

**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 7 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
*Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7; Ps 28; Acts 10: 34-38; Matthew 3: 13-17*  
6pm Family Mass, Ray Cossburn RIP, (GC)

**Sunday 8 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Mass with the Sacrament of Baptism, Sheila Bird RIP, (PW)  
4pm Rosary and Benediction

**Monday 9 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Hebrews 1: 1-6; Ps 96; Mark 1: 14-20*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Holy Souls (HB)

**Tuesday 10 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Hebrews 2: 5-12; Ps 8; Mark 1: 21-28*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Brian Orford RIP (JA)

**Wednesday 11 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Hebrews 2:14-18; Ps 104; Mark 1: 29-39*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion (Eucharistic Service)

**Thursday 12 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Hebrews 3: 7-14; Ps 94; Mark 1: 40-45*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Angela Bird RIP

**Friday 13 January**

**Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Hebrews 4: 1-5, 11; Ps 77; Mark 2: 1-12*  
1.30pm Mass will be at St Mary’s Academy, Parents and parishioners are welcome!

**Saturday 14 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation  
**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6; Ps 39; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3; John 1: 29- 34*  
6pm For you, the People of the Parish

**Sunday 15 January**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)  
4pm Rosary and Benediction

**Parish Priest**  
**Parish Administrator**  
**St Mary’s Catholic Academy**  
**Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle**  
**Safeguarding Rep**

Fr Martin Pratt  
Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz  
Mrs G Turner  
Mrs R Waugh  
Appointment pending  
Archdiocese of Birmingham  
NSPCC  
Mrs M Lawton  
University Hospital North Midlands  
Macclesfield District Hospital

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**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January:** For educators - We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**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.*

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed** We pray for the repose of the soul of Bruce Hargreaves.

**Anniversaries** Winifred Mary Kearns; Wladyslawa (Gladys) Hryciuk; Rose Esther Birchenough; Ethel Titterton; Irene Collier; Anthony William Rutter; Mary Ellen (Eileen) Swann; William Davenport; Molly Brookes; George Bernard Adams; John Morgan; Ellen Barlow; Jerzy (George) Kowalski; Catherine Ellen Jarvis (Kay); Gabriele Haywood; Anne Nancy Brough; Margaret Cross; Norman Stafford; Elizabeth Barnes; Pauline Wright; Judith Mary Theresa Goldstraw;



Dear friends, let's make Holy Moments! A Holy Moment is when I am open to God and choose to do his will. Lets be part of a movement of Holy Moments that will change the world for good.

This weekend, I shall give you a copy of Matthew Kelly's book, Holy Moments: A handbook for the rest of your life. It has been a great help to me. It is easy to read. It is full of encouraging advice about how each person can be part of the Church, answer God's call to holiness of life by making Holy Moments which can transform both our personal lives, our parish and the world. We all need some encouragement and I believe that this book gives a positive vision and inspiration which everyone can be part of. I commend it to you and

together, let's be part of something thoroughly good and holy.

**Sacramental Preparation at St Mary's Academy:**

- **Sacramental Application Forms** These were distributed at our meeting in church last September. Those parents who have not received an application form are asked to see me after Mass. Please ensure these application forms are completed and returned to School as a matter of urgency.
- **The Sacramental Preparation classes** These classes will begin on next Thursday, 12 January and take place in School every Thursday. I will be attending these classes. Please make sure that the consent forms to attend these classes have been signed and returned to School.
- **Attending Sunday Mass** I do appeal to the parents and carers of the children preparing for these Sacraments to attend Sunday Mass with your child. The Church's obligation to be at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is not meant to be an additional burden, but to show how, we as Catholics, treasure what is truly important to us. I would like to acknowledge it is good to see that some families are attending Mass regularly. I know that a number of children are part of Associations and Sports' Clubs; regular attendance at meetings and practices for these groups is essential. It is the same for Sacramental Preparation. If you choose not to attend Mass the celebration of the Sacraments for your child will be a shallow occasion. Please do support your child in this important part of their Sacramental Preparation. Sunday Masses at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

**Ordinary Fridays** Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

- by abstaining from meat or some other food
- by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement
- by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross
- by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad
- by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

Holy Days of Obligation 2023		Second Collections 2023:	
Wednesday 22 February	Ash Wednesday – not a Holy Day, but a day on which many people want to be at church	Sunday 5 March	Cathedral Maintenance
Thursday 18 May	Ascension of the Lord	Friday 7 April	Holy Places in the Holy Land
Thursday 29 June	Ss Peter and Paul	Sunday 30 April	Clergy Training Fund
Tuesday 15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Sunday 21 May	Catholic Communications
Wednesday 1 November	All Saints	Sunday 18 June	Day of Life
Monday 25 December	Christmas Day	Sunday 2 July	Peter's Pence
		Sunday 9 July	Apostleship of the Sea
		Sunday 17 September	Catholic Evangelisation
		Sunday 24 September	Fr. Hudson's Society
		Sunday 22 October	Missio
		Sunday 5 November	Johnson Association
		Sunday 26 November	Catholic Youth Service
		Sunday 10 December	Poor Parishes of the Diocese

**Parish pilgrimage to Knock** The proposed pilgrimage to Knock will take place from 22 – 26 May 2023. The fare is £659 per person, plus £150 for single supplement. The five day trip will be based at the Knock House Hotel a short distance from the shrine, in includes return flights from Manchester to Knock, 10kg luggage allowance, priority boarding, and trips to Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Westport. There is a minimum number of 20 people to make the pilgrimage possible. If you would like to go, please be in contact with Fr Martin as soon as possible, please.

**St Mary's Parish Administrator** The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek, seeks to appoint a part-time Parish Administrator located at the Parish Office, Compton, Leek. 10 hours per week, Monday and Friday, paid at £10.90 per hour. For full details, please contact Fr Martin. Closing date for letters of application and current CV is Friday 13 January, 2023. Applications to be sent to Fr Martin Pratt, St Mary's Presbytery, Compton, LEEK, ST13 5NH

**200 Club** It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRC DTR St Mary's, Leek.

Since the pandemic the numbers subscribing to the 200 Club have substantially reduced. Please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

<b><u>Dates for your diary</u></b>	Monday 9 January	6.30pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
	Tuesday 12 January	7pm Journey in Faith
	Sunday 15 January	Exchange Sunday
	Monday 16 January	12 noon Trinity Church, we are leading prayers for Christian Unity
Sunday 22 January	Sunday of the Word of God – during both Sunday Masses, those who exercise the Ministry of Reader will be blessed	4pm United Service here at St Mary's
<b><u>Collection</u></b>	Gift-Aid £164.00	Non Gift Aid £81.75
		Total £245.75