

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 25 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 50; Romans 5:12-19

6pm David Wright RIP

Sunday 26 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Piotr Zwierski RIP

4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Monday 27 February
Public liturgy and live-stream

Lent Feria

Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46

9.40am Rosary 10am Josephine Delicata RIP

Tuesday 28 February
Public liturgy and live stream

Lent Feria

Isaiah 55:10-11; Ps 33; Matthew 6:7-15

9.40am Rosary 10am For You, the people of the Parish

Wednesday 1 March
Public liturgy

Feast of St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales

Philippians 3:8-14; Ps 1; Matthew 5:13-16

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 2 March
Public liturgy and live-stream

Feast of St Chad, Bishop, Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Romans 12:3-13; Ps 15; Luke 10:1-9

9.40am Rosary 10am Private Intention

Friday 3 March
Public liturgy and live-stream
First Friday

Lent Feria. Lent. Fast Day. Women’s World Day of Prayer

Ezekiel 18:21-28; Ps 129; Matthew 5:20-26

9.40am Rosary 10am Sean Rafferty RIP.

3pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 4 March
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am to 10.30am Confessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation

11am Funeral Liturgy for Maureen Ann Jones

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 12:1-4; Ps 32; 2 Timothy 1:18-20; Matthew 17:1-9

6pm Family Mass Adelaide Treacy Ints

Sunday 5 March
Public liturgy and live-stream

10am Private Intention

4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Parish Priest
Parish Administrator
St Mary’s Catholic Academy
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle
Safeguarding Rep
Archdiocese of Birmingham
NSPCC
Gift Aid Co-ordinator
Hospital Chaplaincy
Macclesfield District Hospital

Fr Martin Pratt
Mrs Alice Murray
Mrs G Turner
Mrs R Waugh
Appointment pending

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The Pope’s Prayer Intention for February: For Parishes. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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. Mass for Vocations Thursday 2 March, 7pm at St Giles, Cheadle.

Please pray for the sick: 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.

Praying for the Faithful Departed Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Ann Jones and Judith Broun. Maureen’s Funeral Liturgy will take place on Saturday 5 March at 11am and Judith’s Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 23 March at 1030am.

Anniversaries: Francis McDonough. Gertrude E Beck, Robert John Walmsley, Frederick Donald Stanmore Barbara Gunia, Francis Salt, James Malkin, Ernest Birch, John Tatton, Giuseppe Cumbo, Eileen Elizabeth Arrowsmith, Hilda Chadwick, Mrs Coyne, Albert Briscoe, Christine Kirkham, Denis Heywood, Martin McNeilly, Jan Szdelko, Christopher David Williams, Stanley Pocock, Sister Baptist Haslam, Annie McDonough, Hilda Barker, Basil Walmsley, James Birchenough, Arthur Hambleton, Wilfred Spencer, Mary Joan Plant, Kathleen Mary Smith.

Dear friends,

Holy Moments! The Church has started the Season of Lent and it is a time of great grace. How are your Holy Moments? Keep looking for and making opportunities to make Holy Moments.

The Look of Lent This privileged season has a different look to it. During the Season of Lent, we omit the Gloria and the Alleluia at Mass, there are no flowers in church, at the end of Mass there is an additional Prayer over the People before the Blessing, and every day with a few exceptions the vestment colour is always violet.

The Sundays of Lent are Days of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments. During this Season, let's pray for those among us who are preparing for the Sacraments among them:

4 children who will be Baptised in the next few months

13 children preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

And, two people who will be received into Full Communion with the Church.

9 children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion

One couple preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Lent at St Mary's. Let's let God make amazing happen in our lives this year.

Sunday Masses Let's make Sunday Mass a priority during Lent this year. Let's make it a normal part of our personal and family routine to be at Mass. Sunday Masses are: Saturday evening at 6pm and Sunday morning at 10am.

Confession – Saturday from 10am. Or if you want to go to Confession, please do call and make an arrangement.

Stations of the Cross Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 3pm. I will make available the prayer leaflet which you can take home.

Rosary will be prayed before Weekday Masses and Eucharistic Services. Prayer leaflets will be available.

