

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

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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 January 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Racial Justice Sunday
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Ps 94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Sunday 28 January 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 29 January **Feria in Ordinary Time**
2 Samuel 15:13-14,30, 16:5-13; PS 3; Mark 5:1-20
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Rosemary Kirkham (RIP)

Tuesday 30 January **Feria in Ordinary Time**
2 Samuel 18:9-10, 24-25, 30; Ps 85; Mark 5:21-43
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Maureen Kelly (RIP)

Wednesday 31 January **Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest**
2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Ps 31; Mark 6:1-6
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 1 February **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chronicles 29; Mark 6:7-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass John Balay (RIP) (GC)

Friday 2 February **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**
Malachi 3:1-4; Ps 23; Luke 2:22-40
1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Mary Szczotka (RIP)

Saturday 3 February 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39
6.15pm Family Mass For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 4 February 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Bruno Bradley (RIP) (GC)
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 January For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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.
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 Let’s pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Paul Lomas, Fr Christopher Greaney, and Fr Sandy Brown

Anniversaries for this week: Joan Kathleen McKenna Floyd, Veronica Rose, Lesley Margaret Salt, Gertrude Hall, Stanislaw Gutkowski, Pamela Helen Bristow, Brian Thomas Ball, Sister Wilfred Jemmison I.B.V.M., Dorothy Walker Graham, John Manuel, Richard Byrne, Stephen Christopher Walmsley, Josef Ignatowicz, Mary Winifred Booth, Joseph Carding, Winifred Mary Lovatt, Johanna Williams, May Shaw, Cyril Shenton, Bernard Hargreaves, Albert Stapleton, Eric M Bowcock, Robert E Trafford, Roylance Wakelind, Richard Byrne, George Finney, Mr Charles, James Boyle, John Frain, Nobby Jones, Edith Flanagan, Jack Flanagan, Mr Morgan, Mary Machin, Edith Plant, Jessie Higgins, Doreen Joan Kirkham, Eleanor Roby, Jess Jones, Jean Margery Bowyer, Maureen Ann Jones

Dear friends, this Sunday is the third Sunday before the Season of Lent and in the traditional Church calendar was known as Septuagesima Sunday, meaning the seventieth day before Easter and the name given to this short, seventeen day season, which is intended to prepare us, the members of the Church, for the Season of Lent. In the past, when this Season was kept, it would have looked and sounded like Lent: the priest wore purple vestments at Mass, there were no flowers in church, the Gloria was omitted from Sunday Mass; the only exception, there was no fasting. Today, we can use this Septuagesima period to prepare our Lenten observance. Lent is not intended to be a spiritual assault course. The Season of Lent prepares us for the Easter Triduum and renews our personal confidence in the dignity of our Christian living.

Let's go to Mass this Lent! The Season of Lent is a great time to go to Mass in church. Let's use the six weeks of Lent to go to Mass and revive our connection to Christ in this sacrament.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 14 February. Our parish Mass will be at 7pm on that day. Let's get it in our diaries and make a good start to this holy season.

Sunday Mass at St Mary's: Saturday evening at 6.15pm; Sunday at 10am.

Weekday Mass at 10am (check the Newsletter and Facebook page for any changes)

Confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation Confessions are celebrated on Saturdays at 10am. If you can't make this, please do call to make another arrangement.

Stations of the Cross Sundays at 4pm followed by Benediction and Fridays at 10am.

Dynamic Catholic At critical times throughout Salvation History, God's people have been invited to consecrate themselves. We are at one of those critical times in history, and consecrating ourselves, our families, our country, and indeed, the whole world to the Eucharist may make all the difference. Join us now for BEST LENT EVER and be one of the first people in history to go on this journey! Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html

Bishop Robert Barron's Daily Gospel Reflections Bishop Barron, the Bishop of Winona-Rochester, has for a number of years shared a daily Gospel reflection through his Word on Fire organisation. Everyday, I share these with the staff of our St Mary's Academy as part of their spiritual formation. They are excellent accompaniment to reading the daily Gospel readings. To sign up go to wordonfire.org/reflections

Church cleaners I would like to express my thanks to those parishioners who stay behind after Sunday Mass to clean the church and those who meet once a week to polish the brasses. They do an amazing job to keep our beautiful church in top condition for all of us to use.

