

## 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’.**

<b>Saturday 30 March</b>	10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows: Confessions <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: <i>Easter Sunday</i></b> <i>Acts 10:34, 37-43; Ps 117; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9</i> 730pm Easter Vigil Jan and Maria Szura (RIP)
<b>Sunday 31 March</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Margaret Scanlon (RIP) 1.30pm Polish Mass
<b>Monday 1 April</b>	<b>Easter Monday, Solemnity</b> <i>Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 15; Matthew 28:8-15</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Victoria (RIP)
<b>Tuesday 2 April</b>	<b>Easter Tuesday, Solemnity</b> <i>Acts 2:36-41; Ps 32; John 20:11-18</i>
<b>Wednesday 3 April</b>	<b>Easter Wednesday, Solemnity</b> <i>Acts 3:1-10; Ps 104; Luke 24:13-35</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Peggy Laydon
<b>Thursday 4 April</b>	<b>Easter Thursday, Solemnity</b> <i>Acts 3:11-36; PS 8; Luke 24:35-48</i>
<b>Friday 5 April</b>	<b>Easter Friday, Solemnity</b> <i>Acts 4:1-12; Ps 117; John 24:1-14</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
<b>Saturday 6 April</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: <i>Low Sunday; Divine Mercy Sunday</i></b> <i>Acts 4:32-35; Ps 117; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31</i> 6.15pm Mass Margaret Scanlon (RIP)
<b>Sunday 7 April</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Peter Harry Lowe J.P (DL) 1.30pm Polish Mass

<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>
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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>
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**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 April For the role of women** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

**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- Zwiarski, 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.*

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Keith Worthington.

**Anniversaries for this week:** Maud Agnes Smith, William Astles, Father Thomas Cockburn, Joseph McCullagh, Wincenty Swieca, Francis (Frank) Joseph Sheldon, Winifred Ena Birks, Mary Booth, Margaret Mary Foster, Joseh Kosak, Frank Nash, Constance Raybone, Thomas Spencer, Ellen Warbrick, Harold Hambleton, Edith Hudson, Mrs Keates, Dorothy Knight, Gertrude M Chell, William Stanley Pugh, Jack Trafford, Mrs Dymn, Annie Ingham, Francis Prendergast, Sister Teresa Davies I.B.V.M., Josephine Poultney, Charles Henry Malkin, Roddy, Edward Mottershaw, Angela Mosley, Eileen Mooney, Patrick Lawlor, Phyllis Birchenough, Josephine Taylor, Doreen Mary Szydelko, Elsie Murphy, Annie Spencer, Gladys Wood, Adam Nech, William Spencer, Irene Kuszniarska, Raymond John Plant, Terry Elizabeth Bradley, Gertrude Furby, Anthony Laurence Davies, Sister Martha Cliff I.B.V.M., Mary Spencer, Joseph Anthony Rushton

Dear friends, Happy Easter! This weekend we celebrate God's most decisive action: the Resurrection of Jesus! The Easter Season is 50 days of rejoicing! During these 50 days we connect with the Risen Lord. These days are marked by the semi continuous reading of the Acts of the Apostles which is an account of life for the very first Christians; we shall also follow John's Gospel. These 50 days include the Ascension of the Lord; we will celebrate on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 May. The 50 days of Easter will conclude on Pentecost Sunday. Please do take time to be generous to set aside 5 minutes of prayer everyday to connect with the Risen Lord.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who helped during the Season of Lent and in particular on Tuesday morning to ensure both the church and the grounds were in good order for our Easter celebrations. The appearance of the church and the grounds is incredibly important in giving people confidence to come in the church, feel welcome, be at home and take part actively and consciously in the liturgical celebrations. Let's keep working together for this! We are making a great act of witness for each other and for the town.

**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.

**Let's continue to pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.** In September, Filip will begin formation for the priesthood at the Royal College of St Alban, Valladolid, Spain for the "Propaedeutic Year", propaedeutic comes from the Greek word meaning "to teach beforehand".

