

**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 8 April**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Holy Saturday**  
10am church Open for private Prayer and Confessions  
7pm      Easter Vigil

**Sunday 9 April**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**SOLMUNITY OF THE RESSURRECTION OF THE LORD**  
*Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps 117; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9*  
10am      Theresa Ahearn

**Monday 10 April**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

**Easter Monday, Solemnity**  
*Acts 2:14, 22-23; Ps 15; Matthew 28:8-15*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Donor’s Intention .

**Tuesday 11 April**  
*Public liturgy and live stream*

**Easter Tuesday, Solemnity**  
*Acts 2:36-41; Ps 32; John 20:11-18*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Special Intention  
11.15am      Funeral Liturgy for Mary Kania

**Wednesday 12 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Wednesday, Solemnity**  
*Acts 3:1-10; Ps 104; Luke 24:13-35*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Thursday 13 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Thursday, Solemnity**  
*Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8; Luke 24:34-48*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Friday 14 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**Easter Friday, Solemnity**  
*Acts 4:1-12; Ps 117; John 21:1-14*  
9.40am      Rosary      10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Saturday 15 April**  
*Public liturgy*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*Acts 2:42-47; Ps 117; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*  
6pm      Martyn Paul Wilkes RIP

**Sunday 16 April**  
*Public liturgy and live-stream*

10am      Janusz Szura

**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  
Mr Malcolm Sproat

Mrs M Lawton  
University Hospital North Midlands

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**Pope’s prayer intention for April** Let us pray for a Culture of peace and non violence. We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

**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** Prayer for the Faithful Departed Let’s pray for the repose of the soul of Bishop David McGough and Mary “Marish” Kania. The arrangements for Mary’s Funeral are: Tuesday 11 April 11.15am Funeral Liturgy, here at St Mary’s, followed by committal at Carmountside at 1230pm. The arrangements for Bishop David’s Funeral are: Wednesday 19 April at 6pm at Sacred Heart RC Church, Queens Avenue, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 6EE. Thursday 20 April at 12noon the Funeral Mass will take place at St Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham.

**Anniversaries:** Vincent Kwiatkowski, Elizabeth (Betty) Healy, Angela Patricia Oakden, Diane Mary Bridget Stubbs, Charmaine Winifred Shenton, Stanislawa (Stasha), Peter Sullivan, Mildred Taaffe, Francis (Frank) Rushton, Sister Charles Irwin IBVM, Mrs Gandolfo, Stefan Drozdz, Margaret Alice Fairclough, Margaret Alice Fairclough, Marie Thraves, Sister Mercedes Doyle I.B.V.M., Mary Veronica Browning.

Dear friends, Happy Easter! The Resurrection is the foundation of our Catholic Christian Faith. God intervened in human history by raising Jesus from the dead and this the very building block on which we believe. This first week of the Easter Season is also known as the Easter Octave. Over eight days the Solemnity of Easter is celebrated. At Weekday Masses this week, the first readings are taken from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, retelling the experiences of the first Christians immediately following the day of Pentecost. Along side these readings, there are accounts of the Resurrection and appearances of the Risen Lord to the disciples following his Resurrection.

**Bishop David McGough RIP** It is with great sadness that the death of Bishop David was announced. Bishop David was a regular visitor to us, here at St Mary's, administering the Sacrament of Confirmation for a large number of the young people in our parish and celebrating Mass. I have been in contact with some of his relatives, assuring them of our prayers and thoughts at this time. The arrangements for Bishop David's funeral were made known during the week. They are:

Wednesday 19 April at Sacred Heart Church, Queen's Avenue, Tunstall 6pm Reception and Mass

Thursday 20 April at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham 12noon Funeral Mass

**Next weekend, an appeal from the Spiritan Fathers.** The Spiritan Fathers' 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>

**The Joy of the Gospel** On this Easter Sunday, I share with you Pope Francis's introduction to his first Papal Document, The Joy of the Gospel. This first major document of his Petrine Ministry gives us great confidence to be the Lord's disciples in the present day.

1. The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.

2. The great danger in today's world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet covetous heart, the feverish pursuit of frivolous pleasures, and a blunted conscience. Whenever our interior life becomes caught up in its own interests and concerns, there is no longer room for others, no place for the poor. God's voice is no longer heard, the quiet joy of his love is no longer felt, and the desire to do good fades. This is a very real danger for believers too. Many fall prey to it, and end up resentful, angry and listless. That is no way to live a dignified and fulfilled life; it is not God's will for us, nor is it the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.

3. I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unflinching love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!

4. The books of the Old Testament predicted that the joy of salvation would abound in messianic times. The prophet Isaiah exultantly salutes the awaited Messiah: "You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy" (9:3). He exhorts those who dwell on Zion to go forth to meet him with song: "Shout aloud and sing for joy!" (12:6). The prophet tells those who have already seen him from afar to bring the message to others: "Get you up to a high mountain, O herald of good tidings to Zion; lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem" (40:9). All creation shares in the joy of salvation: "Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth! Break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones" (49:13).

Zechariah, looking to the day of the Lord, invites the people to acclaim the king who comes "humble and riding on a donkey": "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he" (9:9).

Perhaps the most exciting invitation is that of the prophet Zephaniah, who presents God with his people in the midst of a celebration overflowing with the joy of salvation. I find it thrilling to reread this text: "The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives you the victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing, as on a day of festival" (3:17).

This is the joy which we experience daily, amid the little things of life, as a response to the loving invitation of God our Father: "My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment" (Sir 14:11, 14). What tender paternal love echoes in these words!

#### Dates for the diary

- 15 – 16 April Missionary appeal for the Spiritan Fathers.
- 20 April 7pm Journey in Faith
- 27 April During the afternoon, Confessions at St Mary's Academy for School Years 4, 5 and 6.
- 4pm in church Penance Liturgy for those children making their First Confession
- 5 May 7pm Mass for HM Charles III
- 6 May Coronation Day
- 7 May Sunday Social following Mass.
- 8 May Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III
- 13 May 6pm Family Mass on the anniversary of the opening of St Mary's church. We hope to begin Mass with children bringing posies of prayers and placing them in front of the statue of St Mary at the beginning of Mass.

#### Second and other collections

- Easter Weekend Is one of the collections for Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income.
- 15 -16 April Mission appeal by the Spiritan Fathers. 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>

**Collection** Last week's collection Gift Aid £134.00 Non- Gift Aid £121.15 Total £255.15

Standing Orders for March totalled £1176.50 Thank you for your kind generosity!

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