

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 28 October	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Exodus 22:20-26; Ps 17; 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 22:34-40</i> 6.15pm Mass Angela Bird (MR)
Sunday 29 October	10am Mass Holy Souls (HB) 130pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction 5pm Rite of Reception into church and vigil for the Deceased: John Balay RIP
Monday 30 October	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Romans 8:12-17; PS 67; Luke 13:10-17</i> 10am Funeral Mass for John Balay RIP
Tuesday 31 October	SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: Holy day of Obligation <i>Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 23; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12</i> 2pm Early Vigil Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Wednesday 1 November	7pm Mass MT (Spec Int)
Thursday 2 November	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed <i>2 Maccabees 12:43-45; Ps 102; John 17:24-26</i> 6.30pm Rite of Reception into church and vigil for the Deceased: Shirley Regan RIP 7pm Mass All Soul’s
Friday 3 November	Memorial of St Martin de Porres: First Friday <i>Romans 9:1-5; Ps 147; Luke 14:1-6</i> 10am Funeral Mass for Shirley Regan RIP
Saturday 4 November	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10; Ps 130; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12</i> 6.15pm Mass John Balay RIP (CF)
Sunday 5 November	10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP 130pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction

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 Archdiocese of Birmingham NSPCC	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk tel 0121 230 6240 tel 0808 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01782 676400 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 November For the Pope. We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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 We pray for Shirley Regan, John Balay and Joan Williams.
The arrangement for the Funeral of John Balay are – Sunday 29 October 5pm Reception into Church; Monday 30 October 10am Funeral Mass. The arrangements for Shirley Regan’s funeral are – Thursday 2 November 6.30pm Reception into Church; Friday 3 November 10am Funeral Mass. Let’s pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Williams. Her Funeral Liturgy will take place on Thursday 16 November at 11am. Please do come along and support this Funeral.

Anniversaries for this week: Alan Miners, Ludwicz Szopa, Thomas Moss, Mary Snook, Doreen Foster, Margaret Rose Barnes, Peter John Trafford, John Hubert Broun, Henry Pernice, Sister Colette Jones IBVM, Sister Dominic Rowe IBVM, Sister Dolores Duffy IBVM, Mary Blanche Rhead, Gertrude Mitchell, Arthur Blakeman, William Machin, Joseph Paulukiewicz, George Lawrence, Florence Mellor, Dawson Earley, Austin Taylor, Mr Gordon, Mary Heath, Josephine Thorley, Sarah Ellen Fetzer, Leon Gandolfo, Daisy Shaw, Ralph Sneyd, Graham Fowler, Jan Panek, Wladyslaw Maciuszek, William Thomas Higgins, William Arthur Birch, John Leese, Helen Anna Weaver, Rose Ellen Greenwood, Frederick Goodfellow, Charles Patrick Malkin, James Edward O’Rourke, Nancy Moss, Mary Deenda (Enda) Matthews

Dear friends, this week the Church will celebrate All Saints' Day. This celebration honours all the saints: those canonised and those not officially recognised by the church and have lived a life of faith and responded with generosity to the call to holiness of life.

Each member of the Church is called to holiness of life. At baptism we became valued members of the family of God. We can now be reassured that our lives are immersed in God. It's uplifting and reassuring to know that God loves and cherishes each person. We respond to the call to holiness of life as young people, married, single, widowed and even priests are called to be holy.

We respond to this call to holiness of life by making Holy Moments. A Holy Moment is when I listen to God and put his will into action. A Holy Moment can be a moment of prayer. It can be responding to a call for help. It can be remaining patient with the person who irritates. It can be being in contact with someone and asking if they are okay. We may not always hit the mark with our actions, but let's not be discouraged. Let's rely on God's grace for help and support which are greater than our human weakness.

All Saints' Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. I encourage you to be generous with being at Mass for this important day. On Tuesday 31 October there will be an early Vigil Mass at 2pm and on Wednesday 1 November there be Mass at 7pm.

Let's be a Parish that makes Holy Moments. Let's all respond and strive to live a life of holiness!

Synod on the Synodal Church The Synod will draw to a close this Sunday, 29 October, before it resumes again next year. During the week, the participants of the Synod have written to all the people of God. Here are some extracts from their letter:

Dear sisters, dear brothers, as the proceedings of the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops draw to a close, we want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived.

The session in which we have been gathered in Rome since 30 September is an important phase of this process. In many ways it has been an unprecedented experience. For the first time, at Pope Francis' invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Our assembly took place in the context of a world in crisis, whose wounds and scandalous inequalities resonated painfully in our hearts, infusing our work with a particular gravity, especially since some of us come from countries where war rages.

At the invitation of the Holy Father, we made significant room for silence to foster mutual listening and a desire for communion in the Spirit among us.

