

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 10 February** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 31: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Marks 1:40-45
6.15pm Mass Gina Whittaker (Spec Int) (JA)
- Sunday 11 February** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Rosemary Anne Kirkham (RIP)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction
- Monday 12 February** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
James 1:1-11; Ps 118; Mark 8:11-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Mary Szczotka (RIP)
- Tuesday 13 February** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
James 1:12-18; Ps 93; Mark 8:14-21
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Wednesday 14 February** **Ash Wednesday: Day of fasting and abstinence**
Joel 2:12-18; Ps 50; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
7pm Mass Fr Anthony Dykes (Spec Int) (CF)
- Thursday 15 February** **Thursday after Ash Wednesday**
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Ps 1; Luke 9:22-25
8.30am Mass In Thanksgiving (HK)
Please note Mass time
- Friday 16 February** **Friday after Ash Wednesday**
Isaiah 58:1-9; Ps 50; Matthew 9:14-15
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Margaret & Edward Donohoe (RIP)
- Saturday 17 February** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: Day of prayer for the candidates for the sacraments
Genesis 9:8-15; Ps 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15
6.15pm Mass Maurizio & Teresa Bonaccorsi (RIP)
- Sunday 18 February** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Stations of the Cross 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 February **For the terminally ill.** We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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- Zwierski, Fr Anthony Dykes.
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 Let’s pray for the repose of the souls of, Fr Sandy Brown and Michael Gilbert Lownds. Michael’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday 19 February at 1230pm, here at St Mary’s. Let’s be together to pray for Michael and to give him a good send off!

Anniversaries for this week: Mercy Elaine Jane McDonough, Michael Moran, Edith Trafford, Richard Milaszkiwicz, Rosemary Kirkham, Mary Eileen Rushton, Marjorie Whitworth, Josephine Ann Keating, Dr Cappil Phillip Joseph, Stephen McQueen Boylan, Dorothy Wright, Ena Maria Bowcock, Elizabeth Hampson, Jane Sheldon, Basil Stafford, Donal McKay, Samuel Steele, Elizabeth Godwin (Dolly), Anne Goddard, Bernard Duffy, Nellie Brassington, Michael James Woodcock, Leonard Jonathan Hoyland, Stefan Yaraslow Harasimow, Margaret Whittaker, Stephen John Milward, Malcolm Jones, Mary Harris, John Ball, John Healey, Malcolm William Jones, Janina Nech

Dear friends, **Let's go to Mass this Lent!** The Season of Lent is a great time to go to Mass in church. Let's use the six weeks of Lent to go to Mass and revive our connection to Christ in this sacrament. Let's do something extra instead of giving up. Here are the Mass times for the beginning of Lent:

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 14 February. Our parish Mass will be at 7pm on that day. Let's get it in our diaries and make an enthusiastic start to this holy season.

Sunday Mass at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 615pm; Sunday at 10am. Weekday Mass at 10am (check the Newsletter and Facebook page for any changes)

Pray! Keep going with your 5 minutes of prayer every day! If you miss a day, make sure you start again the next day. No one can fail in prayer. We are observing the Year of Prayer at the request of Pope Francis. Please pray the Lord's Prayer in unity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Fast! Making a sacrifice is customary during Lent. Instead of fasting from chocolate, give up being impatient or quick tempered. Try something extra: praise, encourage, support.

Charity! This year we are having a raffle to raise funds for our parish SVP Group so that they can continue their mission to send meals to the lonely and isolated parishioners. The raffle tickets will be on sale next weekend, the First Sunday of Lent.

Lent and the spiritual practice of fasting Consider what you are going to "give-up" for Lent before Ash Wednesday. Don't just give up some food or some action, make a prayer out of the giving up. You could say, "Lord, I have chosen to give up chocolate or alcohol or arguing with my spouse or being uncharitable for this Lent and I make it a prayer ... for those parishioners who stay away from Mass ... for the children preparing for the sacraments ... for more vocations to the priesthood ... that social injustice and inequality will be ended ... for those who live alone in our parish.

What is fasting? Fasting is not starvation! Fasting is an act of penance which shows, we the disciples of Christ, have been redeemed by his passion, death and resurrection. Penance is not an optional extra, it is part of our life of faith. It shows sorry for our personal sin and acknowledges God's compassionate mercy for us. Acts of penance are practised every Friday during the year and on the days of Lent.

The Church tells us that fasting, "allows only for one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening" (Apostolic Constitution on Penance, Paul VI)

The Church also tells us that fasting is carried out by those between the ages of 18 and 60 years of age. (See the Code of Canon Law).

