

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 2 March	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates of the Sacraments</i> <i>Exodus 20:1-17; PS 18; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25</i> 6.15pm Mass John Balay (RIP) (HK)
Sunday 3 March	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Shiela Hagger (PW) 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Monday 4 March	Lent Feria <i>2 Kings 5:1-15; PS 41-42; Luke 4:24-30</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Dr Joseph (RIP) (HK)
Tuesday 5 March	Lent Feria <i>Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Ps 24; Mathew 18:21-35</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Barbara Nolan (RIP)
Wednesday 6 March	Lent Feria <i>Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147; Matthew 5:17-19</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 7 March	Lent Feria <i>Jeremiah 7:23-28; PS 94; Luke 11:14-23</i> 8.30am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Friday 8 March	Lent Feria <i>Hosea 14:2-10; Ps 80; Mark 12:28-34</i> 10am Stations of the Cross 1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Celebrant’s Intention
Saturday 9 March	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates of the Sacraments</i> <i>2 Chronicle 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 136; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21</i> 6.15pm Mass Margaret Scanlon (RIP)
Sunday 10 March	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Alice Devaney (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 Archdiocese of Birmingham NSPCC	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk tel 0121 230 6240 tel 0808 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01782 676400 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 March For the new martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

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, Madeline Horter.
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, Arthur Piggot and Alma Merry. The arrangements for Arthur’s Funeral: Monday 18 March 1130am Funeral Liturgy followed by committal at Carmountside. The arrangements for Alma’s Funeral: Tuesday 19 March 1230pm Funeral Liturgy followed by Committal at Carmountside.

Anniversaries for this week: Basil Walmsley, James Birchenough, Arthur Hambleton, Wilfred Spencer, Mary Joan Plant, Kathleen Mary Smith, Albina Kuzslena, James William (Bill) Owen, Bernard Fenton, Richard Hanley, Frank Shaw, Josephine Theresa Grain, Winifred Birch, Marshall Stephen Boylan, Ada Hambleton, Vera Duffin, Anthony William Matthews, Sister M Aloysius I.B.V.M., Albert Sharpe, Antoni Kendrick

Dear friends, the Season of Lent continues and it is almost the half way point. Please do keep going with your Lenten discipline. If, for some reason, it has been forgotten or gone off track: don't stop, make a new start, make a new resolution and begin again with new enthusiasm. If you haven't started a Lenten discipline, do so! Make the most of the next four weeks of this season. Be generous in the sacrifice you make to the Lord. Let's maximise our spiritual effort! It will be worth it!

On Thursday afternoon we had Coffee and Cakes and it was great to see a good number of people here! There was good company! In keeping with the season of Lent there was a fine fruit salad and Hot Cross Buns. Let's do this again soon!

On Thursday I joined the two groups of children preparing for the Sacraments at their preparation in school. Let's all support them by wrapping them in a blanket of prayer! Let's do all we can to support them as they prepare for First Holy Communion and Confirmation so that they are enthusiastic about being disciples of Jesus.

Holy Week at St Mary's These are the times of liturgies and devotions taking place during Holy Week

Thursday 28 March, 2024 Holy Thursday

6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 29 March, 2024 Good Friday

10am Stations of the Cross for children

12noon Walk of Witness from the Nicholson Memorial

3pm Solemn celebration of the Passion

7pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 30 March, 2024 Holy Saturday

10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows

2pm Poswiecenie Pokarmow (Blessing of Food)

730pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 31 March, 2024 Easter Sunday CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR

10am Easter Sunday Mass

130pm Mssca

Holy Week at St Mary's I want to invite your participation in the Holy Week liturgies

Holy Thursday, 28 March at 6pm 12 volunteers for the washing of the feet. Please sign the list at the back of the church and on the day bring your own towel

Good Friday, 29 March at 10am Young readers for Stations of the Cross, please get a parent or a grown up to send an email to me so that I can send the readings to you.

Two volunteers to assist with the Veneration of the Cross: to bring the Cross to the sanctuary, stopping at three points in the aisle for an exhortation and response and an act of reverence, then to hold the cross so that members of the congregation can come forward to make their own, personal veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday, 30 March at 730pm Three people to assist with removing the purple veils during the Easter Vigil. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

Gift Aid to St Mary's Parish As we approach the start of a new tax year, if you are a UK taxpayer and do not currently donate with Gift Aid, please consider signing up to make your donations with Gift Aid. This will increase your donation by 25% which we claim annually. Donating by standing order is safe and secure, it is simple and you are in control to change or cancel at any time.

If you would like to discuss this please talk to Marie Lawton, the parish Gift Aid administrator, we do not require any of your confidential finance information. If you choose to go ahead please collect a form from Marie. Every donation is much appreciated.

Parish Census Thank you for taking and returning the parish census forms. There have been a good number of returns. Thank you for completing the forms and letting us know about your skills.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 16 March 11am Sweep and Clean

CHANGE OF DATE The Mass with Painsley Students and their Families will now be celebrated at St Mary's on **Saturday 16 March at 615pm.**

Penance Services Monday

25 March 7pm at St Augustine's, Meir

Tuesday 26 March 7pm at St Giles', Cheadle

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:

Monday 4 March at 3pm with Year 2

Tuesday 5 March at 3pm with the whole School.

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 13 April at 615pm

Preparing for Holy Communion:

The Eucharistic Fast Before receiving Holy Communion at Mass or Eucharistic Service, it is the practice to abstain from solid food and liquids for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. The correct Church practice also states that water never breaks the Eucharistic fast; sick persons may take non-alcoholic liquid and medicine without restriction, and sick persons, elderly persons and persons accompanying them may take food and alcoholic beverages until one quarter hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Easter Duties. The obligation of Catholics to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. This also includes going to confession.

The Date of Easter Since the council Nicaea in 325AD the date of Easter has been determined by the first full moon after the Spring equinox. The date of Easter changes every year and determines the dates of other movable feasts, such as Ascension and Pentecost. The date of Easter can be as early as 22 March and as late 25 April. In the 7th Century Hilda of Whitby, in a move to bring unity to both the Celtic and Roman Churches decreed that Christians should follow the practice of the Roman Church, and so we do today.

Business cards Do you have a business card you would like to add to our Parish directory? We would like to put together a list of trades and services provided by our Parishioners that is available to others and encourage support within our community. If you would like to be added to the directory please pass your details on to Fr Martin.

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 make contact with the chaplain for you.

Edge@Alton is our Catholic youth group for young people in school years 6-9. They have lots of fun, games and challenges and are a great way to make new friends. Sessions cost just £2 and new members are always welcome. Please encourage your child to come along - we can promise lots of laughs! The next session is in Alton on Sunday 17th March from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. For more information or to book for your child to attend the session please email: edgeatlon@gmail.com

Churches Together in Leek and District

Good Friday 29 March the annual walk of witness will begin at 12 noon from the Nicholson memorial.

Second Collections. This week 2-3 March ST Chad's Cathedral Maintenance Fund

Collection

Gift Aid £112.00

Non Gift Aid £127.28

Total £239.23

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