

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
Compton, LEEK, Staffordshire, ST13 5NH
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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 05 March <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Deuteronomy 26: 4-10; Ps 90; Romans 10: 8-12; Luke 4: 1-13 2.30pm Family Mass: For you, the People of the Parish
Sunday 06 March <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	10am Eric Arthur Duffin RIP 4pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 07 March <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Lent Feria, Commemoration of Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 18; Matthew 25:31-46 10am Fr. Paul Hughes (Spec. Int.) 4pm In Church: Meeting with parents of children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation
Tuesday 08 March <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Lent Feria, Commemoration of St John of God, Religious Isaiah 55: 10-11; Ps 33; Matthew 6: 7-15 10am Holy Souls (HB)
Wednesday 09 March <i>No Mass</i>	Lent Feria, Commemoration of St Frances of Rome, Religious Jonah 3: 1-10; Ps 50; Luke 11: 29-32
Thursday 10 March <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	Lent Feria Esther 4:17; Ps 137; Matthew 7: 7-12 10am Vera and Chris Wallace (Spec. Int.)
Friday 11 March	Lent Feria Ezekiel 18: 21-28; Ps 129; Matthew 5: 20-26 Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy in the morning 3pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 12 March <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18; Ps 26; Philippians 3: 17-4:1 2.30pm Pam Finney RIP
Sunday 13 March <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm Stations of the Cross

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz	administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 714944
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0808 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400 ext 76400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Please pray for the sick Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, Janusz Szura and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
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.

Let’s pray for the Faithful Departed We remember in our prayers Marie Lowe

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for March: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Anniversaries Bernard Fenton, Richard Hanley, Frank Shaw, Josephine Theresa Grain, Winifred Birch, 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, Martin Reilly, Mary Lewis, George Albert Hill

Dear friends, we are a few days into the Season of Lent and I want to encourage you to keep going and persevere with your Lenten works. If you have chosen a Lenten work: a prayer; a sacrifice; an act of charity; whatever keep at it! Set a goal which interests you or have a target which motivates and inspires you. Based on your goal or target, get better by 1% each day. Doing this will make you 40% better by Easter and, as Pentecost is ninety days away, by that time you will be nearly 100% better and unstoppable.

Pray for Peace in Ukraine Let's continue to pray for peace in Ukraine

Charitable support for Ukraine As there are already a number of practical and financial collections taking place, we shall hold a voluntary collection on the weekend of 19-20 March for Aid to the Church in Need which has pledged to support Priests and Religious Sisters remaining in Ukraine. This funding will help to continue their pastoral and outreach programs and further emergency aid to four Greek-Catholic exarchates and the two Latin dioceses in Eastern Ukraine, covering Kharkiv, Zaporizhyya, Donetsk, Odesa and Krym. You can donate to Aid to the Church in Need [Aid to the Church in Need | Donate \(acnuk.org\)](#). Alternately, you may wish to donate directly to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee) Supporting DEC, the UK Government will match donations for the first £20million raised. You can donate to the DEC by following this link [DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal | Disasters Emergency Committee](#)

Preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation There will be a meeting for the parents of children in School Year 3 and Year 6 at St Mary's Academy who would like to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation later this year. The meeting will take place on Monday 7 March at 4pm in church. The parents of children in School Year 4 and Year 5 who chose to wait till this year will also be expected to attend this meeting also.

For me, as your Parish Priest, I want parents and carers to see the value and importance of their child's spiritual development; I want your faith to be enriched by this process just as much as your child will be; and, I want parents to see the significance and the satisfaction that your child derives from being a valued and respected member of the worldwide Church and being part of its life and mission.

Both St Mary's Academy and I expect parents of children to attend the preparation meeting on Monday 7 March; sign the consent form for their children to attend the Sacramental Preparation in school; and, the children preparing for these sacraments to attend Sunday Mass every week with their families.

Easter Duties The Church wants every member to receive Spiritual Benefits from Mass and Confession and asks us to make the Easter Duties; going to Confession, going to Mass, and receiving Holy Communion. In our diocese, the time for making the Easter Duties is between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Lent at St Mary's 2022 The Church's season of Lent begins on Wednesday 2 March, Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent reminds us of the sacred dignity which we received at our Baptism. The 40 days of Lent prepare us to celebrate and to take part in the 4 most important days of the Christian calendar: Holy Thursday's evening Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday evening's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday's celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Please do come to these four principal celebrations of our faith. During Lent this year, let's prepare for Easter and renew our Christian living by

- **Going to Mass** Let's encourage one another to be at Mass.
- **Going to Confession** The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession is celebrated in church on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am.
- **Praying for 5 minutes every day** As a parish of prayer let's be united in these intentions:
For peace in Ukraine; that we will be stewards of creation; for an end to the pandemic
For the children preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation
- **Sharing time, talent and treasure** Our parish needs your support more than ever before! Can you help:

