

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 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
- Monday 5 February** **Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr**
1 Kings 8:1-7; Ps 131; Mark 6:53-56
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Joan Greenwood (RIP)
- Tuesday 6 February** **Memorial of St Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs**
1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 83; Mark 7:1-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Fr Anthony Dykes (Spec Int) (CF)
- Wednesday 7 February** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Kings 10:1-10; Ps 36; Mark 7:14-23
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 8 February** **Feria in Ordinary Time: Day of prayer for the victims of human Trafficking**
1 Kings 11:4-13; Ps 105; Mark 7:24-30
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Shirley Regan (RIP)
- Friday 9 February** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
1 Kings 11:29-32, 12:19; Ps 80; Mark 7:31-37
1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Celebrant’s Intention
- Saturday 10 February** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Day for the Unemployed; World Day of Prayer for the Sick
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 31; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Marks 1:40-45
6.15pm Mass Gina Whittaker (Spec Int) (JA)
- Sunday 11 February** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Rosemary Anne Kirkham (RIP)
1.30pm Polish Mass
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	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 February For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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 Christopher Greaney, Fr Sandy Brown and Michael Gilbert Lownds.

Anniversaries for this week: Jean Margery Bowyer, Maureen Ann Jones, Leonard Folga, Mabel Leese, Eileen Johnson, Winifred Mary Boswell, Margaret Whittaker, Anthony John Hammond, William Manuel, Mary Agnes Mitchell, Paul Kurdziej, Kathleen Leek, Catherine Birch, Margaret Mary Williams, Jeffrey Hugh Proctor, Denis Ball, Jeffrey Nixon, Mary Ellen (Eileen) Swann, Mercy Elaine Jane McDonough, Michael Moran, Edith Trafford

Dear friends, I am incredibly grateful to you for your loyalty to our parish in particular your financial support and your being present in church. The parish and the Church needs you more than ever! Let's continue to build up our parish.

Let's look after each other - it is a great strength of our parish that we look out for and care for each other. Let's continue this act of witness!

Parish Census It is time to update our parish records. This weekend please collect a census form. In this census we want to update our records so that we have an accurate picture of our parishioners, the ecclesiastical groups they are members of, the connections to schools and other skills that they may be able to help in our parish.

Let's be ready for Lent This Sunday is the second Sunday before the Season of Lent and in the traditional Church calendar was known as Sexagesima Sunday, meaning the sixtieth day before Easter. This short pre-Lent season 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 time 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. Let's do something extra instead of giving up. Here are the Mass times for the beginning of Lent:

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 615pm; Sunday at 10am.

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

Pray! Keep going with your 5 minutes of prayer every day! If you miss a day, make sure you start again the next day. No one can fail in prayer. We are observing the Year of Prayer at the request of Pope Francis. Please pray the Lord's Prayer in unity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Fast! Making a sacrifice is customary during Lent. Instead of fasting from chocolate, give up being impatient or quick tempered. Try something extra: praise, encourage, support.

Charity! This year we are having a raffle to raise funds for our parish SVP Group so that they can continue their mission to send meals to the lonely and isolated parishioners.

Here are some of the other activities taking place this Lent:

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 Benediction and Fridays at 10am.

Walk with Me – the prayerbooks for this Lent are at the back of the church and this time the focus for the daily reflections is the Lord's Prayer and the Year of Prayer. Please do take your prayerbook. There's a suggested donation of £1.

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 Winnoa-Rochester has for a number of years shared a daily Gospel reflection through his Word on Fire organisation. Every day, 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

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. If you can, please do join at 930am on Sunday morning at St Joseph's chapel, Morning Prayer from the Divine Office, the Church's Official Prayer book. Let's work together to pray the Church's Official 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.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 11 February Sunday Social after Mass

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass

Saturday 17 February 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 9 March 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Saturday 16 March 11am Sweep and Clean

Going into hospital If you are going into to 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 make contact with the chaplain for you.

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 at St Edward's church 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 730pm on Wednesday 21 February. You can join online if you prefer. Please contact Rev Nigel Irons at stedwardsleek@hotmail.com

Lent Course at Trinity church The Act on Poverty course which has come from Christian Aid and their partners including The Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty. We will start on Thursday 15 February at 230pm at Trinity church. An evening course will also be running on Thursdays. For more information, please contact Trinity Church office tel 01538 298483 email trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net

Collection

Gift Aid £112.00

Non Gift Aid £103.55

Total £215.55

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