

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 16 September** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Stamp1 **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday*
Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Ps 102; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35
6.15pm Mass Luke Theobald (Spec Int) (CF)
- Sunday 17 September** 10am Mass Eric and Barbara Duffin RIP
Stamp 1 4pm Rosary and Benediction
- Monday 18 September** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Timothy 2:1-8; Ps 27; Luke 7:1-10
11am Funeral Mass Jan Dziurdzik RIP
- Tuesday 19 September** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Timothy 3:1-12; Ps 100; Luke 7:11-17
9.40am Rosary 10am Jonathan Henry (Spec Int) (CF)
- Wednesday 20 September** **Memorial of St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs**
1 Timothy 3:14-16; P 110; Luke 7:31-35
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 21 September** **Feast of St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist**
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 18; Matthew 9:9-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass MT (Spec Int)
- Friday 22 September** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Timothy 6:2-12; Ps 48; Luke 8:1-3
1.30pm School Mass For you, the People of the Parish
- Saturday 23 September** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Stamp 2 **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
Isaiah 55:6-9; Ps 144; Philippians 1:20-24,27; Matthew 20:1-16
6.15pm Mass Jithin Titto (Spec Int) (CF)
- Sunday 24 September** 10am Mass Christopher Rogers RIP (BR)
Stamp 2 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 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
	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 September For people living on the margins. We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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 John Balay, Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura- Zwierski, Shirley Regan, Brian Washington.

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 Fr Keith Enstone, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Jan Dziurdzik, Jan’s funeral will take place on Monday 18 September 2023 at 11am. Maureen Kelly. Maureen’s Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 26 September at 2.30pm, here at St Mary’s.

Anniversaries for this week: Michael Higgins, Victor Kuchta, Eileen Mary Halpin, Brian Hambleton, Sylvia Brereton, Greville Edward Brittain, Michael George Rushton, Zita Mary Frith, Ada Frances Worthington, Sister Loyala Murray IBVM, Paul Heinz Wioblerski, Andrew St. John Bowyer, George William Hammond, Harriet Stubbs, Samuel Poultney, Alice Moss, Sister Philomena Ahern I.B.V.M, Margaret Birch, Annie Grosvenor, Richard Anthony McCaldon, Eileen Owen.

Dear friends, today, has been called *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday. *Evangelii Gaudium* or the Joy of the Gospel was the title Pope Francis gave to his first Apostolic Exhortation following his election as Pope in 2013, it is a bright and attractive vision for the Church and Christian living.

As we keep *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Joy of the Gospel Sunday, we have been asked to consider how we are to mark next year, 2024, as the year of preparation for the Jubilee Year in 2025. For Pope Francis, he wants us to observe next year as a "great 'symphony' of prayer" based on the Lord's Prayer and to make it our programme of activity.

I would like us to have 7 prayer intentions, one intention for each day of the week. We can pray the Lord's Prayer for that intention and also apply our acts of self-denial to those 7 intentions. For me, the initial intentions I would like us to pray for are: the children and young people of our parish preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation; for the sick and housebound parishioners; and, for families.

Sacramental Preparation On Thursday afternoon, I met with the parents of those children who are due to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation next summer. It was good to be together. I want us, the whole parish, to work together to encourage the children and young people who will receive the sacraments next year. They are being prepared for amazing opportunities: the children due to receive First Holy Communion will meet the Lord who makes the blind see, the deaf hear, forgives sinners, looks for and rescues the lost. Those due to be Confirmed will receive "power"; the Greek word for power is the same word which gives us the English word, "dynamite". When they are Confirmed, they will become like dynamite, they will be explosive and unstoppable. Please encourage the children and their families. Let's pray for them. Let's offer our acts of self denial that the gift of faith will grow strong for them.

Edge@Alton Youth Group Edge@Alton is a monthly youth group for young people across the Staffordshire Moorlands in school years 6 to 9. We gather in faith for bucket loads of fun and our meetings usually take place in Alton and cost just £2! New members are always welcome! Please pick up a postcard from the back of church, or email edgeatalton@gmail.com for more information.

Fr Hudson's Care working to improve the lives of Children across the Archdiocese Our Family Support Service and New Routes Fostering Service work to improve the lives of children across the Archdiocese. The Family Support Service is based in schools to support families that are facing challenges that can impact a child's wellbeing and educational attainment. In the last year the challenges faced by families across the Archdiocese have become clear, our Family Support Service Crisis Fund has provided almost four times as many grants to families, overwhelmingly to purchase food to feed the family, while they receive the support they need to improve their situation and reduce the impact of crises on children. Children who cannot remain with their family of origin are offered temporary shelter, support, love and care through our New Routes Fostering Service. Our Foster Carers are supported every step of the way, by experienced and compassionate Social Workers and through regular training and guidance. Although children often have little control over their situation your support of our work means that they can receive the love and support they need to thrive in school and beyond. Thank you for supporting those that can not help themselves. Thank you for your support in the Annual Parish Collection

Archdiocese of Birmingham – vacancy: Director of Education The Diocesan Education Service is recruiting for a Director of Education. Details for this role can be found on both the Diocesan Education Service www.bdes.org.uk/vacancies and the Archdiocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk websites. The closing date is Monday 18 September.

The Season of Creation From 1 September until the 4 October, the Church marks the Season of Creation. This isn't a liturgical season, but a time to raise awareness of our Christian role to be stewards of creation. Pope Francis has sent a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This has been uploaded to the Parish Website.

October is the month of the Rosary During an audience at the Vatican with members of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Pope Francis has asked that the forthcoming month of October which is, by custom, the month of the rosary, be dedicated for praying for peace in Ukraine. Let's continue to pray for peace. Let's expect great things from the prayers of our patron, Saint Mary!

Do you have a Red Box for Missio? There are some parishioners have a red missio box at home. Please send your donation as a cheque – don't put cash in the mail – to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU

Eucharistic Ministers Here is some news and important dates for our Eucharistic Ministers:

Thursday 28 September 6pm in church an evening Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. During both the Saturday 6.15pm Mass and Sunday 10am Mass I will recommission the Parish Eucharistic Ministers

During the last few years, I am incredibly grateful to several Eucharistic Ministers have taken Holy Communion to parishioners at home. If you would be willing to help with this vital ministry which enables parishioners to receive Holy Communion and keep in contact with the parish, please do let me know. If you would be willing to take this up, I will explain how to conduct visits and the administration of Holy Communion at home. For safeguarding purposes, you will be required to apply for a DBS (Disclosure Barring Service certificate).

Second collections Here are the dates of Second Collections for the remainder of the year.

16 -17 September	Catholic Evangelization	4 -5 November	Johnson Association
23 – 24 September	Fr Hudson's	18 -19 November	Parish SVP
7 – 8 October	CAFOD	24 – 25 November	Catholic Youth Services
21 – 22 October	Missio: World Mission Sunday	9 – 10 December	Poor Parishes

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 21 September	5pm Parish Council	Sunday 1 October	10am Mass with Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 23 September	11am Sweep and Clean	Saturday 7 October	6.15 Family Mass
Thursday 28 September	6pm Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers	Thursday 26 October	Coffee and Cake with Fr Martin
		Friday 27 October	Half Term

Collection Gift Aid £107.00 Non Gift Aid £116.56 Total £223.56 Thank you for your kind generosity!
Collection for Catholic Education £98.17

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