

**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](mailto: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 19 August**      10am    Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions  
11am    Sweep and Clean  
**TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
*Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; ps 66; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28*  
6pm    Mass Donor’s Intention

**Sunday 20 August**      9.45am Ecumenical Pilgrimage group visit and blessing  
10am    Mass Kevin Oliver RIP  
4pm    Rosary and Benediction

**Monday 21 August**      **Memorial of St Pius X**  
*Judges 2:11-19; Ps 105; Matthew 19:16-22*  
940am Rosary 10am    Mass: Emmett Lenahan RIP

**Tuesday 22 August**      **Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
*Judges 6:11-24; Ps 84; Matthew 19:23-30*  
940am Rosary 10am Mass      For you, the people of the Parish

**Wednesday 23 August**      **Feast of St John Wall, Priest, Martyr**  
*Judges 9:6-15; Ps 20; Matthew 20:1-16*  
940am Rosary 10am    Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

**Thursday 24 August**      **Feats of St Bartholomew, Apostle**  
*Apocalypse 21:9-14; Ps 144; John 1:45-51*  
9.40am Rosary 10am    Mass Liz Mccann

**Friday 25 August**      **Feria in Ordinary Time**  
*Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22 PS 145; Matthew 22:34-40*  
9.40    Rosary 10am    Mass Myra Smith (Birthday)

**Saturday 26 August**      10am    Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions  
**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
*Isaiah 22: 19-23; Ps 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20*  
6pm    Mass Januz Szurz-Swereski Spec Int

**Sunday 27 August**      10am    Mass Sarah Millward (RIP)  
4pm    Rosary and Benediction

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 <a href="mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Alice Murray	
<b>St Mary’s Catholic Academy</b>	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
<b>Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle</b>	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
<b>Safeguarding Rep</b>	Mr Malcolm Sproat	<a href="mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
	Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0800 800 500
<b>Gift Aid Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs M Lawton	<a href="mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy</b>	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for August**      For World Youth Day. We pray that World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

**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  
*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.

**Anniversaries for this week:** Sandra Winifred Clayton, Mary Thompson, Harry Sherrat, Mabel Kelsall, Doris Elizabeth Ball, Sarah Ellen Piggott, Kelvin John Meharg, Michael John Lovatt, Samuel Mitchell, Thomas V Salt, Norah Kathleen Clarke, Sarah Millward.

Dear friends, **Thank you!** Thank you for the large number of birthday cards and gifts! I am incredibly grateful to you! I want to thank everyone who ensured that the church was open for daily Eucharistic Services and Sunday Mass while I was on holiday. This is a good example of the whole parish being "co-responsible". We all have a role and responsibility in our parish. Let's keep this going! It is a great act of witness.

**21 August – 1 Sept 23 Compton road closure. Important information.** There will be both vehicular and pedestrian access to the church and presbytery. Vehicle access will be from the traffic light junction only. **Please be aware that the Jolliffe Street car park may not be accessible.** Pedestrian access will be available in both directions. **Please give a little extra time for your journey to church.**

**New Mass times for Parishes across the Staffordshire Moorlands** Following the Parish Visitation, consultation of the priests in the North Staffordshire Deanery and the permission of the Archbishop, it has been recommended that the Parish Priests of Alton, Cheadle and Leek, supply for each other when need arises. In order for this to happen, it will be necessary to make a new arrangement for time of Sunday Masses in each of the three parishes. This will take effect at the first weekend of September, 2-3 September this year. The new arrangement will be: St John the Baptist, Alton Sunday Mass at 9am St Giles's, Cheadle Saturday evening at 430pm and Sunday morning at 1030am St Thomas's, Tean Sunday evening at 530pm St Mary's, Leek Saturday evening at 615pm and Sunday morning at 10am. This new arrangement creates the possibility for two priests to celebrate Masses in the four churches. If one priest is absent another priest can celebrate two Vigil Masses on a Saturday: one in Cheadle, the other in Leek.

**Congratulations!** We want to congratulate all our young people who received their A-level results on Thursday. They have done very well! We hope that you keep up the good work!

