

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 6 May
Public liturgy and live stream

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confession
Acts 6:1-7; Ps 32; 1Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12
6pm Kathleen Greenwood RIP

Sunday 7 May
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Dennis Wilkes RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 8 May
Public liturgy and live-stream

Easter Feria
Acts 14:5-18; Ps 113B; John 14:21-26
9.40am Rosary 10am. Ray Cossburn RIP

Tuesday 9 May
Public liturgy and live stream
Please note change of time

Easter Feria
Acts 14:19-28; Ps 144; John 14:27-31
8.30am Dennis Wilkes RIP

Wednesday 10 May
Public liturgy

Easter Feria
Acts 15:1-6; Ps 121; John 15:1-8
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 11 May
Public liturgy and live stream

Easter Feria
Acts 15:7-21; Ps 95; John 15:9-11
9.40am Rosary 10am For you, The people of the Parish

Friday 12 May
Public liturgy and live stream
Please note change of time

Easter Feria
Acts 15:22-31; Ps 56; John 12-17
9.40am Rosary 10am Donor’s Intention

Saturday 13 May
Public liturgy and live stream

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confession
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 65; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21
6pm Muareen Evans RIP

Sunday 14 May
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Dominic RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

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
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Pope’s prayer intention for May 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.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed We pray for the repose of the soul of Philip John Robey.

Anniversaries: Thomas Salt, Fred Stafford, Wawrzyniec (Charles) Nawrot, Cynthia Mottershaw, Janina Szmuniewska, Lillian Mitchell, Sylvia Sullivan, Hannah Casey, Mrs Lovatt, Colin Sheldon, Maria Rita Kagan, Lionel Gregory Beetham, Frederick Cox, Maksymillian Kania, Anne Mary Stapleton, William Murphy, Mildred Rushton, William (Bill) Henry, Elda Mathewson

Dear friends, The Church continues to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus during the Easter Season. Every Monday we have our Bible Book Club. At present we are reading the twelve minor prophets from the Old Testament and within this group there is a smaller group of prophets known as the Post Exilic Prophets. They are the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, Obadiah, Joel and Malachi. This small group of 5 prophets spoke out for God after King Cyrus II of Persia permitted the People of God who have been exiled by both the Assyrians in the ninth century and the Babylonians during the eighth century to return home and begin their important religious practices which they had been forced to relinquish. This small group of post exilic prophets are united by both their historical setting and their three shared themes: renewed fidelity to God; a renewal of the Temple and worship of God; and, the establishment of a New Jerusalem and a renewed devotion to the covenant bonds which God had created. These three themes are relevant to us today following the long periods of lockdown due to the virus. Let's have the same enthusiasm and zeal for the things of God and make our own the message of the Post Exilic Prophets: let's pursue a new fidelity to God; let's rebuild our Temple – our personal devotion to God; and, let's treasure the new and everlasting covenant which Christ established by his death and resurrection. Let's be bold Catholics who go to Mass every Sunday, go to Confession every month, pray for 5 minutes every day, and share our time, talent and treasure. Let's make Holy Moments!

Archbishop Bernard needs your help with the Diocesan Vision I am very grateful to those parishioners who represented us at the local Deanery Meeting last Wednesday at St Teresa's, Trent Vale.

Archbishop Bernard's vision for our diocese is, "Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service to God and neighbour." The Archbishop wants to invite you to be part of the unfolding of his vision in three local meetings which will take place with parishioners from the parishes across our North Staffordshire Deanery at St Teresa's, Trent Vale. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 31 May again at St Teresa's. This meeting will focus on the four areas of the diocesan vision: evangelisation; formation; liturgy & worship and social outreach. If you can represent our parish at this important meeting with parishioners from the other parishes of our deanery, please let me know.

The third meeting, "My commitment and pray with me" will take place on Wednesday 28 June at 7pm at St Teresa, Trent Vale.

Can you help with the following?

