

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 20 April** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: *World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life*
Acts 4:8-12; Ps 117; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18
6.15 Mass Alice Devaney RIP
- Sunday 21 April** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction
- Monday 22 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 11:1-18; Ps 41-42; John 10:1-10
11.30am Funeral Mass for the repose of the soul of Keith Martin Worthington RIP
- Tuesday 23 April** **SOLEMNITY OF ST GEORGE, MARTYR PATRON OF ENGLAND**
Apocalypse 12:10-12; PS 125; James 1:2-4, 12; John 15:1-8
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Brendan Clarke
- Wednesday 24 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 12:24-13:5; Ps 66; John 12:44-50
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 25 April** **Feast of St Mark, Evangelist**
Please note change of time *1 Peter 5:5-14; PS 88; Mark 16:15-20*
8.30am Mass Margaret Delicata (GW)
- Friday 26 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2; John 14:1-6
Mass in School during the day Celebrant’s intention
- Saturday 27 April** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 9:26-31; Ps 21; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8
6.15pm Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP)
- Sunday 28 April** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Sue and Tony Ellis (RIP) (ML&MW)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction

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| 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 April For the role of women We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

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, 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 Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kieth Martin Worthington.

Anniversaries for this week: John Moss, Angela Bird, Annie Josephine Munday, Carmel Brookes, Josef Grzegorzek, Panteley (Peter) Skuba, John Gell, Angela Rose Bird, Lorraine Catherine Kaczorowski, Feliks Milaszkiwicz, Wilfred Charles (Bill) West, Joseph Ambrose Mernagh, Terence Alfred Bowyer, Christine Rose Davies, Mary Collier, Kathleen Anne Quirk, Stanislaw Narołowski, May Frith, Harold Leo Sheldon, Mary Alfreda Pilney (Freda)

Dear friends, this weekend, the Church observes the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

In recent weeks our parish has received an incredible blessing with Filip being accepted to begin formation for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Birmingham in September at the Royal St Alban's College in Valladolid, Spain. It is my hope that this will inspire another young man to seriously consider going to the seminary and a young woman would discern the possibility of going to the convent.

Let's continue to pray for Filip; let's wrap him in a blanket of prayer! Pope Francis wants us to pray the Lord's Prayer this year; let's pray the Our Father everyday for Filip. Let's pray for an increase in vocations; let's expect great things of God.

Thank You I am incredibly grateful to you for your continuing support and loyalty to our parish. Let's continue to work together so that we can hand on to the children and young people the practice of our Catholic Faith

Following some recent incidents which have involved direct interventions, let's care for each other. Let's truly put in to action our Parish Mission Statement, "Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ's command, 'Love one another as I have loved you'.

The priestly formation which Filip will begin The Church has a robust vision for the formation of priests. The Church has identified four key areas: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation. This is the Church's vision of the intellectual formation of priests:

"Intellectual formation has its own characteristics, but it is also deeply connected with, and indeed can be seen as a necessary expression of, both human and spiritual formation: It is a fundamental demand of the human intelligence by which one "participates in the light of God's mind" and seeks to acquire a wisdom which in turn opens to and is directed toward knowing and adhering to God ... The intellectual formation of candidates for the priesthood finds its specific justification in the very nature of the ordained ministry, and the challenge of the "new evangelization" to which our Lord is calling the Church on the threshold of the third millennium shows just how important this formation is. The present situation is heavily marked by religious indifference, by a widespread mistrust regarding the real capacity of reason to reach objective and universal truth, and by fresh problems and questions brought up by scientific and technological discoveries. It strongly demands a high level of intellectual formation, such as will enable priests to proclaim, in a context like this, the changeless Gospel of Christ and to make it credible to the legitimate demands of human reason. Moreover, there is the present phenomenon of pluralism, which is very marked in the field not only of human society but also of the community of the Church herself. It demands special attention to critical discernment: It is a further reason showing the need for an extremely rigorous intellectual formation. The commitment to study, which takes up no small part of the time of those preparing for the priesthood, is not in fact an external and secondary dimension of their human, Christian, spiritual and vocational growth. In reality, through study, especially the study of theology, the future priest assents to the word of God, grows in his spiritual life and prepares himself to fulfil his pastoral ministry. To be pastorally effective, intellectual formation is to be integrated with a spirituality marked by a personal experience of God. In this way a purely abstract approach to knowledge is overcome in favour of that intelligence of heart which knows how 'to look beyond,' and then is in a position to communicate the mystery of God to the people." (Pastores Dabo Vobis, 51)

