

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
Tel 01538 382385 Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 7 May **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Public Mass and live - stream *Acts 13: 14,43-52; Ps 99; Apocalypse 7: 9,14-17; John 10: 27-30*
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 8 May
Public Mass and live – stream 10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int)
11.30am The Sacrament of Baptism
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 9 May **Easter Feria**
Public Mass and live – stream *Acts 11: 1-18; Ps 41-42; John 10: 1-10*
10am Nancy and Don Brough

Tuesday 10 May **Memorial of St John of Avila, Priest, Doctor of the Church**
Public Mass and live-stream *Acts 11: 19-26; Ps 86; John 10: 22-33*
10am Dennis Wilkes (RIP) (PW)

Wednesday 11 May **Easter Feria**
No Mass *Acts 12: 24-13:5; Ps 66; John 12: 44-50*

Thursday 12 May **Easter Feria**
Public Mass and live – stream Today is the 135th Anniversary of the opening of our church.
Acts 13: 13-25; Ps 88; John 13: 16-20
10am Elda Mathewson RIP

Friday 13 May **Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima**
Acts 13: 26-33; Ps 2; John 14: 1-6
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy
3pm May Devotions

Saturday 14 May 10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.
Public Mass and live - stream **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
Acts 1: 15-17; Ps 112; John 15: 9-17
2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 15 May
Public Mass and live – stream 10am Eric and Barbara Duffin RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

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

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for May: For faith-filled young people; We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary’s life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Please pray for the sick Moyra Chadwick, 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.

Anniversaries Katherine Butler; May Gladys Flannigan; Mary Machin; Thomas Ball; James Campbell; May Elizabeth Notter; Michael Baratynski; Edward Stepek; Kathleen Fairbanks; Boadicea Marren; Brenda Burnett Gibson; Avery Mary Biddulph; Christine McDonnell; Josephine Mary Thompson; Les Oliver; Kathleen Mary Patricia Pointon; Kristina Bernadette Tilbury; Bernard Joseph Dawson; Christopher Birch; Ira Lowe; Stanislaw Bangrowski; Albert Henry France; Thomas Salt; Fred Stafford; Wawrzyniec (Charles) Nawrot; Cynthia Mottershaw; Janina Szmuniowska; Lillian Mitchell; Sylvia Sullivan;



Dear friends, we continue our celebration of Christ's Resurrection! This weekend the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Easter. The Church uses the designation, "... of Easter". For some this is both confusing and unnecessary. The reason the Church uses this designation lies in the nature of this season. This is not the time "after Easter". Easter celebrates the inauguration of the new life caused by Christ's Resurrection. This is most notable in the frequent use of "alleluia" during this season.

This Fourth Sunday of Easter is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. There are some prayer cards available as you arrive at church this weekend. Please do pray that more people will respond to Christ's call to serve the Church: it is a great to be a priest! Our parish has been very blessed with two of our parishioners who are Parish Priests. If each parish could send one man to the seminary, there would be no shortage of priests! Let's be generous in our support and prayers for more priests. So let's continue to ...

- encourage each other to be at Mass in church and to go to Confession on a regular basis – it is a sign of an active parish
- keep going with 5 minutes of prayer every day
- and, to share our time, talent and treasure

Easter Duties The Church knows the great spiritual benefits which we enjoy from the Resurrection of the Lord and we are obliged as Catholics to make our Easter Duties. That is: going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession during the 50 days of the Easter Season; in our diocese, this period is extended to Trinity Sunday which this year falls on 12 June.

Being safe in church I am very grateful to you for your continuing co-operation with our desire to keep each other safe while in church especially the most vulnerable; there are people who come to church and return home to vulnerable relatives also. We all know that all the legal requirements have been lifted, we ask for your consideration of others even if this is different in other churches. I am aware that some people are comfortable with not wearing a face covering, and there are others who are not ready for this. Personally, I am not ready to do without a face covering for my own personal, private reasons.

- Cordons to be removed from the benches on one side of the church; the cordons are to remain on the other side of the church
- Any one displaying symptoms of Covid19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.
- Those attending to sanitize their hands on arrival and may continue to wear a face covering whilst in the church
- There is no need for formal social distancing although those present should be sensitive to the needs of others: some may be vulnerable, others may return to someone who is
- It is important to ensure good ventilation.
- Eucharistic Ministers to sanitize their hands before administering Holy Communion and to wear a face covering.
- Singing to be reintroduced.
- Face to face Parish Meetings can take place in the narthex; some parish groups have already taken place and others are making plans. It would be very helpful for meetings to take place immediately after Mass ordinarily on Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays. All surfaces: chair backs, desk tops are to be cleaned after the meeting by those in attendance.