I am looking for two or three maintenance teams of at least two people to conduct monthly visual maintenance checks. This includes one grotty job of cleaning grids. If you can help, I will be very grateful to you.

I am looking for a team of two or three to assist with opening and locking the church on Saturday evenings for Mass.

I am looking for new members to join one of the cleaning teams after Mass on Sunday mornings. If you help by giving 20 – 30 minutes once a fortnight to clean the church and keep it in top condition, please see me or one of the members of the cleaning team.

I would be very grateful for help with the rota for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers at Sunday Masses.

If you can help with these, please let me know

Mass and the Blessed Sacrament are at the centre of our parish Let's be a parish that treasures the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament and receiving Holy Communion. Since the beginning of the pandemic I have been struck by how we have had to change, adapt and grow in the last few years. When the pandemic started and for a long time, Weekday Mass became a huge part of the daily routine of a large number of people. This year, since the beginning of Lent, we have been able to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament almost every day. And as we continue to celebrate the Easter Season, this is a great moment for us to build up both our practice at being at Mass and to build up our knowledge. It would be a great if we all knew the parts of Mass in the same way a musician knows and understands a piece of music or an engineer understands the mechanics of car. Over the next few weeks, I shall reproduce here extracts from a helpful article about the Mass.

Readings and the Profession of Faith

"The Mass consists of two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, so closely united that they constitute a single act of worship" (Roman Missal, General Instruction, 28).

"We now listen to the word of Scripture, the epistle and the gospel — light from the Holy Spirit, who speaks through human voices so as to make our intellect come to know and contemplate, to strengthen our will and make our desire for action effective. And because we are one people, 'gathered together in the unity of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,' we recite the Creed, affirming the unity of our faith"(from "The Eucharist, Mystery of Faith and Love," Holy Thursday homily of St. Josemaria).

As a parish which treasures the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament and receiving Holy Communion, here some important dates:

Saturday 10 June 11am First Holy Communion

Saturday 10 June and Sunday 11 June Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) during the Masses at this weekend, there will be a blessing and commissioning for the Eucharistic Ministers in our parish.

Thursday 22 June 7pm Meeting with Eucharistic Ministers in church

14–20 May 2023 Christian Aid Week Churches Together in Leek and District has arranged that donations can be made online by following this link: https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/churches-together-leek-and-district?utm_medium=sharedbuttons&utm_campaign=CAM-004478

10,000 Rosaries for the Month of May Bishop Robert Barron the Bishop of Winnoa, US, has initiated a worldwide Rosary Campaign for the month of May, praying for those who fallen away from the faith. If you wish to join, please visit, www.wordonfire.com/may

The Confessional and the Sacrament of Reconciliation Since the reopening of the church following the lockdown, the Confessional has been an additional store room for furniture. It now seems a good time to use the Confessional for its intended purpose: the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are some small items maintenance which are required before it can be used.

Piety Stall As you have noticed, the Piety Stall has taken a new and more central place in the Narthex. It has created a lot more space than I had originally expected. Please do have a look. There are some good items. Remember it is good to have your crucifixes, rosaries and statues blessed.

Sacramental Preparation Sacramental Preparation will continue on in school at lunchtime for Confirmation candidates and after school for First Holy Communion. It is very impressive that two of the children have made personal sacrifices to be at Sacramental Preparation. I would like to encourage and appeal to parents that it is also essential for them to be at one of the Sunday Masses each weekend.

Holy Days of Obligation

Ascension of the Lord

- Wednesday 17 May 2pm Early Vigil Mass in church with the pupils and staff of St Mary's Academy
- Thursday 18 May 7pm Mass in church

Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles, Martyrs

- Wednesday 28 June 2pm Early Vigil Mass in church with the pupils and staff of St Mary's Academy
- Thursday 29 June 7pm Mass in church

Dates for the diary

- Monday 8 May 630pm Bible Book Club
- 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.

Collection Last week's collection Gift Aid £145.00 Non- Gift Aid £76.80 Total £221.80

Second Collection For the Clergy training fund £194.33

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