It's not all praying! There are four elements to priestly formation. First, there is human formation: "The priest, who is called to be a "living image" of Jesus Christ, head and shepherd of the Church, should seek to reflect in himself, as far as possible, the human perfection which shines forth in the incarnate Son of God and which is reflected with particular liveliness in his attitudes toward others as we see narrated in the Gospels ... we see that the human formation of the priest shows its special importance when related to the receivers of the mission: In order that his ministry may be humanly as credible and acceptable as possible, it is important that the priest should mould his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity. It is necessary that, following the example of Jesus who "knew what was in humanity" (Jn. 2:25; cf. 8:3-11), the priest should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems, to make meeting and dialogue easy, to create trust and cooperation, to express serene and objective judgments.

"Future priests should therefore cultivate a series of human qualities, not only out of proper and due growth and realization of self, but also with a view to the ministry. These qualities are needed for them to be balanced people, strong and free, capable of bearing the weight of pastoral responsibilities. They need to be educated to love the truth, to be loyal, to respect every person, to have a sense of justice, to be true to their word, to be genuinely compassionate, to be men of integrity and, especially, to be balanced in judgment and behaviour.

"This demands that the priest not be arrogant, or quarrelsome, but affable, hospitable, sincere in his words and heart, prudent and discreet, generous and ready to serve, capable of opening himself to clear and brotherly relationships and of encouraging the same in others, and quick to understand, forgive and console." (Pastores Dabo Vobis, 43)

Today human formation is incredibly important. There are demands made on priests in new ways. A good number of priests take the opportunity to engage with professionals to maintain being a "living image of Jesus Christ Head and Shepherd of the Church either through counselling or pastoral accompaniment.

Please do sign up the Prayer Calendar for Vocations at the back of the church. There are some prayer cards from the Diocesan Vocations Office in Birmingham. Let's keep praying for more vocations! Let's pray that another man from our parish will go to the seminary and let's pray that a young woman will enter the convent.

**Sacramental Preparation** The classes for children preparing for First Confession, First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation will continue in school following the Easter holiday. The next Mass Attendance and Activity Sheet will begin on the weekend of 13- 14 April. This Activity Sheet is based on the stained glass window above the altar.

Please keep in your prayers both the children preparing for the sacraments and their families: let's wrap them and support them in a blanket of prayer!

**Bene Merenti Presentations** Following the recent news that Pope Francis has honoured three of our parishioners with the Bene Merenti awards, I am now glad to let you know that Canon Paul McNally, the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity, Newcastle, and Episcopal Vicar for this region of the Archdiocese will present the awards at Mass on Sunday 19 May. I am looking forward to a great parish celebration which we can all enjoy.

**Gift Aid to St Mary's Parish** As we approach the start of a new tax year, if you are a UK taxpayer and do not currently donate with gift aid, please consider signing up to make your donations with gift aid. This will increase your donation by 25% which we claim annually. Donating by standing order is safe and secure, it is simple and you are in control to change or cancel at any time.

If you would like to discuss this please talk to Marie Lawton, the parish gift aid administrator, we do not require any of your confidential finance information. If you choose to go ahead please collect a form from Marie. Every donation is much appreciated

**SVP Lent Raffle** Dear friends, you have done an amazing job by raising £481.50 for our St Mary's SVP. This great amount will help them to continue to reach out to parishioners at this time. Thank you!

**Next weekend a Mission Appeal for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries** Next weekend we will welcome APF to give a Red Box Appeal. Missio is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the World where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or Signing up to give via Direct Debit.

#### Dates for your diary

**Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 April** Mission Appeal for Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries

**Saturday 13 April 615pm** Family Mass

**Sunday 14 April** Sunday Social after Mass

**Thursday 18 April 4pm** First Confessions

**Wednesday 8 – Thursday 9 May** Ascension of the Lord: more details later.

**Sunday 19 May** Presentation Bene Merenti awards

**Collection** Gift Aid £122.00 Non Gift Aid £118.15 Total £240.15

**The collection this weekend** is for the parish priest and forms a major part of his income.

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