

**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’.**

<b>Saturday 26 August</b>	10am    Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions <b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <i>Isaiah 22: 19-23; Ps 137; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20</i> 6pm    Mass Januz Szura-Zwereski (Spec Int)
<b>Sunday 27 August</b>	10am    Mass Sarah Millward (RIP) 4pm    Rosary and Benediction
<b>Monday 28 August</b>	<b>Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10; Ps 149; Matthew 23:13-22</i> 9.40am Rosary    10am    Mass: Shiela Bird (MT) RIP
<b>Tuesday 29 August</b>	<b>Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Martyr</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Ps 138; Mark 6:17-29</i> 9.40am Rosary    10am    Mass David Wright RIP
<b>Wednesday 30 August</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Ps 138; Matthew 23: 27-32</i> 9.40am Rosary    10am    Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 31 August</b> <i>Please note change of time</i>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Ps 89; Matthew 24:42-51</i> 8.30am    Mass David Wright RIP
<b>Friday 1 September</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time First Friday. World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ps 96; Matthew 25:1-13</i> 9.40    Rosary    10am    Mass For you, the People of the Parish
<b>Saturday 2 September</b> <i>Please note change of time</i>	10am    Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions <b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <i>Jeremiah 20:7-9; Ps 62; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27</i> 6.15pm Mass Shiela Bird (MT) RIP
<b>Sunday 3 September</b>	10am    Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP 11.30am Sacrament of Baptism 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:** Thomas V Salt, Norah Kathleen Clarke, Sarah Millward, Mary Winifred Wright, Terence Wheatley, Pamela Ann Porter, William Moss, Annie Dawson, George Skaer, Georgina Jane Annable, Kathleen Margaret Taylor, Ann Jane Hambleton, Eliza Jane Hall, Mabel Kelsall, Dorothy Lomas, David Wright, Albert Bowcock, Emel Swacez, Kenneth Pownell, Edna Finn, Sister Paschal Wallis IBVM, Norman Greenwood, Mrs Flannery, Joan Talks, Henryk Swiercz.

Dear friends, How are your Holy Moments? Have you continued to make Holy Moments during the summer? Remember that every Holy Moment can change someone's world. A wave of Holy Moments could change the whole world. Let's be part of a movement of Holy Moments. When we are seen making Holy Moments, people see us and know that Christ is here! Pray for someone. Send a message of encouragement. Thank someone. Invite someone for tea. Enjoy Mass. Go to Confession. Pray for 5 minutes. Donate to a charity.

**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 4.30pm and Sunday morning at 10.30am St Thomas's, Tean Sunday evening at 5.30pm St Mary's, Leek Saturday evening at 6.15pm 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.

**Parish Finance Committee: summary of our July meeting** The Parish Finance Committee is required by the Church's Canon Law to assist the Parish Priest with the administration of the Parish. At present, there are five parishioners who are appointed by the Parish Priest to be members of the Finance Committee. These are some of the issues discussed at our July meeting:

**Gift Aid** – current donations made are comparable to pre Covid values despite 17 less donors. We encourage all UK tax payers to donate their offering to sign a Gift Aid declaration the parish receives an additional 25% for every £1 donated.

**Loose cash small donations scheme known as GASDS** - in the last year we received £1,273.

**Planned Parish Expenditure** - We are planning to restore the sanctuary with the original altar which was removed a number of years ago; replace double glazing in the presbytery to conserve heat.

**Parish Maintenance:** Sweep and Clean continues every month; there was a discussion about external management of the car park; volunteer hours for 2022 amounted to 2,448 hours.

**Alternative heat source for church and presbytery:** While this may not be possible for the church; we looking in to the installation of localised smart metres; the longevity of the current heating system in the church; and, other schemes.

**Fundraising:** Christmas Cards £3.50 for pack of 10 cards, Calendars – price to be decided; the Amazon wish list has proved very helpful, and we are grateful for the donations which have been made.

**Grant for the Listed Places of Worship VAT** scheme. In 2022, the grant that St. Mary's Church received from this scheme amounted to £17,456.10.

**Ecumenical Pilgrim Group** Last Sunday before our 10am Mass, we welcomed a small party of senior Church leaders in Staffordshire to St Mary's. They were taking part in a three day walking pilgrimage to the sites of the three Cistercian Abbeys of North Staffordshire. The Anglican Bishop of Lichfield was in the group and he has written to us:

"Dear Fr Martin, Thank you so much for blessing our little pilgrim group yesterday morning at St Mary's as we set off on our way to Croxden. It was a real encouragement to have your prayers and the prayers of your community supporting us on the way, and we all much appreciated the care and trouble you had gone to in shaping such a beautiful and fitting liturgy for the occasion. Be assured of my prayers for your ministry and for all at St Mary's – with my warm good wishes,  
Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave Lord Bishop of Lichfield"

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

**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 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 very soon. 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.

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** 6.15pm Family Mass for Education Sunday

**Sacramental Preparation** 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 to be 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

**Collection** Gift Aid £ 221.00 Non Gift Aid £113.00 Total £334.00 Thank you for kind generosity!

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