

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

Tel 01538 382385

Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

- Saturday 11 November** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
11am Sacrament of Baptism
Stamp 1 **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Wisdom 6:12-16; Ps 62: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (1 Thess 4:13-14) Matthew 25:1-13
6.15pm Family Mass Shirley Regan RIP
- Sunday 12 November** 10am Mass Januz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction
- Monday 13 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Wisdom 1:1-7; Ps 138; Luke 17:1-6
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Zbigniew Szyal
- Tuesday 14 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Please note change of time Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Ps 33; Luke 17:7-10
8.30am Mass Barbara Frith RIP (CF)
- Wednesday 15 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Wisdom 6:1-11; Ps 81; Luke 17:11-19
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 16 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Wisdom 7:22-8:1; Ps 118; Luke 17:20-25
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish.
11am Funeral Liturgy for Joan Williams RIP
- Friday 17 November** **Memorial of St Elizabeth of Hungary, married woman, Religious**
Wisdom 13:1-9; Ps 18; Luke 17:26-37
1.30pm School Mass Donor’s Intention
- Saturday 18 November** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Stamp 2 **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: World Day of the Poor; Safeguarding Sunday**
Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 127; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25: 14-30
6.15pm Mass Barbara Higgins
- Sunday 19 November** 10am Mass Followed by Sunday Social Family (Spec Int)
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 November For the Pope. We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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 We pray for Joan Williams. Joan’s Funeral will take place on Thursday at 11am here at St Mary’s.

Anniversaries for this week: John Cunningham, John Droog, Charles Cooper, Frances Mary Swann, Ellen Elizabeth Davies, Dorothy Frost, George Lawrence Machin, Josephine Thorley, Cyril Decruz, Pauline Vera Warrilow, Nellie Davies, David Glyn Cole, George William (Bill) Wheatley, Ethel Mary Campbell, Michael Gould Campbell, Florence Reilly, Joseph Leslie Trafford, Barbara Frith, Halina Janina Keeling, Margaret Fowler, Irene Wroblewska, Sister Maria Cox I.B.V.M., Magdeline Harris, Kathleen Trafford, Mary Broadhurst, Jan (John) Schonau, Mary Hannah Goodall, Wanda Niebieska

Dear Parishioners, from last Sunday evening to Tuesday afternoon we, Harry and I (Muff) were on a retreat with Father Martin. It took place at Yarnfield Conference Centre, near Stone. This retreat for priests was developed under the auspices of Worldwide Marriage Encounter and was the first of its kind in this country. It stresses the similarities between the sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, in that each is a sign of God's love for his people. Both our vocations are important for the renewal of the church but not simply in 'doing roles' but in being there for others. By supporting, listening and encouraging, people and in doing so keeping alive the dreams we had on the day of ordination and of our wedding day. The retreat was presented by 2 priests and 2 couples, we were one of the presenting couples and we invited Father Martin to join us. Nine priests from all over the country took part along with nine couples, each priest working with a couple following the example of St. Paul working with Priscilla and Aquila as an ecclesial team- Acts of the Apostles Ch18. Priests and laity working together and supporting each other as Pope Francis is calling us to do along the Synodal pathway. Muff Wilde

Being on retreat This week's retreat was a great occasion and I am thankful for the experience. I want to thank you, my parishioners. In the last few years you have been amazing with the support and encouragement which you have shown to me so that we can open the church and keep each other safe. I am incredibly grateful to all of you. Let's keep this co-responsible way! It shows that we love one another as Christ has loved us and it is demonstrated in numerous sometimes mundane, other times unique Holy Moments. Heads up and shoulders back!

Remembrance Sunday Today (Sunday) after Mass and weather permitting, we shall hold an act of remembrance for those parishioners who served their country during both the First and Second World Wars.

Arthur Astles	George Rushton
John Astles	Samuel Salt
James Brennan	William Shaughnessy
Arthur Cannon	John Travis
Frederick Clay	Bernard Wheatley
William C Conley	Sam Yates
James Drury	Anthony Graham
George Flanagan	
Arthur Graham	Stanley Biddulph
George H Graham	John Fowler
Cyril Holden	Richard Hassall
Edward Merriman	Thomas Lewis
William Mitchell	Horace Lovatt
Frank Moorecroft	Joseph Spencer
James Prince	Roy Stafford
Frank Quinn	Basil Walmsley
Patrick Quinn	

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Winter Weather Team I am asking for help ahead of any winter weather and for a team of volunteers to move snow and apply grit in the car park and along the two walkways to the church. Many of the people who used to do this aren't able to help any longer. If you can help, please let Fr Martin know.

