

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 1 June	10am Funeral Mass for Winifred Mary Atkin RIP SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi) <i>Exodus 24:3-8; PS 115; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26</i> 6.15pm Mass Joan Greenwood (RIP)
Sunday 2 June	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 3 June	Memorial of Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs <i>2 Peter 1:2-7; PS 90; Mark 12:1-12</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Mr Patrick Bridgett RIP (DF)
Tuesday 4 June	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>2 Peter 3:11-15, 17-18; Ps 89; Mark 12:13-17</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Canon Gerry Breen RIP
Wednesday 5 June	Memorial of St Boniface, Bishop, Martyr <i>2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 122; Mark 12:18-27</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 6 June	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>2 Timothy 2:8-15; PS 24; Mark 12:28-34</i> 8.30am Mass Joan Williams RIP
Friday 7 June	SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS <i>First Friday</i> <i>Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8-9; Isaiah 12; Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19; John 19:31-37</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Mass in School during the day Christopher Rogers RIP
Saturday 8 June	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Genesis 3:9-15; Ps 129; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35</i> 6.15pm Mass John Kelsall RIP
Sunday 9 June	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Alice Murray	
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
Safeguarding Rep	Mr Malcolm Sproat	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
	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
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Parish Safeguarding The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Malcolm Sproat. He can be contacted at: sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for May For migrants fleeing their homes. We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

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- Zwiarski, Fr Anthony Dykes, Madeline Horter, Anne Malkin.

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: Winifred Mary Atkin RIP – her Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, 1 June, at 10am. Wilhelm Hermit RIP – his Funeral will take place at Carmountside Crematorium on Thursday 13 June at 1130am. Christine Mycock RIP – as at the time of printing, the arrangements for her Funeral are not confirmed.

Anniversaries for this week: Katy Pickford, Igor Glonski, Norman Yates, Martin Vincent Burke, Patrick Gerard Watters, Patricia Croasdale, Mary Elizabeth (Molly) Keates, Derrick John Moss, Gertrude Maria Lucia Boydon, Sister M Gabriel I.B.V.M, Selina Carding, Mark Beatty, Margaret Bettie Wheatley, Harold Frith, William Carding, Terence John Wakefield, Paddy Finn, Anastatia Finnigan, Lillian Lees, John Paul Meharg, Catherine Lawton, Sidney George Fry, Josephine Teresa Oliver, Wiktoria Lucja Zmarzlik, Eileen Mary Grant, Matthew Kavanagh, Ian Michael Blenkinsop

Dear friends, this weekend, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord also known as Corpus Christi. Traditionally, this Holy Day of Obligation was celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. Nowadays, we celebrate on the Sunday. During both Sunday Masses this weekend, the Extra – Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the Eucharistic Ministers, will be recommissioned and blessed. At the conclusion of both Masses there will be a short period of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

The Scouts Visited On Wednesday evening, it was great to welcome the members of the St Mary's Scout Pack. Since the Synod questionnaire, we identified reaching out and including young people in the life and mission of St Mary's which included welcoming the scouts on Wednesday evening. We want to set up a good working relationship between both the cub and scout packs. Despite some absences due to the half term holiday, there were 10 scouts here with their leaders. They completed a task which has enabled them to receive the My Faith Badge; I hope to present these badges to them in due course.

New Lectionary You are amazing! You have raised the money for the new lectionary and Book of the Gospels! I am incredibly grateful to you for your kind generosity. When the new volumes arrive, we shall have the names of the donors and the names of those donations made in memory of loved one's, written into the front cover of the volumes by a calligrapher.

Year of Prayer, 2024 We are now in the year long spiritual preparation for next year's Jubilee Year. Let's be part of Pope Francis's bold vision of a "Symphony of Prayer". What a great thing to be part of the whole Church, around the world, dedicating this year to prayer! It is good to be part of a worldwide movement which is doing good. I encourage you to set aside 5 minutes of prayer every day. Pray the Lord's Prayer as the Pope has asked to. Pray for our parish prayer intentions:

the children and young people of parish preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation;
for the sick and housebound parishioners;

for families;
for parents as the first teachers of the faith;
for children suffering from sickness;
for peace and justice.

