

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 11 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Is 12: Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3 10-18</i> 2pm Church open 230pm Dennis Wilkes RIP
Sunday 12 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	9.30am Church open 10am Janusz Szura (Spec Int) 4pm <i>Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction</i>
Monday 13 December <i>Live - stream Mass</i>	Memorial St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 24; Matthew 21: 23-27 10am For you, the People of the Parish
Tuesday 14 December <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Memorial of St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church <i>Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13; Ps 33; Matthew 21: 28-32</i> 930am Church open 10am For priests (FP)
Wednesday 15 December <i>No Mass today</i>	Advent Feria <i>Isaiah 45: 6-8, 18, 21-26; Ps 84; Luke 7: 19-23</i>
Thursday 16 December <i>Public Mass and live – stream</i>	Advent Feria <i>Isaiah 54: 1-10; Ps 29; Luke 7: 24-30</i> 930am Church open 10am Rosemary Emery RIP (S&PB)
Friday 17 December <i>No Live – stream today</i>	Advent Feria Genesis 49: 2, 8-10; Ps 71; Matthew 1: 1-17 Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy.
Saturday 18 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	10am to 1030am Confessions, will be celebrated in the church. FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Micah 5: 1-4; Ps 79; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45</i> 2pm Church open 230pm Pamela Finney RIP (KT)
Sunday 19 December <i>Public Mass and live - stream</i>	10am For you, the People of the Parish 4pm <i>Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction</i>

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 0808 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 December – Catechists Let us pray for catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Anniversaries Alice Marina Berrisford, Kathleen Moss, Jack Jackson, Albert (Bob) Prince, John Harold Crimes, Mary Millicent Hudson, Dennis Wilkes, Winifred Joyce Mellor, Mary Szczotka, Frances Roberta Turner, Freda Priestman, Julia Hermit, Monsignor Alfred Sperling (PP 1884-1923), Alfred Whitworth, Richard James Halpin, John Bosco McCarron, Eileen Mary McNulty, Sheila Syddall



Dear friends, on Wednesday we heard the Prime Minister's announcement that England would enter Plan B of its response to Coronavirus. Let's keep up our daily prayers for the end of the pandemic, for those who have tested positive with the virus, for those who are struggling at this time, and for those who have died. And, let's remain positive. Let's keep our heads up and shoulders back. Let's remain united and resolute. It is important to come together at this time. I would encourage you to keep in contact with relatives and friends. I know that the SVP is telephoning people at home; this is greatly appreciated, please keep up the good work! It would be good if the Eucharistic Ministers could call those people they used to visit, just to say hello, I know that it will make a huge impact.

I would also encourage everyone to receive their vaccinations. During the week, I booked my booster jab. Now that the rules have changed, I will be making an earlier booking. If you are unsure, please be in contact with your doctor, they will be glad to help you.

I would also encourage you to take regular Lateral Flow Tests. You can download a QR code to receive them free from a pharmacy. There are some available at the back of the church; they were given to us by a local pharmacy.

The Blessing of the Crib Thank you to those who came to the Market Square on Monday afternoon for the Blessing of the Crib. There was great support from all the Christian Churches of Leek at this festive occasion. The Salvation Army Band was present to lead the congregation in some uplifting and cheerful Christmas carols which were enjoyed by shoppers, onlookers and passers-by.

Can you help on Thursday 23 December?

1030am Can you help with flower arranging? This year, this will take place on Thursday 23 December after the 10am Mass. Please contact me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk or call the presbytery.

2pm Church cleaning for Christmas. If you can help with cleaning the church in preparation for our celebration of Christmas, please let me know by email at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Christmas at St Mary's This year, Christmas will be a little different. I am very grateful to those who have volunteered to help with the Christmas Masses; it is your help which is enabling us to have public Masses this Christmas. If you can help in any way, it will be greatly appreciated.