Abstinence, the Church teaches, "forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat." (Apostolic Constitution on Penance, Paul VI). "Abstinence is to be observed on every Friday which does not fall on a day of obligation, ... abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday ... and on Good Friday." (Apostolic Constitution on Penance, Paul VI)

The Church encourages those who have completed their fourteenth year to abstain. Pastors of souls and parents should see to it with particular care that young people and children are educated to a true sense of penitence. (see Apostolic Constitution on Penance, Paul VI)

Lent at St Mary's Academy During Lent you are invited to the following

Weekly Class Liturgies. They are taking place on the following days:

Thursday 22 February at 3pm with Year 6

Monday 26 February at 3pm with Year 5

Tuesday 27 February at 3pm with Year 4

Wednesday 28 February at 3pm with Year 3

Thursday 29 February at 3pm with Year 1

Monday 4 March at 3pm with Year 2

Tuesday 5 March at 3pm with the whole School.

Class Masses will be celebrated on Fridays at 130pm in School. On Friday 22 March there will be a Whole School Mass at 1030am in church.

The next Family Mass will be on Saturday 2 March at 615pm

Sacramental Preparation The new Mass Attendance and Activity cards are now available for those who have not collected them from Fr Martin at either Saturday evening Mass or Sunday morning Mass.

Sacramental Preparation Classes will begin after half term: For children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion the classes will take place after school on Thursday afternoons; and, for Confirmation candidates, their Sacramental Preparation will take place on Thursday lunchtimes. A register of attendance will be taken.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the new day for First Confession will be Thursday 18 April at 4pm in church.

Parish Census Thank you for taking and returning the parish census forms. There have been a good number of returns during the week. Thank you for completing the forms and letting us know about your skills.

Volunteer hours Every year, each parish has to calculate the number of volunteer hours as part of its financial return to the diocesan trustees. I am delighted to let you know that for 2023 over 14,000 volunteer hours were given to our parish. I am incredibly grateful to you! This is a great sign of your dedication to your parish. The world around us is driven by wanting fame, fortune and power: the service which you give to the upkeep of our parish challenges that popular world view.

Facebook page Every day we continue to live-stream Mass on the parish Facebook page. Here are some insights collected by Facebook after last weekend's Masses: 3 Feb 24 615pm Family Mass 25 views, on Sunday evening this was 123 views 4 Feb 24 10am Mass 48 views There are 616 followers to our Facebook page, 30% men, 70 % women. The number of people regularly going to the Facebook page: 502 in UK 34 in Italy 17 in Ireland 14 in USA 6 in Nigeria 5 in India 4 in Australia 4 in Poland 3 in Philippines 3 in Zambia

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.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 11 February Sunday Social after Mass

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass

Saturday 17 February 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 9 March 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Saturday 16 March 11am Sweep and Clean

Going into hospital If you are going into to 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.

North Staffordshire Deanery Bethsaida Youth Leader Training will take place at Our Lady and St Werburg's, Clayton, on Saturday 24 February and Saturday 2 March between 2pm and 6pm. For more information contact Anna Howard at anna.howard@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk

Churches Together in Leek and District Wednesday 14 February, 2024 Ash Wednesday at St Chad's House, Leek 10am – 4pm A Quiet Day led by Demelza Henderson from the Association for Promoting Retreats. Make a pause at the beginning of Lent with a thoughtful introduction to the penitential season with reflections, prayers and times of silence. Our text for the day will be Psalm 51. The day will conclude with worship and the imposition of ashes. Suggested donation for the day £15. For more information, contact the Warden on telephone number 01538 382483

Lent Course at St Edward's church Following the success of last year's Lent Course bases on series 1 of the TV Programme The Chosen this year's Lent course at St Edward's church will use series 2 to look at the Biblical themes of grace, suffering, faithfulness, love, transformation, redemption and sacrifice. The course will run for 5 weeks on the Wednesdays of Lent beginning at 730pm on Wednesday 21 February. You can join online if you prefer. Please contact Rev Nigel Irons at stedwardsleek@hotmail.com

Lent Course at Trinity church The Act on Poverty course which has come from Christian Aid and their partners including The Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty. We will start on Thursday 15 February at 230pm at Trinity church. An evening course will also be running on Thursdays. For more information, please contact Trinity Church office tel 01538 298483 email trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net

Collection

Gift Aid £117.00

Non Gift Aid £141.25

Total £258.25

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