Sacramental Preparation Sacramental Preparation starts again this weekend. The children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation have their second Mass Attendance and Activity sheet. I want to encourage parents and carers to continue to bring their children to Mass.

New Altar Servers Our new altar servers have made a great start and are doing great. Tuesday 26 December will be the Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr and the patron saint of Altar Servers. I ask that the new altar servers be at Mass every weekend from now until then so that during Mass on 26 December they can be admitted into the Guild of St Stephen and receive their Altar Serving medal. It isn't a badge to acknowledge several weeks of altar serving, it is the badge of the members of the Altar Serving Guild.

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 will make contact with the chaplain for you.

Getting ready for Advent at St Mary's *Let's read St Luke's Gospel for Advent!* Luke's Gospel has 24 chapters. This may seem a daunting task, but it isn't that difficult. It would be a great united action for everyone in our parish to read one chapter of Luke on the 24 days before Christmas. I have ordered some large print copies of Luke's Gospel which includes a very good introduction. If you would like a copy they are £4.99 each and are available at the Piety Stall at the back of the church. When reading St Luke during Advent, I suggest that you keep a personal reading journal. In your journal note down the phrases that Jesus says and the images which have been recorded by the Gospel-writer which inspire, encourage and challenge you. Make a note of what inspires, gives courage and makes a demand.

St Mary's Christmas cards There are Christmas cards on sale at the back of the church. The image on this year's card is that of the scene of the stable in Bethlehem which has been taken by one of our parishioners, a keen and talented photographer. Christmas cards are in packs of 10 and are on sale for £3.50.

Christmas trees and flowers This year, we want to have two Christmas trees in church: one either side of the sanctuary. Instead of a collection, would you be able to make a donation towards the Christmas trees and the flower in church, please? If so, please place a donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Trees and Flowers and hand it to Fr Martin.

Sunday 10 December 3pm Charity Carol Service For a number of weeks preparations have been taking place for a Charity Carol Service. We want to include as many young people in this occasion. We have in contact with both Painsley and St Mary's. Refreshments have been arranged. We are also including a raffle and a collection for two charities: the Parish SVP so that they can continue their mission of food deliveries to parishioners and to Hargate Community Centre. Please do come along and invite your families and friends.

St Mary's Christmas Raffle raffle tickets for this year's Raffle will soon be here! There are some great prizes to be won.

Walk with Me The prayer booklets for Advent have arrived and are available at the back of church with the suggested donation of £1. The theme for this Advent is from the Gospel canticles of Mary, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna and the good examples of St John Baptist and the Magi. Together these characters from the New Testament help us to look forward to the celebration of Jesus's birth at Christmas and the Second Coming.

Best Advent Ever Get A Daily Dose of Radical and Relevant Wisdom. Most people spend the month before Christmas feeling overwhelmed, busy, anxious, and anything but peaceful. With so much worry, it's easy to miss out on the beauty and joy of Advent. Don't let that be you this year. Sign up for BEST ADVENT EVER and make the radical choice to slow down and spend just a few minutes each day immersed in God's word. As Matthew Kelly guides you through the Gospels, you'll discover just how relevant Jesus' wisdom is to every aspect of your daily life. You'll be inspired and challenged to make the most of Advent by getting to the heart of what truly matters...and putting aside what hardly matters at all. Don't just count down the days until Christmas. Make the most of each day of Advent. Sign up for BEST ADVENT EVER and treat each day as an opportunity to transform your life. To sign up visit www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html

November, a month of prayer for the Faithful Departed, the Holy Souls It is a long standing tradition in the church to pray for the Holy Souls during the month of November .

Prayer intention envelopes Especially prepared prayer intention envelopes are available at the back of the church. Write and place into the envelopes the names of your relatives and friends who have died then place the envelope in the receptacle which is near the statue of the Sacred Heart.

Safeguarding Sunday 18 – 19 November Safeguarding Sunday is an awareness-raising campaign organised by Christian Safeguarding Charity Thirtyone:eight. We will be marking this in our parish . In doing this we will be joining thousands of other churches across the UK to share this message and demonstrate unity. We believe that safeguarding is an outworking of our faith in a loving and just God – the God who calls us to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and to defend the rights of the vulnerable (Proverbs 31:8). Please join us in praying for all those who work to ensure our communities and churches are safe for all.