Can you help, please? I am very grateful to the teams of stewards and cleaners who have made it possible to have public Mass in church over the last two years. We are asked to continue with usual patterns of cleaning. Unfortunately, we are not able to go back to the arrangement which was in place before the beginning of the pandemic and I believe that it is important to keep our beautiful church in good order for ourselves and for visitors: a clean church makes a good impression and this is more necessary than ever if we want to encourage more people back to church. It will be necessary to continue to clean the church after the Sunday Mass. If you can help, and if we can get at least one more team of 5 people it will share the work load. If you can spare 30 minutes on a Sunday after Mass, please let me know. Send an email to stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Preparing for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation I want to encourage the parents and the families of the children preparing for these important occasions that it is crucial to be at Sunday Mass. We are preparing the children for communion with God and preparing them for communion with the Church - with the people of the parish who will witness the faith when you are at church. Over the last few weeks it has been good to see more families at Mass, and it is great to see you; the sacrifice which you are making will be worth it! Let's all encourage the families of all the children to bring them to Sunday Mass in church. My offer to the parents still stands: if you would like a refresher course in the Catholic faith over the next few weeks, please let me know. I am praying to St Joseph every day for the children and their families.

A Synodal Parish In our recent Synod Questionnaire you mentioned the following areas as priorities for our parish and for personal encouragement.

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession** - This is celebrated on Saturdays between 10am and 1030am. If you can't make this time, please do call to make an appointment.
- **Reaching out to families, young people and children** – It is great to see and to hear children at Mass especially on Sundays; it is a sure sign that we have a future generation. In the last week, I will be in contact with the Chaplaincy at Leek College, the Parish Newsletter will be circulated to all parents of students at Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle, and I will be in contact with the Scout and Cub packs.
- **Understanding the Scriptures** - We shall continue to have Sunday Mass sheets with the Bible Readings; there has been a change for financial reasons. There will be similar sheets for Weekday Masses. There is Bible Book Club on Monday evenings on Zoom: at present we are reading the Book of Exodus. If you wish to join, please let me know.

Dates for your diary

Monday 9 May 630pm Bible Book Club on Zoom
Thursday 12 May Anniversary of the opening of our Church
Saturday 21 May 1045am Faith for Kids in the narthex
Thursday 26 May Ascension Thursday: Mass will be celebrated at School during the day and a Parish Mass will be celebrated at 6pm.

A second collection to support the local Diocesan response to those seeking safety in the Archdiocese from the war in Ukraine

Archbishop Bernard Longley has asked parishes to hold a second collection on the 14/15 May 2022 to support our ability to respond to the many needs connected with this work of welcome. Any money donated will be held as a restricted fund by Father Hudson's and will only be used to support any necessary work. More details of the Diocesan Ukraine Appeal are available on the Archdiocese of Birmingham website.

Important notice if you or a relative will be Going into Hospital at the Royal Stoke University Hospital To ensure that you or your relative receives a visit from a member of the Catholic Chaplaincy, for the next few weeks, at least, at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford, if you are admitted as a patient, even if they know you are a Catholic, the chaplaincy will not be automatically informed, and neither will anyone ask you if you want a visit. In order to be visited, you must contact the chaplaincy office – 01782 676400 for Stoke and 01785 887659 for County. Sacraments can still be administered at the bedside, even if someone has Covid (the office needs to be informed beforehand).

A Message from the Youth Leaders at The Edge@Alton Youth Group Edge@Alton is a youth hub (or group) run by leaders from, and serving the young people of, the parishes of the Staffordshire Moorlands. We would love you to be a part of this! You are always welcome to come along to any of our meetings. Our final meeting of the school year in July is an open Mass (all are welcome and invited) - this is a real opportunity for yourselves and parish communities to come together in being with the young people as we share and celebrate our faith which makes us one family. May we also thank you for your support with the young people's Lenten fundraising for the Donna Louise Hospice. Please know that the young people and leaders of Edge@Alton pray for you at each of our meetings.

Food Bank There has been an appeal for donations of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Items can be left in the basket at the back of the church. Donations of perishable food items can be left at St Mary's Academy, Cruso Street.

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 email me at the Parish Office - stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Collection Non Gift Aid £145.05 Gift Aid £417.00 Total £562.05 Monthly standing orders April £1,289.50

Thank you for your generous support of our parish

With prayers and best wishes for you and your family as we continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection
Fr Martin