



Dear friends, "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Have you received Christ's deep rooted concern for you this week? Have you reached out with Christ's love?

**Change of time for Mass on Saturday** At the end of October, to coincide with the change of time from British Summer Time to Greenwich Mean Time, I intend to change the time of the Saturday Mass to 230pm. If agreeable, this change will come into effect on Saturday 6 November. This change of time for Mass will enable parishioners to arrive and leave church after Mass in the daylight; the cleaning of the church after Mass will be completed about the time of sunset. I have received positive feedback for this. Thank you for sharing your comments with me.

**Great things happen when we work together** Can you write to a Member of the House of Lords to stop Baroness Meacher's "Assisted Suicide Bill 2021". There is an additional newsletter this week with information of how you can write to a Member of the House of Lords about this important matter.

**Sunday 14 November will be Remembrance Sunday** Plans are in place to create a display of knitted poppies along the railings near the crucifix in the Avenue. Weather permitting on Remembrance Sunday, we shall process to the Crucifix for an act of remembrance after Mass. If you can help with knitting poppies, patterns will be available after Sunday Mass.

**Leek Food Bank** I am asking for help: can you deliver the donations left in church to the Leek Food Bank? If you can volunteer for this, be able to come to the Presbytery on Friday mornings at 11am, and join the small team already doing this, please contact me at the Presbytery or send an email to [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**Prayer cards for Fr John Burns RIP** There are some prayer cards in memory of Fr John available at the back of the church.

**200 Club** The winners of September's draw have been notified. If you would like to join the monthly draw, a number is £1 per month. The more people in it, the more you can win!

**Step 4 of the Government's response to Coronavirus** Let's be caring and considerate towards one another in church. Please keep in mind that the person sitting in front of you or on the same bench may be either be or have a vulnerable relative at home, so let's continue with a spirit of charity.

- **At Mass** - we continue with NHS Track and Trace; sanitising hands; social distancing; and, use of face coverings.
- **Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation** - weather permitting in the presbytery car park. Bring a face covering.
- **Baptisms and Weddings** – please be in contact with Fr Martin.
- **The celebration of Christian 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.

#### The Parish plan for the rest of the year

- **Sunday Mass** Come back to Mass! Mass is the greatest act of worship which we can give to God. If you are feeling confident about being in church, please come along. It will be great to see you!
- **Monthly Confession!** It means the world to receive God's forgiveness and grace once each month to help become the best version of ourselves. Confessions are celebrated on Saturday morning between 10am and 1030am in the presbytery car park.
- **Pray for 5 minutes every day** Set some time aside each day to pray. Use your favourite prayer, read a favourite passage from the Bible or prayer; talk to God about your life and your family.
- **Share your time, talent and treasure** If you could help in our parish for an hour each week – it would make a world of difference! Could you help with our SVP Group? Do you have IT and / or typing skills? Can you help with Sweep & Clean and other maintenance jobs?

#### Can you support these events over the next few months?

- The Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion Masses. My thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help.
- Bible Book Club will restart on Thursday 14 October. We shall be reading St John's Gospel. If you would like to join, please let me know. Send an email to [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)
- Sunday 14 November, 2021 will be Remembrance Sunday – we are planning to make a display of poppies for the Crucifix and memorial near the entrance to the church. Can you help with making knitted poppies? If you can help, please send an email to Fr Martin at [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)

**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 per hour. For full details, please contact Fr Martin. Closing date for letters of application and current CV is Thursday 14 October, 2021. Applications to be sent to Fr Martin Pratt, St Mary's Presbytery, Compton, LEEK, ST13 5NH

#### Dates for your diary

Thursday 14 October      630pm Bible Book Club: John's Gospel and the Sacraments. If you would like to join the online Bible Book Club, please send an email to [stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk)  
Saturday 16 October      6pm Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation – please be aware spaces will be limited.  
Friday 29 October      3pm Sweep and Clean  
Saturday 30 / Sunday 31 October      Solemnity of All Saints.  
Sunday 14 November      Remembrance Sunday

**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](mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk).  
Collection 2/3 Oct 21 Gift Aid £265.00 Non Gift Aid £117.60 Total £382.60 Standing Orders for September £1211.50  
Last week's Second Collection for CAFOD raised £247.07. Thank you for your kind hearted generosity.

**For our younger parishioners – Edge@Alton** Edge youth group have their next meeting on Sunday 17th October at St John the Baptist parish, Alton. ST10 4TT Young people from school years 6,7 and 8 meet for 'fun, faith and friendship' and new members are always welcome! Sessions cost £2 payable on the day but must be booked by emailing: [edgeataltont@gmail.com](mailto:edgeataltont@gmail.com) We would also appreciate an extra pair of hands at each session. If you have a heart for young people and are able to volunteer to help us just once or twice a year we would love to hear from you. New volunteer parish youth ministers are also always welcome to join our enthusiastic team who plan and deliver the sessions with the young people. Please contact us via the email address above.

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

