

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 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)
Stamp 2 1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 20 November Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-64; Ps 127; Luke 18:35-43
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Donor’s Intention

Tuesday 21 November Feria in Ordinary Time
2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Ps 3; Luke 19:1-10
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish.

Wednesday 22 November Memorial of St Cecilia, Virgin. Martyr: Patron Saint of Church Music
2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Ps 16; Luke 19:11-28
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 23 November Feria in Ordinary Time
1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Ps 49; Luke 19:41-44
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Barbara Higgins RIP

Friday 24 November Memorial of St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chron 29; Luke 19:45-48
1.30pm School Mass Kathleen Greenwood RIP

Saturday 25 November 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Stamp 3 **SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE: World Youth Day**
Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 22; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26; Matthew 25:31-46

6.15pm Mass Nikki Sheader
Sunday 26 November 10am Mass Maureen Kelly RIP (Pat)
Stamp 3 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.

Anniversaries for this week: Mary Hannah Goodall, Wanda Niebieska, Kathleen Moran, Joseph Newbon, Stuart Sigley, Josef Gondzynski, Edward Reginald Wesley Healy, Frances Hambleton, Malcolm Kidd, Frederick James Malkin, Eileen Edith Hoof, Carol Sheldon, James Moss, Sister Bonaventure Quirke I.B.V.M., Talitha Rose Leigh (Tally), Patricia Loys Miners, Francis Evans, Alma Betty Millicent Healy, Florence Moss, Irena Grzegorzek, John Mountford, John Joyce, Gertrude Mary Donnelly, Donald Kirkby Brough, Mary Agnes Burgess, Mary Magdalene May

Dear friends,

On Thursday afternoon we had our latest Parish Council Meeting. For while our Parish Council Meetings have included representatives from both of our Catholic Schools: St Mary's Academy and Painsley Catholic College. Following the lockdown period of the pandemic and the decline in Mass attendance it is more important than ever for us as a Parish and Schools and families and individuals to work together and encourage one another to be part of the church and being at Mass, going to Confession, praying for 5 minutes everyday and sharing time, talent and treasure. Let's remained united and resolute. Let's continue to build up the Church and encourage one another in the life of faith.

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.

Safeguarding is so important to us all and a crucial part of our faith and Christian mission. Today is about recognising and celebrating the important work of safeguarding within our parish and wider communities. The role of the Parish Safeguarding representative is to be a point of contact within the parish regarding safeguarding matters; to work with the Parish Priest and group leaders to ensure all things we do in church are safe and ensure everyone has the right checks in place to work with children and adults at risk. If you ever want to discuss anything regarding safeguarding or have any questions about how you can get involved, you can contact our Parish Safeguarding representative via the details on the newsletter. By working together and all being aware that safeguarding is important, and we all have a role to play, we can ensure our churches and communities are a safe and welcome place for all, especially those who have not felt this in the past.

Blessing the church musicians and singers This weekend is the nearest to the liturgical memorial of St Cecilia, 22 November, the patron saint of church music and it is appropriate that during the two Masses this weekend, the musicians and singers are blessed as they minister to us. The music for the celebration of Mass, the other sacraments and other devotions is not intended to entertain us, but it is included to serve the Church's liturgical worship. One of the stained glass windows depicts Saint Cecilia: do have a look for it!

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.

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 is underway. 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 is the Feast of St Stephen the First Martyr and the patron saint of Altar Servers. I ask that the new altar servers attend Mass every weekend from now until then so that during Mass on 26 December they can 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 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.

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.

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."

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 young people in this occasion. We have been 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 Haregate Community Centre. Please do come along and invite your families and friends.

St Mary's Christmas Raffle The 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

Looking ahead to Christmas at St Mary's This year Christmas Day, 25 December, will be celebrated on a Monday and for us Catholics it is a Holy Day of Obligation. When Christmas Day is a Monday, the Church asks us to be generous in our devotion to Christ and reminds us that we are part of the Universal Worldwide Church; we are part of a community of believers who transmit the light of Christ. This year and on those years when Christmas Day is a Monday, there is expectation that we show our devotion to Christ and our place in the Church by being at Mass for

The Fourth Sunday of Advent either Saturday 23 December at 615pm or Sunday 24 December at 10am

For Christmas Day Sunday 24 December at 615pm, Monday 25 December at 12 midnight and 10am

Let's start to consider what we will give to Christ for this Christmas: let's be generous to him, it will be worth it!

Can you help with the Christmas Masses at St Mary's I am asking for your help with the Christmas Masses: I am asking for your help especially as stewards who will welcome parishioners to the church, hand out hymn books and Mass sheets. If you can help, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

Christmas Prayer Tree This year we will have prayer tree located near the Nativity Scene. It's purpose is for parishioners to write the name of a deceased loved one onto a wooden angel decoration and hang onto the Christmas Tree in their memory. I am grateful for the suggestion as well as donations of the tree, the decorations and the wooden angels.

Dates for your diary

Monday 20 November 630pm Bible Book Club

Thursday 30 November 1230pm Chips and Chat – please sign the list at the back of church, please hand your monies in an envelope indicating your order from the items on the list.

Sunday 19 November Sunday Social after Mass

Saturday 25 November 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 25 November 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Sunday 26 November 200 Club Draw

Saturday 2 December 615pm Family Mass

Friday 8 December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10am Mass in church

Sunday 10 December 3pm Carol Service in church

Thursday 21 December Church cleaning for Christmas – can you help, please?

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@kenelmyouthtrust.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 9.30 to 11.30am. Come for tea, coffee and a bacon butty at 9am.

There is another workshop **for everyone** on Fridays beginning 10th 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.

Second Collections

This weekend, the Second Collection is for the Catholic Youth Service, the Kenelm Youth Trust which enables young people across the Archdiocese to encounter, know and love God. The recent synod highlighted a desire for young people to be involved in the life of the Church - please give what you feel able to support the Kenelm Youth Trust as they work alongside schools and parishes in this mission.

The next Second Collection will be Sat 11 / Sun 12 December Poor Parishes of the Diocese

CAFOD CAFOD would like to thank you for your kind donations totalling £126.65.

Father Hudsons care Father Hudsons care would like to thank you for your kind donations totalling £126.41.

Collection Gift Aid £123.50 Non Gift Aid £108.61 Total £232.11

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