

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 Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 29 July 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Ps 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52
6pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 30 July 10am Mass Tom Stevenson RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 31 July **Memorial of St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**
Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 105; Matthew 13:31-35
940am Rosary 10am Mass: Rose Headley

Tuesday 1 August **Memorial of St Alphonsus Mary de’ Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Exodus 33:7-11, 34:5-9, 28; Ps 102; Matthew 132:36-43
940am Rosary 10am Mass Donnor’s Intention

Wednesday 2 August **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Exodus 34:29-35; Ps 98; Matthew 13:44-46
10.30am Funeral Mass for Valarie Tatton

Thursday 3 August **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Exodus 19: 1-2, 9-11, 16-20; Dan 3:52-56; Matthew 13:10-17
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Kathleen Frain RIP

Friday 4 August **Memorial of St John Vianney, Priest, Patron saint of the Universal Clergy**
Leviticus 21:3:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37; Ps 80; Matthew 13:54-58
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Lawrence Baxter RIP

Saturday 5 August 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 96; 2Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9
6pm Mass Adelaide Heagney RIP

Sunday 6 August 10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	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 0808 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 August We pray for the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their 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 Please Pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Bernard Garratt.

Anniversaries for this week: Gerald Grant, Peter Chadwick, Margaret Prendergast. Josefa Stepek, Mary Ellen Bould, Agnes Lucy Mary Tunstall, Eileen Gilhooly, Edith Annie Kirby, Sabrina Mary Palmer, James Chell, Mrs Goodwin, Joseph Maczka, Ellen Stafford, Mary Gertrude Berrisford, Michelle Morris, Bronislaw Siwicz, Joshua Bailey, Peter Cooper, George Kimber, Winifred Moss, Francis Deaville, Leslie Haddon, Cyril Sheldon, Amelia Hughes, Philip Artesvor, Sarah Thornton, Margaret Rose Woolliscroft, Ingeburg Beetham, Jean Adrien Finn, Frederick Russell Jackson, Joseph Joyce, John (Jack) McLoughlin, Katherine Muir.

Dear friends, following last week's announcement here are the details of the new arrangements for Sunday Mass.

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 430pm and Sunday morning at 1030am
St Thomas's, Tean	Sunday evening at 530pm
St Mary's, Leek	Saturday evening at 615pm 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 and enable one priest to celebrate two Vigil Masses on a Saturday: one in Cheadle, the other in Leek.

Let's encourage each other! Let's give courage to each other to be at Mass every Sunday, to go to Confession once a month, to pray for 5 minutes every day and to share our time, talent and treasure. Last year there were over 2000 hours of volunteering in our parish. Let's increase the number of children and young people with roles and responsibilities in church. It would be great to welcome new altar servers, readers and singers. I can arrange more training meetings for new altar servers; and, readers, don't have to read all the readings, they could read one of the readings or the bidding prayers at Mass. Let's pray for each other. Let's pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood – there is an acute need for more priests in our parishes. If each parish of the 217 parishes in our diocese sent one man to the seminary there would be no need to cluster parishes or close churches. Please pray for your priests!

Thursday 31 August Parish Outing to Trentham There is a lot of interest in a parish outing to Trentham Gardens on Thursday 31 August. The coach will leave St Mary's at 10am and pick up at Trentham at 4pm. The cost of the coach is £17 per person. Please secure your place by signing the list at the back of the church and paying a £5 deposit.

The Synodal Church Since 2021, at the invitation of Pope Francis, you have been invited to be part of the Synod Process. It began with parish level discussion, then to diocesan, national and continental (for us, European) level. And every continent submitted its work. Remember, we are a universal Church. It would be very surprising if every part of the world expressed the same concerns and areas of interest. We continue with our parish priorities: encouraging the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession: this is celebrated in church on Saturday morning from 10am; the Confessional is now in use for this; or, alternatively, please be in contact if you want to go to Confession. During the week, I will be meeting the leaders of the St Mary's Scouts to discuss ways in which the young people can be part of our parish.

I want to increase the number of children taking part in Mass Children and young people have a central place in the story of Christ; there are over 30 events in the Gospels which include either Jesus as a child or another young person has a central role. Let's encourage the children and young people in our parish to take roles especially as Altar Servers, Readers and Singers.

