

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 8 January

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 103; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

2pm Church open

Public Mass and live - stream

2.30pm Deceased members of the Tierney and Clarke families

Sunday 9 January

9.30am Church open

Public Mass and live - stream

10am Private Intention (GC)

4pm *Live-stream: Rosary and Benediction*

Ordinary Time

Monday 10 January

Feria in Ordinary Time

Live - stream Mass

1 Samuel 1:1-8; Ps 115; Mark 1:14-20

10am For you, the People of the Parish

Tuesday 11 January

Feria in Ordinary Time

Public Mass and live - stream

1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Sam 2; Mark 1:21-28

9.30am Church open

10am Holy Souls (HB)

Wednesday 12 January

Feria in Ordinary Time

No Mass today

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 39; Mark 1:29-39

Thursday 13 January

Memorial of St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Public Mass and live - stream

1 Samuel 4:1-11; Ps 43; Mark 1:40-45

9.30am Church open

10am Don and Nancy Brough

Friday 14 January

Feria in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22; Ps 88; Mark 2:1-12

Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy

Saturday 15 January

10am to 10.30am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 95; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

Public Mass and live - stream

2pm Church open

2.30pm Angela Bird

Sunday 16 January

Public Mass and live - stream

9.30am Church open

10am For you, the People of the Parish

4pm *Live-stream: 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 0800 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.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January - For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution, may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Anniversaries 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, Alfred Moss, Frances Bostock, Irene Sneyd, Jan Josef Bonczyk, Barbara Mary Wood, Margaret Pickford

Dear friends,

This weekend the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The Gospel scene is beautifully depicted in the stained glass window above the font in our church. This weekend's Feast also marks the end of the Christmas Season.

Here is a reflection on today's Gospel reading (Lk3:15-16, 21-22)

Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit to preach the good news to the poor. The heavens open in response to the prayer of Jesus and the voice reveals the hidden mystery of Christ as the Son of God. Jesus is in prayer, he is speaking with his Father in heaven, and God gives the gift of the Spirit.

Pope Francis wants us to be a Synodal Parish The Pope wants us to walk together, focused on Christ and knowing that we are valued members of the Church each capable of making a contribution to its life and mission. Every parish in the Church is being asked to take part in this two-year process. Very soon I will give you a questionnaire to discuss and complete. There are no right or wrong answers. You can complete it individually or with family and friends. The purpose is that everyone knows you are a valued member of the Church and our parish.

Staying safe in church Both the number of vulnerable people attending Mass and the number of people who attend Mass and return home to vulnerable relatives, have deemed it necessary to continue with the cautious approach which is already in place.

Here is a summary of the Covid safety rules.

- The Government's revised Covid guidelines mean that in churches we must carry on as we have been, sticking carefully to the precautions and remembering that no-one should be doing anything in church or for church that they consider too risky for them. The news is not encouraging but things can change very quickly.
- Face coverings are now mandatory
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit
- Keep a 1m distance if you can
- Ventilation is important. Please bring a coat!
- Lateral flow testing: please test yourself each week so that if you know you have the virus you stay at home
- Feeling ill: if you feel unwell, please stay at home and do not risk passing on the virus to others
- Vaccination: HAVE YOUR JABS! This keeps others safe too and is not just about the individual who is vaccinated. We Christians have a duty to take care of others and to neglect any of these ways of reducing infections is to neglect our neighbour. We are all in this together.



The Celebration of the Sacraments

Baptisms and weddings may be celebrated (with precautions above). Please see Fr Martin after a weekend Mass.

Confession is available on Saturdays from 10am – 1030am. Confession will be celebrated face to face in the narthex and by appointment.

Please bring a face covering.

Funerals - We shall have a gradual and phased reintroduction with the following routines:

NHS Track and Trace	Use of hand sanitizer	Social distancing	Use of face coverings
Limit of 50 people	A team of volunteer cleaners and stewards	The organ cannot be used and no singing	

Unfortunately, the Polish Mass and face to face parish meetings remain suspended

Review of 2021

Each year, every parish has to complete and return statistics of the Pastoral Activity. In St Mary's church, during 2021, there were 3 Baptisms, 2 Receptions into Full Communion with the Church, 18 First Holy Communions, 13 Confirmations and 5 Funerals. Church attendance during the four-week period from end of September to the end of October was: Week 1 – 75; Week 2 – 69; Week 3 – 99; Week 4 – 109.

Dates for your diary

Monday 10 January	6.30pm Bible Book Club
16 – 23 January	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sunday 16 January	Exchange Sunday: It would be good if we could send six parishioners from St Mary's, one to each of the other Christian churches in the town. If you would be willing to be one of our representatives, please let me know. Thank you, Fr Martin
Monday 17 January	12 noon at Trinity Church, Derby Street. Christian Unity Prayers. We will lead the prayers at Trinity Church, Derby Street. Each day following, one of the churches will lead prayers for Christian Unity.
Sunday 23 January	4pm United Service at St Edward's church
Saturday 5 February	2.30pm Family Mass
Sunday 6 February	Accession Day
Wednesday 2 March	Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent
Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June	Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Second Collections in 2022

5/6 March	St Chad's Cathedral Maintenance	24 / 25 September	Fr Hudson's Care
15 April (Good Friday)	Holy Places in the Holy Land	22 / 23 October	Missio: World Mission Sunday
7 / 8 May	Clergy Training Fund	5 / 6 November	Johnson Association: retired and infirm priests
28 / 29 May	Catholic Communications	19 / 20 November	Catholic Youth Service
18 / 19 June	The Day for Life	3 / 4 December	Poor Parishes of the Diocese
17 / 18 September	Catholic Evangelisation		

200 Club

It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please send cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to **BRC DTR St Mary's, Leek**.

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 also monthly cash prizes to be won! The greater the number of subscribers we have, the greater the prize money will be and the greater the contribution to St Mary's church. Please contact the church office for more details.

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

26 Dec 21	Gift Aid £202.00	Non Gift Aid £88.50	Total £290.50
2 Jan 21	Gift Aid £169.21	Non Gift Aid £122.40	Total £291.01

Thank you for kind hearted generosity.

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