Day by day, we felt the pressing call to pastoral and missionary conversion. For the Church's vocation is to proclaim the Gospel ...

And now? We hope that the months leading to the second session in October 2024 will allow everyone to concretely participate in the dynamism of missionary communion indicated by the word "synod".

To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest ... It means listening to those who have been denied the right to speak in society or who feel excluded, even by the Church ... Above all, the Church of our time has the duty to listen, in a spirit of conversion, to those who have been victims of abuse committed by members of the ecclesial body ...

The Church also needs to listen to the laity, women and men, all called to holiness by virtue of their baptismal vocation ... The Church needs to listen to families, to their educational concerns, to the Christian witness they offer in today's world. She needs to welcome the voice of those who want to be involved in lay ministries and to participate in discernment and decision-making structures.

To progress further in synodal discernment, the Church particularly needs to gather even more the words and experience of the ordained ministers: priests, the primary collaborators of the bishops, whose sacramental ministry is indispensable for the life of the whole body; deacons, who, through their ministry, signify the care of the entire Church for the most vulnerable. She also needs to let herself be questioned by the prophetic voice of consecrated life, the watchful sentinel of the Spirit's call. She also needs to be attentive to all those who do not share her faith but are seeking the truth, and in whom the Spirit, who "offers everyone the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery" (*Gaudium et Spes* 22), is also present and operative.

November, a month of prayer for the Faithful Departed, the Holy Souls It is a long standing tradition in the church to pray for the Holy Souls during the month of November.

Thursday 2 November is the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed or All Souls' Day. There will be Mass at 7pm on All Souls' Day.

Prayer intention envelopes Especially prepared prayer intention envelopes are available at the back of the church. Write and place into the envelopes the names of your relatives and friends who have died then place the envelope in the receptacle which is near the statue of the Sacred Heart.

Sunday 12 November 10am Mass for Remembrance Sunday. After Mass and weather permitting we shall have an act of remembrance for those parishioners who died serving their country during the First and Second World Wars.

Mass in the Polish Language The Polish Mass will recommence this Sunday, 29 October at 1.30pm. The church will be open from 1pm

Mass with Painsley Students and their families I would like to invite the young people who are students at Painsley Catholic College to Mass at 6.15pm on Saturday 25 November. It will be great to see you. It would very good to see the young people who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the last three years so that they are encouraged in their life of faith. After Mass on that day, the Painsley Lourdes Group will sell cakes to raise funds for their pilgrimage during May next year.

Love Christmas Project We are excited to be working with schools and parishes across the Staffordshire Moorlands on the 'Love Christmas' project again this year. This match-funded community project aims to fill and deliver over 200 'bags of kindness' to be given to anyone who may find Christmas a challenge in any way this year. In giving them a bag of kindness we hope that they will receive through us a sign of the love and hope which Christ's coming and Christmas brings. Recipients can be old or young, single, married or a family. There are many ways you can help!

Bring donations of items to go into the bags of kindness – Christmas groceries, treats, gifts, toys, toiletries are all welcome. Please label them 'Love Christmas project' and bring to church. Could you help to **deliver any bags of kindness** to someone who would appreciate it in the week from Monday 18th December? (picking up from your parish church and taking them where you know they would be welcomed?) Are you able to give an hour to assist in **packing the bags** of kindness in December at St John's parish, Alton? Talk about it – **spread the word** among the community! **Pray** for the project! If you can offer to help or need any further information please email: anna.howard@kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk

Leek Foodbank is looking for two Trustees Could you be a Trustee for the Leek Foodbank? Two new Trustees are being sought for January, 2024. Leek Food Bank is part of the Trussell Trust which seeks to relieve poverty and hunger in our country. For more information about the Trussell Trust visit www.trusselltrust.org. For more information about being a Trustee visit www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved. If you are interested, please contact John Baughan on 07747875760

Catering job opportunity at the Kenelm Youth Trust Catering Assistants needed to support an essential part of our mission at Alton Castle and Soli Centre. Please see our website www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk for the job description and application form. We look forward to meeting you.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11 November 615pm Family Mass

Thursday 16 November 4pm Parish Council in the Narthex

Sunday 19 November Sunday Social after Mass

Saturday 25 November 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 25 November 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Holy Days of Obligation The Holy Days of Obligation are occasions for us to give an act of witness to our faith. 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

Second Collections Here are the dates of Second Collections for the remainder of the year.

4 -5 November Johnson Association

24 – 25 November Catholic Youth Services

18 -19 November Parish SVP (for food for parishioners)

9 – 10 December Poor Parishes

Collection Gift Aid £99.50 Non Gift Aid £90.60 Total £190.10

Second Collection For Missio £134.85

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