Altar Servers I would like to invite those children in Year 3 who have recently made their First Holy Communion and any child in school Years 4 and above who have made their First Holy Communion to become Altar Servers. The ministry of the altar server helps both the priest and the people to take part in the celebration of Mass. To be an altar server requires being able to learn new skills, to adapt to new situations, to be part of a team and to give a good example to everyone in church. There are two meetings

The summer holiday has begun The long awaited summer holidays are now here! If you are having a holiday this year, I hope that you have a good break and rest. During this holiday period, let's remember not to forget God. Please do make sure that you can get to Sunday Mass and to make time for personal prayer.

Sacramental Preparation for 2024 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.

Important notice – Between 21 August and 8 September, Compton, A520 will be closed daily between 8am and 5pm. More details to follow.

Dates for your diary

Monday 31 July	630pm Bible Book Club
Thursday 24 August	6pm New Eucharistic Ministers meeting
Thursday 31 August	Parish Outing see above.

Holy Days of Obligation Let's continue to prioritise Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. The purpose of being at Mass on Holy Days is not to make life more demanding, but to show our devotion to the Lord. The next Holy Days of Obligation are:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Monday 14 August 2pm Early Vigil Mass	Tuesday 15 August 7pm Mass
All Saints	Tuesday 31 October 2pm Early Vigil Mass	Wednesday 1 November 7pm Mass

UN Food Systems Summit 24 – 26 July Our food systems are both contributing to and affected by climate change. Each step in food production creates greenhouse gases that trap the sun's heat and contribute to climate change. Reducing emissions from the food sector requires changes at all stages, from producers to consumers. Learn more about food and climate change here: <https://www.unep.org/events>

Season of Creation 1 September - 4 October Look ahead to the Season of Creation. How can you help your parish/community to celebrate? Begin to make plans. Go to seasonofcreation.org for ideas.

Kenlem Youth Trust for the Archdiocese of Birmingham Summer Camp 7 – 13 August, 2023 The Summer Camp is for all young people aged year 7 - year 13. The camp week involves a range of exciting activities including a day at Alton Towers with its brand new roller coaster - 'The Curse of Alton Manor'. There is also messy games, a day trip to a secret venue, our camp live band, night prayer and daily Mass all with the Alton Castle Mission Team. All young people will have a Summer Camp small group leader for the week to accompany them and enable young people to mix and make lots of new friends. The camp being based at Alton Castle, also means we will be making great use of the activities on site including biking, archery, and survival. Alongside this, summer camp provides spaces and times for prayer, adoration and for young Catholics to connect and gather together. For more information please visit: kenlemyouthtrust.org.uk/summer-camp.html

Be part of World Youth Day 2023 1- 6 August World Youth Day is the Church on pilgrimage! Tens of thousands of young pilgrims will gather this year in Lisbon, Portugal. You can immerse yourself in the extraordinary event of 'World Youth Day - Lisbon 2023'. The live broadcast is brought to you by the Catholic channel *Shalom World TV*, the Media Partner for World Youth Day. Join the link :- <http://shalomworld.org/wyd2023> to bring the electrifying atmosphere of the world's largest youth gathering straight to your screens! Witness the excitement, joy, and unity of millions of young hearts from around the world! Please don't miss a moment! Let your living rooms be filled with the contagious energy and love that only this global celebration with young people can offer! Your dedicated hub for all things World Youth Day Lisbon 2023! <https://www.shalommedia.org/connectedtv/> and <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZrR5UMLu9xEdIXsarXFOzpxIU40eh3dS?usp=sharing>

The New Lectionary From the beginning of Advent 2024, the Church in England will use a new Lectionary. The Lectionary is the liturgical book with all the readings for Mass and the other Sacraments. What's changing is the English translation of the Bible. Currently the Church in England uses the Jerusalem Bible for readings at Mass, the new translation is the English Standard Version Catholic Edition.

St Mary's Catholic church, Leek, Facebook page The parish has had a Facebook page since 2020. There are currently 356 likes and 533 Followers. Can you like and follow us on Facebook, please? During the week, I saw that our "reach" measured 990 people, that is the number of people who saw any post at least once. The number of post engagement is 1887, that is the number of reactions, comments, shares and clicks on one of the posts. We reach Facebook followers in the UK (453), Ireland (15), US (13), Italy (10), India (5), Nigeria (5), Australia (4), Philippines (4), Poland (3) and Zambia (3). I think it is time that I started some parish visiting! 31% of followers are men, 69% of followers are women.

Collection	Gift Aid £102.42	Non Gift Aid £156.44	Total £258.86
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Thank you for kind generosity!

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