

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 2 September <i>Please note change of time</i>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Jeremiah 20:7-9; Ps 62; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27</i> 6.15pm Mass Shiela Bird (MT) RIP
Sunday 3 September	10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 4 September	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Ps 95; Luke 4:16-30</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Myra Smith (Birthday)
Tuesday 5 September	Memorial of St Teresa of Kolcotta <i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 26; Luke 4:31-37</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am MT (Spec Int)
Wednesday 6 September	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Colossians 1:1-8; Ps 51; Luke 4:38-44</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 7 September	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Colossians 1:9-14; Ps 97; Luke 5:1-11</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Kathleen Flaherty INTS
Friday 8 September	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Micah 5:1-3; Ps 12; Matthew 1: 18-23</i> 9.40 Rosary 10am School Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Saturday 9 September <i>Please note change of time</i>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Ezekiel 33:7-9; Ps 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20</i> 6.15pm Family Mass Stephen Flaherty RIP
Sunday 10 September	10am Mass Januz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int) 4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Alice Murray	
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
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	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

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
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: Frank Clarke, Zofia Lazowska, Dionisy (Dennis) Rydzkowski, Joseph Pointon, Gerard (Gerry) McMullen, Margaret Anne Coates, Michael Depczynski, Tadeusz Wojdak, Samuel Hambleton, Esther Gordon, Barbara Elizabeth Priest, John William Barker, Margaret Byrne, Margaret Addy, George Broda, Martin Ernest Kane, Edna Mary Johnson, Eileen Whittaker, Ann Mary Spencer, Alojzy Borkowski, Mary Thelma Enid Shenton.

Dear friends, **Please do support Pope Francis** in your prayers this weekend as he in Mongolia. He is the first Pope to visit that country. Here are some statistics about the Catholic Church in Mongolia: 31 years since the first missionaries brought Catholicism to Mongolia, The first missionaries, members of the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) or Scheutists, arrived in Mongolia in 1992. **1,500** The number of Catholics in Mongolia, according to Matteo Bruni, Director of the Holy See Press Office. As of November 31, 2022, the Pontifical Yearbook counted 1,394 Catholics represent around 0.04% of Mongolia's population, making it one of the countries with the fewest Catholics in the world. **63,600** The number of Christians in Mongolia. The majority are Protestants (36,100) and Evangelicals or associated groups (23,000). The Russian Orthodox Church numbers 2,650. Christians represent 2.1% of the Mongolian population, **54** The number of institutes run by the Catholic Church in Mongolia. Almost 50 — specifically 48 of them are charitable institutes for the poorest or most vulnerable populations, notably the disabled. Six are educational institutes. **6** The diocese currently has 6 seminarians. Some of them are studying in South Korea. **35** The number of baptisms in Mongolia in 2022, down as compared 2012 (69). According to several missionaries interviewed by I.MEDIA, the cause of this drop is to be found in the aggressive competition from certain Protestant and Evangelical churches, but above all in the advent of consumer society in Mongolia.

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 and some copies are available at the back of the church.

Day of Recollection On Thursday of last week, I was at Thornycroft Hall for a Day of Recollection. I was asked a great question: what is my vision for my parish and expect great things from God, My answer is this: That every Catholic is at Mass in church on Sunday. It would be great to fill the church with families, children and young people; to see the connections made between the generations; and, that everyone is able to cultivate their Spiritual life by making Holy Moments and learning more about the brilliance of Catholicism.

Chips and Chat Chips and Chat is a monthly occasion for parishioners to join the Parish Priest for lunch in the Presbytery. If you would like to join me on Thursday 14 September at 12.30pm, please sign the list at the back of the church. There are limited items on the menu. We ask that you pay for your own meal.

New academic year The new school year will begin this week. It is now incredibly important that the parish and the schools work together more than ever before 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. As Catholics, we belong at Mass! 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. It would be great to fill the church with families of children and young people from both St Mary's Academy and Painsley Catholic College.

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.

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 September 2023, 7pm-9pm at St Austin's Church, 82 Wolverhampton Road Stafford ST17 4AW**

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

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 615pm 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 2023

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

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 5 September New academic year – please pray for and support our Catholic Schools	Thursday 21 September 5pm Parish Council
Friday 8 September 10am Whole School Mass in church	Thursday 28 September 6pm Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 9 September 615pm Family Mass for Education Sunday	Sunday 1 October 10am Mass with Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers
Thursday 14 September 1230pm Chips and chat; 4pm in church, Sacramental Preparation Meeting	

Collection Gift Aid £ 129.00 Non Gift Aid £111.11 Total £240.11 Thank you for kind generosity!

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