This year, there will be an online booking system for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The details are on the St Mary, Leek Eventbrite booking page – stmaryleek.eventbrite.co.uk

I want to encourage as many people as possible to join us for Mass this Christmas. For the children there will be some Christmas Prayer Books which include Bible Readings, Prayers and activities for families on some of the major celebrations of the Season of Christmas.

Here are the times of Masses over the Christmas period:

Friday 24 December, 2021

Christmas Eve

230pm Mass 6pm Mass

Saturday 25 December, 2021

Christmas Day

10am Mass

Sunday 26 December, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

10am Mass

Let's continue with the celebration of Advent. Let's mark Advent with an enthusiastic opening of our hearts to the Lord. Let's refocus on Christ so that we can celebrate Christmas with devotion. **Here is our plan for Advent:**

Let's join the celebration of Mass Sunday Mass is celebrated in church on Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm and Sunday morning at 10am. If you are unable to join us in person, please join the live-stream on the Parish Facebook page; if you can't join Mass live, please watch the recording later in the day. If you are hesitant about being in church, why not come to Mass on Tuesday or a Thursday at 10am when the congregation is smaller.

Let's pray Please keep 5 minutes of prayer every day during this holy season. During Advent, let's pray the Angelus. This ancient prayer honours Christ's incarnation and is a great accompaniment to this season.

The angel of the Lord declared unto to Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail, Mary ...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail, Mary ...

The Word was made flesh, And dwelt among us. Hail, Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross, be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let's go to Confession Confessions or the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated in church on Saturday mornings between 10am and 1030am. The Sacrament will be celebrated in the narthex area of the church and we ask you to wear a face covering and maintain social distance. You can always speak with Fr Martin to arrange another time for Confession. In Confession, God never tires of forgiving us.

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.

- **At Mass** - We continue with NHS Track and Trace; sanitising hands; social distancing; and, use of face coverings. The Bishops of England and Wales continue to ask us to use these measures to keep everyone safe and prevent the spread of the virus.
- **Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation** - In the church narthex. Please 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.
- **Ventilation in church** - Please keep in mind that ventilation is a proven way of reducing the spread of the virus. During all public Masses, the main door of the church and the internal doors will remain open. Please bring a coat!
- **Vaccines** - Your doctor will be pleased to help you.
- **Volunteers** - I am incredibly grateful to all our cleaners and stewards. They have kept the church open during this period. If you can help – even in a small way – it will be greatly appreciated. Please be in contact with me at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
- **Are you hesitant about coming back to Sunday Mass** - Please know, you are most welcome to come to Mass on Tuesday at 10am.

Christmas Raffle We want to raise £500 to secure our live-streaming on the Parish Facebook page. I can donate an old laptop computer. To enable it to work a new hard drive will be required, also a new camera including a microphone and WIFI extension. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the end of Mass £1 for 5 tickets. The prizes include a bottle of scotch, a bottle of wine and a box of Roses. The draw is on Sunday 19 December.

Children's Handmade Christmas cards The amazing pupils at St Mary's Academy have made Christmas cards which will be on sale from next weekend. The cards are of two designs. A pack of 4 cards is £2.

Dates for your diary

Monday 13 December 6.30pm Bible Book Club

Sunday 19 December 4pm Nine Lessons and Carols - All Saints' church

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 – GA £325.37 Non GA £102.22 Flowers for Christmas £125.15. Thank you for kind hearted generosity.

Standing Orders for November £1271.50

Edge@Alton Sunday December 12 at the Soli Centre in Alton, from 3:30pm until 5:15pm. Our 'cosy night in' will be a time for friendship and plenty of fun as we celebrate this festive season in our faith together. We welcome young people in school years 6,7 and 8, and new members are always welcome! For more information or to book a place please email: edgeatalton@gmail.com

Archdiocese of Birmingham Climate Action Group Live More Simply this Advent and Christmas. All are welcome to join the next meeting of on Tuesday 14 December at 7pm via Zoom. Please register here: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/living-more-simply-this-advent-and-christmas

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