**New academic year** The new school year will begin very soon. It is now incredibly important that the parish and the schools work together to ensure that the mission of both our Catholic Parish and our Catholic Schools continues. We cannot be complacent in the spiritual development of the children and young people. We have to work together! I do encourage you to pray for our schools, for the children and young people. Let's all work together to increase the number of children, young people and families at Mass in church. At the beginning of the new term, please do write a message of support to both Mrs Turner, the Principal at St Mary's, and to Mrs Waugh, the Principal at Painsley. At the beginning of the new academic year there are two important occasions:

**Friday 8 September**, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10am Whole School Mass in church

**Saturday 9 September** 615pm Family Mass for Education Sunday

**Sacramental Preparation for 2024** The compulsory meeting for parents of those children in School Year 3 or School Year 6 at Saint Mary's Academy will take place at 4pm on Thursday 14 September and will take place in church. During this meeting, parents will be asked to provide details of their child's baptism by Friday 29 September, 2023. During the next academic year children preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation will have to attend Mass in church on Sundays in four blocks of six consecutive weeks. Each child will receive their own Mass attendance and activity card; there is one activity card for each of the four blocks of six Sundays; there will be a short activity to be completed. At the end of the task, the Mass attendance and activity card will have been stamped by the priest. The four blocks of six weeks will coincide with the school term; holiday time will not be affected. There will be more about this in the parents' meeting on Thursday 14 September. Parents should be aware that Sacramental Preparation will take place in school on Thursdays beginning in January, 2024. Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will take place during lunch time. Sacramental Preparation for First Holy Communion will take place after school. A register of attendance will be taken each week. I would also like to inform parents of children who will be starting school Year 3 in September that the parents of children aged 7 years old and over wishing to be Baptised must attend a course of instruction. If your child was baptised in another Ecclesial Community ie the Church of England your child can only be admitted to the Sacraments if they are aged 7 years or over, attend an additional course of instruction with their parents, and attend Mass every Sunday. Parents are asked to contact Fr Martin and attend Mass.

#### Dates for the diary

**Thursday 24 August 6pm** New Eucharistic Ministers

**Saturday 9 September 11am** New Altar Servers

**Thursday 14 September 4pm** Sacramental Preparation meeting for parents

**Holy Days of Obligation** The Holy Days of Obligation are occasions for us to give an act of witness to our faith. Thank you to everyone who came to the Masses for the Assumption of Our Lady during the week. The next Holy Day of Obligation is for All Saints' Day. Here are the arrangements:

Tuesday 31 October 2pm Early Vigil Mass

Wednesday 1 November 7pm Mass

**The Cursillo Movement** Cursillo is a Spanish word which simply means 'workshop' or 'short course'. The Cursillo Movement is dedicated to spreading the Word of God and helping people form a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. The Cursillo Movement is active right across the globe and in different Christian denominations. We are a community of lay and religious who strive by our mission and our daily lives to live a life following the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our community extends across the United Kingdom, and is available for all to join and share in the joys of living the Gospel.

Cursillo employs a method that emphasises the importance of a balanced life of prayer, continued spiritual study, and action.

You are warmly invited to an evening of prayer, reflection and fellowship. Discover how Cursillo can help you and your parish deepen faith and make disciples. This evening of prayer will take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7pm-9pm at St Austin's Church, 82 Wolverhampton Road Stafford ST17 4AW**

**Sumer Spiritual Reading** Copies of some of the Pope's speeches from World Youth Day are available at the back of church.

**A Discussion on Moral Issues** A talk by Monsignor Menezes on Moral Issues on September 15 at Holy Trinity, see the poster at the back of church for details..

**Stella Maris** We have received a letter of thanks from Stella Maris they have said: "Thanks very much to all at St Mary's parish for your kind support of the work of Stella Maris (the Apostleship of the sea) through our Sea Sunday 2023 appeal. We are most grateful for your parish's total donation of £84.15."

**Father Hudson's Care** Father Hudson's Care would like to invite you to a face-to-face Welcoming Church event to be held on Saturday 16 September at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Bristol Road, Birmingham B5 7BE at 10 am. The individual sessions will talk about how parishes can support older people, refugees people with disabilities and those who are homeless, creating a plan to make real change. If you would like to learn more please email [kevinhateley@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:kevinhateley@fatherhudsons.org.uk) or call 01675 434000.

#### Standing Orders Collection

The July 2023 standing order donations were £1,141.50

Gift Aid £100.40 Non Gift Aid £141.88

Total £242.28

Thank you for kind generosity!

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