

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 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
- Monday 29 April** **Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe**  
*1 John 1:5-22; Ps 102; Matthew 11:25-30*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
- Tuesday 30 April** **Easter Feria**  
*Acts 14:19-28; Ps 144; John 14:27-31*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Joan Greenwood (RIP)
- Wednesday 1 May** **Memorial of St Joseph the Worker**  
*Colossians 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 89; Matthew 13:54-58*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 2 May** **Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**  
*Please note change of time Acts 15:7-21; Ps 95; John 15:9-11*  
8.30am Mass Thanksgiving (FG)
- Friday 3 May** **Feast of Ss Philip and James, Apostles**  
*1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Ps 15; John 14:6-14*  
10am Rosary  
Mass in School during the day Celebrants intention
- Saturday 4 May** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
*Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 97; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17*  
6.15pm Mass Kathleen Greenwood (RIP)
- Sunday 5 May** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office  
10am Mass Michael Duffy Ints  
1.30pm Polish Mass  
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>	Mrs 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
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<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

**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](mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for May** **For the formation of religious and seminarians.** We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

**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.*

**Anniversaries for this week:** William Challinor, Nora Brown, Wladyslaw Hryciuk, Stanislaw “Stasha” Bielecka, Sister Philomena O’Brien I.B.V.M, Terry Murphy, Moira Gabriel, David Briggs, Alice Laskowski, Katherine Butler, May Gladys Flannigan, Mary Machin, Thomas Ball, James Campbell, May Elizabeth Notter, Michael Baratynski, Edward Stepek, Kathleen Fairbanks, Jan Urbanczyk, Albert Grain, Jean Ball, Mr Brindley, Francis Borkowski, Irene Haywood, Mary Ansell, Ida Alice Bowcock, Boadicea Marren, Brenda Burnett Gibson, Avery Mary Biddulph, Christine McDonnell, Josephine Mary Thompson, Les Oliver, Kathleen Mary Patricia Pointon, Kristina Bernadette Tilbury, Bernard Joseph Dawson, Christopher Birch, Ira Lowe, Stanislaw Bangrowski, Albert Henry France

Dear friends, I am incredibly grateful to you for your continuing support and loyalty to our parish. Let's share the responsibility for the mission of our parish. Let's continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood! Can you sign up to pray for vocations during the month of May. The sign up sheet is at the back of the church.

**Let's support Filip as he prepares to go to Spain to begin formation for the priesthood** The Church has a bold vision for the formation of priests. There are four areas of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. Here's a brief introduction to the pastoral formation that Filip will begin: "The whole formation imparted to candidates for the priesthood aims at preparing them to enter into communion with the charity of Christ the good shepherd. Hence their formation in its different aspects must have a fundamentally pastoral character. The [Second Vatican] Council ... insists upon the coordination of the different aspects of human, spiritual and intellectual formation. At the same time it stresses that they are all directed to a specific pastoral end. This pastoral aim ensures that the human, spiritual and intellectual formation has certain precise content and characteristics; it also unifies and gives specificity to the whole formation of future priests. Like all other branches of formation, pastoral formation develops by means of mature reflection and practical application, and it is rooted in a spirit, which is the hinge of all and the force which stimulates it and makes it develop.

It needs to be studied therefore as the true and genuine theological discipline that it is; pastoral or practical theology. It is a scientific reflection on the Church as she is built up daily, by the power of the Spirit, in history; on the Church as the "universal sacrament of salvation," as a living sign and instrument of the salvation wrought by Christ through the word, the sacraments and the service of charity. Pastoral theology is not just an art. Nor is it a set of exhortations, experiences and methods. It is theological in its own right, because it receives from the faith the principles and criteria for the pastoral action of the Church in history ... Among these principles and criteria, one that is specially important is that of the evangelical discernment of the socio - cultural and ecclesial situation in which the particular pastoral action has to be carried out. The study of pastoral theology should throw light upon its practical application through involvement in certain pastoral services which the candidates to the priesthood should carry out, with a necessary progression and always in harmony with their other educational commitments. It is a question of pastoral "experiences," which can come together in a real program of "pastoral training," which can last a considerable amount of time and the usefulness of which will itself need to be checked in an orderly manner. Pastoral study and action direct one to an inner source, which the work of formation will take care to guard and make good use of: This is the ever - deeper communion with the pastoral charity of Jesus, which - just as it was the principle and driving force of his salvific action - likewise, thanks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of orders, should constitute the principle driving force of the priestly ministry." (Pastores dabo vobis, 57)