Please do take your prayer card and let's be a parish joining in the great symphony of prayer!

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock I have been in contact with Patricia in Knock about the possibility of a short pilgrimage from 10 September flying from East Midlands and returning on Saturday 14 September. Staying in Knock - no day trips. Single rooms would incur an extra fee. For this to be feasible, there needs to be 10 pilgrims. If you would like to go, please let me know by sending an email to stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Ordinary Fridays Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

➤ by abstaining from meat or some other food
➤ by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement
➤ by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross

➤ by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad
➤ by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

Mass intentions Thank you for your Mass intentions. Every day at Mass, the priest offers the prayer of the Mass for intentions brought by you. We believe that the spiritual benefits of Mass are applied to the people for whom Mass is offered in particular the souls of the Faithful Departed or the special intentions of the living. The donation or the stipend for each Mass is your personal gift to the priest for celebrating

the Mass. I am incredibly grateful to you for continuing to ask for Masses to be celebrated for your intentions.

Administration of Holy Communion Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the Altar as the end of the congregational procession has received Communion, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

Edge@Alton Youth Group Edge@Alton is a youth group for young people across the parishes of the Staffordshire Moorlands in school Years 6-9. We meet once a month in Alton on a Sunday afternoon from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. In order to enable our committed young people to continue to meet for fun, friendship and faith we need more adult helpers. Please could you volunteer to help us?! We are looking for core team who will be at most monthly meetings, as well as adults to occasionally help - perhaps just twice a year. If you feel you could help, please contact us by emailing edgeatalton@gmail.com We'd love to hear from you! Anna, Jane, Filip and Grace.

Christian Art website If you watched Songs of Praise last Sunday, there was an interesting article with Fr Patrick van der Vorst and his Christian Art website. Before being a priest, Fr Patrick was an auctioneer for Sotheby's and has also appeared on the BBC Dragons' Den programme. He has a great website which gives the daily Gospel reading together with a thought provoking reflection for the day. If you want to sign up to receive the reflections daily go to <https://christian.art>

Going into hospital If you are going into hospital, there is now no obligation for the hospital to inform its chaplaincy department of your admission. When admitted to hospital, please ask the hospital to be in contact with their chaplain. Alternatively, be in contact with me and I make contact with the chaplain for you.

Dates for your diary 1 -2 June Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) during Masses this weekend, the Eucharistic Ministers will be recommissioned.

Saturday 8 June Sweep and Clean at 11am

Saturday 15 June 11am First Holy Communion

Saturday 6 July 11am The Sacrament of Confirmation

Holy Days of Obligation Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June Ss Peter and Paul: **Saturday 29 June** 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Second Collections

Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 June Day for Life

Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June Peter's Pence

Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 July Apostleship of the Sea

An appreciation of Pope Francis's address to the Priests and Religious Brothers and Sisters of Verona

I share with you my personal appreciation of Pope Francis's recent address to the priests and religious people of Verona. On Saturday 18 May, the day before Pentecost Sunday, Pope Francis made a one day Pastoral Visit to the diocese of Verona in Northern Italy; he made a similar trip a few weeks earlier to the diocese of Venice. During the several hours he spent there, the Pope visited a prison, met with a congregation of young people, celebrated the Pentecost Vigil Mass, and a regular ingredient to all of his pastoral visits both within Italy and beyond, a meeting with clergy. In this short account, I reflect on three topics which encourage and affirm my pastoral ministry as your Parish Priest.

Remember the call: hooked! The Pope began his reflection for priests and religious with the topic of the first call. The Pope reminded the listeners that the origin of Christian life is the experience of encouraging the Lord and he called clergy and religious to remember the day when they encountered the Lord and his call. For the Pope this initial, foundational encounter is the bedrock for a priest's and a religious person's consecration and ministry. He explains that if a religious person loses this awareness and memory there is a dangerous risk of losing Christ who is the centre of a religious person's life: Christ is the centre.

