, Leek.

Lent Group begins Thursday 2 March, every week until 30 March at 2:30pm at Trinity. Based on the book: [God Forsaken](#) by Stephen Cottrell. You don't need to buy a book. We will be looking at issues raised together.

Good Friday, Friday 7 April, Annual Walk of Witness. This year, it is our turn to lead the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in the centre of Leek. I haven't made any plans yet, but if you can help with singing, music, or reading please let me know. There is a need for marshals to ensure the procession is safe. If you can help with this, please let me know.

Sacramental Preparation During the week, Sacramental Preparation Classes for the children who will receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this year have started again at school. These Sacraments continue the mission of Jesus, they are our acts of worship, they form us as disciples of Christ, they are made in communion with one another so that personal faith is built up. It is wrong to consider these Sacraments either as rites of passage or a milestone at school. Let's have a positive and Christian view of these actions of faith! Please continue to pray for the children and that their parents will support them by bringing the children to Mass as we do at the Rosary prayer group before Weekday Masses.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11 March 10.30am Sweep and clean

Sunday 2 April Sunday social after Mass

Second Collections Sunday 5 March Cathedral Maintenance

Collection Last week's collection Gift Aid £132.00 Non- Gift Aid £68.35

Friday 17 March 4pm Parish Finance Committee meeting

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 April Mission appeal made by the Spiritans

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 March CAFOD

Total £200.35