**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.

**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.

**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

**Edge@Alton Youth Group** Edge@Alton is a youth group for young people across the parishes of the Staffordshire Moorlands in school Years 6-9. We meet once a month in Alton on a Sunday afternoon from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. In order to enable our committed young people to continue to meet for fun, friendship and faith we need more adult helpers. Please could you volunteer to help us?! We are looking for core team who will be at most monthly meetings, as well as adults to occasionally help - perhaps just twice a year. If you feel you could help, please contact us by emailing [edgeatton@gmail.com](mailto:edgeatton@gmail.com) We'd love to hear from you! Anna, Jane, Filip and Grace. The next Edge@Alton meetings are: On May 12 we are going for a walk in the beautiful Churnet valley from the Soli Centre to Ramblers Retreat, (June we are away on a trip – the KYT It's a Knock Out diocesan youth groups challenge day), and on 14 July we'll be in Alton.

**Opposing the decriminalisation of abortion** The government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill has two important amendments, that will likely be debated and voted on shortly in the House of Commons, that could fundamentally change our laws on abortion. We uphold the dignity and value of every human life from conception to natural end and have clear views on these amendments. **New Clause 1 (NC1)** – Decriminalisation An amendment New Clause 1 (NC1) has been tabled by Dame Diana Johnson MP. This amendment would remove offences that make it illegal for a woman to perform her own abortion at any point right through to birth. These changes to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy and would create a situation where abortion, including sex-selective abortion, is legal at any stage. As Pope Francis says: "It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child". In England and Wales, both unborn child and pregnant mother deserve full protection under our laws, as some of the most vulnerable in our society. As such we oppose this amendment. **New Clause 15 (NC15)** – Upper Limit This amendment has been tabled by Caroline Ansell MP, representing a cross-party group of 25 MPs, with a view to changing the law to lower the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Due to advances in medical science, many babies can now survive before Britain's 24-week limit. The current limit is also double that of most of our neighbouring countries. We would encourage MPs to support this amendment. Our response: contact Karen Bradley MP – please do write to Karen and let your voice be heard!

**A Year of Encounter: a joint initiative between CAFOD and SVP** With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including an online session on 4 May to learn more.

#### North Staffordshire Deanery

**Talks on St. John of the Cross by Fr. Matthew Blake OCD** The National Director of the Carmelite Secular Order. He is known both nationally and internationally, for his talks and courses on Carmelite spirituality. There will be three talks at St. Wulstan's Catholic School Hall, Wolstanton: Friday May 10 7.00pm First Talk Setting the Scene; Saturday May 11 10.00am Second Talk; 3.00pm Third Talk; and, Sunday May 12 3.00pm Final Talk. Each session will be for a maximum of 1hr 30minutes. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

**An Evening Talk on The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy By Mgr. Timothy Menezes** The session will outline the key principles of the Church's Liturgy which will be identifiable from our experience of Mass. It will highlight how our private prayer during the week feeds into Sunday Mass and nourishes our prayer for the week ahead. Tea and Coffee available. Friday 17 May 2024 7.30pm At Holy Trinity Community Centre, London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 1LQ

#### Dates for your diary

**8-9 May Ascension of the Lord:** Wednesday 8 May 2pm Early Vigil Mass; Thursday 9 May 7pm Mass

**1-2 June Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)** during Masses that weekend, the Eucharistic Ministers will be recommissioned.

#### Holy Days of Obligation

**Wednesday 8 – Thursday 9 May** Ascension of the Lord: Wednesday 8 May 2pm Early Vigil Mass; Thursday 9 May 7pm Mass

**Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June** Ss Peter and Paul: Saturday 29 June 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

#### Second Collections

**Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 May** Catholic Communications

**Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June** Peter's Pence

**Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 June** Day for Life

**Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 July** Apostleship of the Sea

**Collections** Gift Aid £47.00 Non Gift Aid £166.25

Total £213.25

**Clergy Training Fund**

£154.44

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