

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 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
- Monday 19 February** **Lent Feria**
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 18; Matthew 25:31-46
12.30pm Funeral Mass Michael Gilbert Lownds (RIP)
- Tuesday 20 February** **Lent Feria**
Isaiah 55:10-11; Ps 33; Matthew 6:7-15
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass John James Allen RIP (HK)
- Wednesday 21 February** **Lent Feria**
Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 50; Luke 11:29-32
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 22 February** **Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle**
1 Peter 5:1-4; Ps 22; Matthew 16:13-19
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
- Friday 23 February** **Lent Feria**
Ezekiel 18:21-28; Ps 129; Matthew 5:20-26
10am Stations of the Cross
1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Celebrant’s Intention
- Saturday 24 February** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: Day of prayer for the candidates for the sacraments
Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Ps 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10
6.15pm Mass David Wright (RIP) (GW)
- Sunday 25 February** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP)
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, 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 Let’s pray for the repose of the souls of, Fr Sandy Brown and Michael Gilbert Lownds.

Anniversaries for this week: Malcolm William Jones, Janina Nech, Kazia Albert, Judith Suzanne Brown, Cuthbert Quinn, Antonina Markowska, Reginald Smith, Mary Marren, Bridget Josephine Wood, Eljasz Holubowski, Gladys Hulme, David William Fairclough, Mary Shakespeare, Mary Kania, Patrick Reilly, Edward Malkin, Peter Gordon Pointon, Terence Patrick Quirk, William Lowe, Richard Bielecki, Sandra Owen, George Joseph Camillus Gunia, Karen Helen Fuidge, Eileen Miriam Morton

Dear friends, on Wednesday evening we made an encouraging and uplifting start to the Season of Lent with the Ash Wednesday Mass: there were over 70 people at Mass. Let's continue with this enthusiasm, please! It is really good!

During Lent, we are preparing for this

Holy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Saturday 730pm Easter Vigil

Good Friday 3pm Solemn celebration of the Passion

Easter Sunday 10am Easter Mass

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.

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 this weekend, the First Sunday of Lent.

Here are some of the other activities taking place this Lent:

Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation Confessions are celebrated on Saturdays at 10am. If you can't make this, please do call to make another arrangement.

Stations of the Cross Sundays at 4pm followed Benediction and Fridays at 10am.

Walk with Me – the prayerbooks for this Lent are at the back of the church and this time the focus for the daily reflections is the Lord's Prayer and the Year of Prayer. Please do take your prayerbook. There's a suggested donation of £1.

Dynamic Catholic At critical times throughout Salvation History, God's people have been invited to consecrate themselves. We are at one of those critical times in history, and consecrating ourselves, our families, our country, and indeed, the whole world to the Eucharist may make all the difference. Join us now for BEST LENT EVER and be one of the first people in history to go on this journey! Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html

Bishop Robert Barron's Daily Gospel Reflections Bishop Barron, the Bishop of Winnoa-Rochester has for a number of years shared a daily Gospel reflection through his Word on Fire organisation. Every day, I share these with the staff of our St Mary's Academy as part of their spiritual formation. They are excellent accompaniment to reading the daily Gospel readings. To sign up go to wordonfire.org/reflections

During Lent, we are fasting while we are in church and at Mass During the Season of Lent, the Church encourages us to be focused on this season. Everyday, the priest wears purple vestments; there are only 4 days when other colours are used: that's a tenth of the season. Saints' Days are not kept as they would be at other times of the Church year: the emphasis is Lent. During Mass there are other differences: we don't use the Gloria or Alleluia. And, at the end of Mass there is an ancient liturgical custom to add an extra prayer before the blessing known as the Prayer over the People. Keep watch for the differences in church during Lent: they are given to us to help us observe this season.

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

Wednesday 28 February at 3pm with Year 3

Tuesday 5 March at 3pm with the whole School.

Monday 26 February at 3pm with Year 5

Thursday 29 February at 3pm with Year 1

Tuesday 27 February at 3pm with Year 4

Monday 4 March at 3pm with Year 2

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.

Year of Prayer We are well underway for the Year of Prayer and the spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Year next year. I encourage you to keep up your 5 minutes of prayer every day! Keep going! No one can fail in their prayer. Let's be part of Pope Francis's bold vision of a "Symphony of Prayer". What an 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.

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.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 29 February 230pm Coffee (or tea) and cakes Please sign the list at the back of the church if you want to join!

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.

Parish Piety Stall There are some Rosaries of our Lady of Sorrows on sale. In the last two weeks of Lent, we shall pray the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady before Mass. The special rosaries are available at £10. Can you help? Can you help with the Piety Stall especially on Sunday mornings? If so, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

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@kenelmeyouthtrust.org.uk

Churches Together in Leek and District 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 £132.00

Non Gift Aid £118.04

Total £250.04

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