If you could help with the church cleaning on a Sunday morning or would like to join the group that polish the candlesticks, please let me know.

Year of Prayer We are well underway for the Year of Prayer and the spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Year next year. I encourage you to keep up your 5 minutes of prayer every day! Keep going! No one can fail in their prayer.

Ordinary Fridays Our Catholic life observes Friday with special respect because of the Lord's Passion and Death. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus asks us to observe the First Fridays by attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays; it was one of the 12 promises the Lord made to St Margaret Mary during the sixteenth century and has been part of Catholic life ever since. As Catholics we also observe Fridays as days of penance by offering a form of self-denial in thanksgiving for the Lord's gentle mercy and our personal desire for conversion of heart. The Church does not prescribe, however, that fish must be eaten on Fridays. It never did. Abstinence always meant the giving up of meat rather than the eating of fish as a substitute. What the Church does require is that its members abstain on Fridays from meat or some other food or that they perform some alternative work of penance. Here are some practical suggestions for an act of penance on Fridays

by abstaining from meat or some other food

by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement

by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross

by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy at home and abroad

by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick, old or lonely

Administration of Holy Communion Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the Altar at the end of the congregational procession as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

Going into hospital If you are going into hospital, there is now no obligation for the hospital to inform its chaplaincy department of your admission. When admitted to hospital, please ask the hospital to be in contact with their chaplain. Alternatively, be in contact with me and I will make contact with the chaplain for you.

200 Club It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRCDTR St Mary's, Leek. If you are not already taking part please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

Parish Piety Stall The Parish Piety Stall is now stocking new Mass cards for both Special Intentions and for the deceased featuring images from the stained glass windows. There are two images: the Sacred Heart and the Last Supper. Mass cards at £1.

Can you help? Can you help with the Piety Stall especially on Sunday mornings? If so, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

North Staffordshire Deanery **Bethsaida Youth Leader Training** will take place at Our Lady and St Werburg's, Clayton, on Saturday 24 February and Saturday 2 March between 2pm and 6pm. For more information contact Anna Howard at anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Churches Together in Leek and District **Wednesday 14 February, 2024 Ash Wednesday at St Chad's House, Leek 10am – 4pm** A Quiet Day led by Demelza Henderson from the Association for Promoting Retreats. Make a pause at the beginning of Lent with a thoughtful introduction to the penitential season with reflections, prayers and times of silence. Our text for the day will be Psalm 51. The day will conclude with worship and the imposition of ashes. Suggested donation for the day £15. For more information, contact the Warden on telephone number 01538 382483

Lent Course Following the success of last year's Lent Course based on series 1 of the TV Programme The Chosen this year's Lent course at St Edward's church will use series 2 to look at the Biblical themes of grace, suffering, faithfulness, love, transformation, redemption and sacrifice. The course will run for 5 weeks on the Wednesdays of Lent beginning at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 February. You can join online if you prefer. Please contact Rev Nigel Irons at stedwardsleek@hotmail.com

The Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP invites you to London and a private tour of Westminster Karen Bradley MP has arranged the next tour of the Palace of Westminster for Thursday 14 March. The tour includes areas of the Palace which are not normally open to members of the public. The coach will depart from Robin Hood Travel, Macclesfield Road at 9am prompt. There will be time for shopping and visiting other London sights before the tour at 4.30pm. The coach will leave London at 7pm and return to Leek approximately 11.30pm. The cost of the trip is £34.50. If you want to go on this trip, contact Karen's office directly on tel 382421. Cheques should be sent directly to Robin Hood Travel and made payable to Robin Hood Travel Limited

Advert - Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 14 April 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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