Getting ready for the Easter Triduum During Lent we are preparing ourselves to celebrate the Easter Triduum which is the shortest but, by far, the most important liturgical season. During Lent we are making spiritual preparations so that we can take part in the four most important liturgical celebrations of the year: Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday's Solemn Celebration of the Passion; Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil; and, Easter Sunday Mass. I do appeal to you to come to church to take part in these celebrations of our Salvation. The times will not be too different from last year. Let's make each of these celebrations Holy Moments celebrating our salvation!

Prayer suggestions for Lent and beyond

Pray as you go app Pray As You Go is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day, a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

Walk with Me The Lenten edition of Walk with Me. At the heart of this holy season is an invitation from the Father to return to him with all our heart; an opportunity to seek healing and to know the transforming mercy of God. The booklets are available at the back of church.

Word on Fire For daily Gospel reflections from Bishop Robert Barron, go to wordonfire.org

Best Lent Ever Most people live and die without even scratching the surface of their potential. That's not going to be your story...or the story of those you love. Invite three people to discover the power of Holy Moments alongside you this Lent! Sign up today for the daily email at dynamiccatholic.com

Church cleaning I am incredibly grateful and will be always thankful to the teams of cleaners who have enabled us to be safe in church over the last three years. It is still important for us to keep the church clean: it makes being at Mass more comfortable and uplifting. The very strict requirements for cleaning are not necessary now. Recently two of my priest friends were here and they commented on how beautiful the church is, how clean, how well kept and that all the brass was shining! It is very impressive, and I know that I am very fortunate. In the last few days, some of the people who have dedicated themselves to the church cleaning have acknowledged that it has become a draw on their time. I am appealing for your help, please. Can you help immediately after Mass on Sunday to keep our beautiful church in its impressive condition? If so, please see Fr Martin or one of the members of the cleaning team

Monday 13 March, tenth anniversary of the election of Pope Francis

To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "virtual" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a [special online map](#) featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys. Please go to <https://www.decimus-annus.org/it/site/index>

Ecumenical events during Lent in Leek

Wednesday 1 March, 2023 Trinity Church Lent lunches – Trinity Church will be providing soup lunches every Wednesday during Lent 12 noon - 1.30 p.m. Come and enjoy hot soup, a roll and butter and a drink for £4. All proceeds will support the work of Christian Aid.

Thursday 2 March 2023 at St Chad's House St Chad's Day Guided Quiet Day to mark the Feast Day. During the day there will be reflections on the significance of his life and ministry as well as times of share prayer, music, poetry. The day will begin at 10am and conclude at 3pm. Tea, coffee, homemade cake and a light lunch will be included for the suggested donation of £15. For more information or to book, call Rachel tel 01538 382483 or email stchadsleek@gmail.com by Friday 24 February

Lent Lunches begin on 1 March and then every Wednesday until 29 March 12 - 1:30 pm to support Christian Aid. Come & enjoy hot soup, a roll, butter, & a drink at Trinity Church, Derby Street, Leek.

Lent Group begins Thursday 2 March, every week until 30 at 2:30pm at Trinity. Based on the book: *God Forsaken* by Stephen Cottrell. You don't need to buy a book. We will be looking at issues raised together.

Good Friday, Friday 7 April, Annual Walk of Witness This year, it is our turn to lead the annual Good Friday Walk of Witness in the centre of Leek. I haven't made any plans yet, but if you can help with singing, music, reading please let me know.

There is a need for marshals to ensure the procession is safe. If you can help with this please let me know.

Sacramental Preparation

During the week, Sacramental Preparation Classes for the children who will receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation this year will begin again at school. These Sacraments continue the mission of Jesus, they are our acts of worship, they form us as disciples of Christ, they are made in communion with one another so that personal faith is built up. It is wrong to consider these Sacraments either as rites of passage or a milestone at school. Let's have a positive and Christian view of these actions of faith! Please continue to pray for the children and that their parents will support them by bringing the children to Mass as we do at the Rosary prayer group before Weekday Masses.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 26 February After Mass Sunday Social & 200 Cub Draw. **Friday 3 March** World Day of Prayer 7.30pm at St Edward's **Saturday 4**

March 6pm Family Mass

Saturday 11 March 10.30am Sweep and clean.

Friday 17 March 4pm Parish Finance

Committee meeting

Second Collections Sunday 5 March Cathedral Maintenance

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 March CAFOD

Collection

Last week's collection Gift Aid £138.00 Non- Gift Aid £72.59

Total £210.59

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