The Easter Season The Church's Easter Season is 50 days: seven weeks to rejoice and delve into the Resurrection of Jesus.

Beautiful Eucharist – please do collect your copy from the back of the church. The testimonies of faith are refreshing and encouraging. Let's dedicate ourselves, our whole parish, to discovering the Risen Lord at Mass.

Ascension Thursday is one of the Holy Days of Obligation and we will celebrate over two days: Wednesday 8 May we will have an early vigil Mass with the children from St Mary's Academy at 2pm in church; and on Thursday 9 May we will have Mass at 7pm.

Pentecost Novena – please join the daily prayer in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost. We shall have some prayer cards available at the back of the church.

Pentecost – Saturday 18 May at 615pm we shall have the Pentecost Vigil Mass; Sunday 19 May at 10am Canon Paul McNally, the local Episcopal Vicar will be here to present the Bene Merenti medals from Pope Francis

Easter Duties The Church wants us to benefit from the spiritual effects of Christ's suffering and resurrection and calls us to go to Mass, receive Holy Communion and go to Confession during the period of Lent and Easter.

Walsingham Day Pilgrimage 2024 This year's Diocesan Annual Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place on Saturday 11 May 2024. The coach will leave Holy Trinity at 7:00am to ensure that we arrive at the Shrine in good time to eat your packed lunch before Mass at 1:00pm. After Mass there will be another opportunity for you to visit the Slipper Chapel and the Gift Shop. Around 3:00 / 3:30pm we will gather in the Shrine grounds and walk the Holy Mile together in procession. When we reach the village we will enter through the gate of the Abbey Ruins and prayers will be said at the site of the Holy House. You should have time to look around the village shops before we leave to make our way home at around 5:15pm. This year we are going to stop for tea at the Anglia Motel and Coach Stop which is opposite the site of the now closed 'Farm Café'. They have an extensive and fair priced menu ranging from a Full English Breakfast to a Roast Dinner. The cost of coach travel has gone down since last year and therefore the cost will be £20 per person plus a £2 donation when entering the Abbey Grounds so please consider bringing some change with you. We will be back at Holy Trinity by 9:30 at the latest.

Coffee Morning - Annual Leek Club Day 2024 Coffee Morning on Friday 26 April 2024 at the Trinity Church in Leek between 9:00am and 12:30pm. During this Coffee Morning, we are seeking to raise funds to enable us to update some of the signage and other essential equipment for the Annual Leek Club Day.

CAFOD We have received the following message "Thank you to all the Parishioners at St Mary's for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of £221.15 which we received on 20 March 2024. Thank you so much for being there for our global family."

Red Box Appeal Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries wishes to thank the parish for the welcome and generous response to the Red Box appeal last weekend. If you did not get a chance to collect a Red Box or Direct Debit form, please speak to your Missio Volunteer or Parish Priest. You can also find out more information at: www.missio.org.uk

Standing Orders The March 2024 standing order donations were £1,009.83p, Thank you.

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| Collections | 29 March | For Holy Places £52.20 | 30 & 31 March | Gift Aid £194.00 |
| | 6 & 7 April | Gift Aid £85.00 | Non Gift Aid £107.61 | Total £192.61 |
| | Missio | £148.54 | | |
| | 13-14 April | Gift Aid £96.00 | Non Gift Aid £159.54 | Total £255.54 |

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