Saturday 25 November 615pm Mass with Painsley Students and their families I would like to invite the young people who are students at Painsley Catholic College to Mass at 615pm on Saturday 25 November. It will be great to see you. It would very good to see the young people who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the last three years so that they are encouraged in their life of faith. After Mass on that day, the Painsley Lourdes Group will sell cakes to raise funds for their pilgrimage during May next year.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 16 November 4pm Parish Council
Sunday 19 November Sunday Social after Mass
Saturday 25 November 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 25 November 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Love Christmas Project We are excited to be working with schools and parishes across the Staffordshire Moorlands on the 'Love Christmas' project again this year. This match-funded community project aims to fill and deliver over 200 'bags of kindness' to be given to anyone who may find Christmas a challenge in any way this year. In giving them a bag of kindness we hope that they will receive through us a sign of the love and hope which Christ's coming and Christmas brings. Recipients can be old or young, single, married or a family. There are many ways you can help!

Bring donations of items to go into the bags of kindness – Christmas groceries, treats, gifts, toys, toiletries are all welcome. Please label them 'Love Christmas project' and bring to church.

Could you help to **deliver any bags of kindness** to someone who would appreciate it in the week from Monday 18 December? (picking up from your parish church and taking them where you know they would be welcomed?) Are you able to give an hour to assist in **packing the bags** of kindness in December at St John's parish, Alton? Talk about it – **spread the word** among the community! **Pray** for the project!

If you can offer to help or need any further information please email: anna.howard@kenelmouthtrust.org.uk

North Staffordshire Deanery news

PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOPS Prayer & Life Workshops are a way for people to learn to read the Bible, discover prayer, and to gain joy of heart. We are offering an opportunity to experience the Prayer & Life Workshops to people from our Deanery. It is a great way to prepare for the coming Year of Prayer. The workshops are offered **for men** on Saturdays beginning on 4 November (not too late to join!) with an introductory session, at St Joseph's Church, Goldenhill from 9.30am to 11.30am. Come for tea, coffee and a bacon butty at 9am.

There is another workshop **for everyone** on Fridays beginning 10 November at St Joseph's Goldenhill, from 10am to 12noon.

There will also be a workshop **for everyone** at Our Lady & St Werburgh's church, Clayton, on Saturdays beginning 18 November from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

WALSINGHAM ASSOCIATION THREE-DAY PILGRIMAGE MARCH 2024 The Association are organising a three-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham from Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 March 2024. Booking for non-members is now available, and it would be great to have parishioners from around the Deanery - those who wish to renew their friendship with Our Lady at her shrine, and those who have never been to England's Nazareth. The cost for the pilgrimage together with en suite accommodation is £354, and in budget accommodation is £297. For more information and bookings please contact Mary Shirley on maryroseshirley@gmail.com

NORTH STAFFS GUILD OF CATECHISTS Our Deanery has a great group of catechists who get together regularly for support of each other, and for sharing materials, ideas, and training. We would like to extend the membership to all those in the Deanery who actively give catechesis (trained and untrained catechists as well as school teachers who do sacramental preparation). Our WhatsApp group and Facebook page are a great way to keep up to date with our Guild activities, and to find out about training sessions both in person and online. To sign up for the WhatsApp group or to find out about our activities please email Fr Julian on fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk

Our next meetings will be: A resource evening on the Evangelium resource which can be used for RCIA or adult catechesis. This will be on Friday 1 December at 7pm at Coolock in Newcastle.

We also have a full training day with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph on Saturday 17 February 2024 at Our Lady & St Peter's Parish, Stoke. Further details will be published shortly.

North Staffordshire CAFOD Group

Responding to Pope Francis's *Laudate Deum*. Pope Francis, in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum*, has asked that we all take action to ask our leaders to agree binding commitments at the upcoming COP28 in Dubai. You can send a letter to your MP by visiting the CAFOD Website, www.cafod.org.uk, and click on Get Involved to find Pope Francis's message, and send an email. "Please pray for the success of this COP28."

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogues are now available at the back of church.

The Israel/Gaza war. CAFOD has an appeal for funds which will be dispersed through our partners in Caritas.

There is a facility, on the CAFOD Website, www.cafod.org.uk for you to make your donation. You are also asked to write to the Foreign Secretary, asking him to call for a pause in the hostilities, again there is a facility on the CAFOD website to do this.

Collection Gift Aid £89.55 Non Gift Aid £104.80 Total £194.35

Second Collection Johnson Association £130.91

Standing Orders for October £1,216.50

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