With cleaning the church on Sundays after Mass - With the Ministry of Welcome at Saturday afternoon Mass and Sunday morning Mass - With our Parish SVP - With brass cleaning in church - Can you help support these collections during Lent:

Saturday 5 / Sunday 6 March	St Chad's Cathedral	Saturday 12 / Sunday 13 March	CAFOD Lent Fast
Saturday 19/ Sunday 20	Collection for the Ukraine	Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March	St Mary's Parish SVP
Saturday 2 / Sunday 3 April	Easter Flowers	Friday 15 April	The Holy Places in the Holy Land

The Edge@Alton Youth Group has made rosary decade beads, bookmarks and Easter Candles to raise money for the Donna Louise children's hospice. There will be a basket of items on sale at the back of church in the coming weeks.

Mass cards I have had some bespoke Mass cards printed with images from two of the stained glass windows in church: one design is for Mass for the Deceased and the other for a Special Intention. The Mass cards are £1 each.

Being Safe in Church Let's continue to "Love one another as Christ has loved us" and make sure that we keep one another safe when we are in church by continuing to use the hand sanitizer, wear face coverings, maintain a social distance.

- Child altar servers can resume when adult servers receive DBS updates.
- The phased reintroduction of singing at Mass can begin with face coverings while singing.
- Prearranged Face to face meetings to be held in the narthex; groups to make arrangements for meetings either immediately following Mass or other times with a church key holder. All surfaces: chair backs, desk tops are to be cleaned after the meeting by those in attendance.
- Continue with limited numbers attending Baptisms if taking place after Mass. Baptisms can take place during Mass.
- Weddings and Funerals can take place with all these precautions in place.

Dates for your diary

Monday 7 March First Holy Communion and Confirmation Meeting for parents at 4pm in church

Monday 14 March Bible Book Club at 630pm

Saturday 9 July Leek Club Day. Planning is underway and very soon we will be asking for volunteers to help to ensure the Day is safe.

A huge THANK YOU! To the PTFA at St Mary's Catholic Academy for arranging a Movie Night which has raised £382.50 for our parish. These funds will go to purchasing the Easter Candle for this year, communion breads and altar wine, incense, Palm Crosses and a shell to be used for the Sacrament of Baptism. I am incredibly grateful to the members of the PTFA and the all the children who raised a great amount for our parish.

North Staffordshire Catholic Deanery Holy Trinity CAFOD/Live Simply group present *Lenten Reflections with the Gospels*, Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'*, and stories from around the world. On the Tuesdays of Lent at Coolock, Stubbs Gate, ST5 1LH at 7pm.

Kenelm Youth Trust and North Staffordshire Youth Ministry Is pleased to announce that a new online youth leaders training programme has started on Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. For more information, send an email to victoriahamilton@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Lent courses in and around Leek

St Edward's church Beginning on Wednesday 9 March, this Lent course will be based on the best-selling book, *The Shack* by William Paul Young. The course will explore the themes of suffering, redemption, questioning, faith, hope and salvation and will take place in the Parlour at 730pm or online, if you prefer. For more details, please send an email to stedwardsleek@hotmail.com or telephone 386114.

All Saints church Beginning on Thursday 10 March and running for the 5 following weeks a course learning from 5 women from the Old Testament depicted in the stained-glass windows of the church. For more information please send an email to allsaints.leek@outlook.co.uk or telephone 528545 contact the church directly: 1538 528545, or email allsaints.leek@outlook.com

Leek Methodist church Starting on Tuesday 8 March at 7.30pm a Zoom Group: 'A river through the desert'. Via Zoom. ID: 962 5280 3313 Passcode: 129589 Please contact Rev Eleanor for a course booklet: 01782503228 eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk

St Chad's House Leek - here are two upcoming events:

Coffee, Cake and Chat ~ Tue 15 March 11am-12:30pm All welcome for tea, coffee, chat and some delicious homemade cake.

Lent Quiet Day ~ Wednesday 16 March 10am-4pm Come and join is for a gentle guided day in the peace of St Chad's House. Tea, coffee and cake and a light lunch provided. Please send an email to stchadsleek@gmail.com or ringing (01538) 382483. Donations welcome. St Chad's House, 3 Southfields, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 5LR.

At Facebook Mass we can't have a collection Thank you to those who have used the "Donate" button on the Parish Website. If you would like to donate by standing order, please send an email to me at the Parish Office at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Collection Gift Aid - £86.00 Non Gift Aid - £110.86 Total - £ 196.86 Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Have a great week! With prayers and best wishes, Fr Martin