

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

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 4 May	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 97; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17</i> 6.15pm Mass Kathleen Greenwood (RIP)
Sunday 5 May	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Michael Duffy Ints 11.30am Sacrament of Baptism 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 6 May	Easter Feria <i>Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149; John 15:26-16:4</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Tuesday 7 May	Easter Feria <i>Acts 16:22-34; Ps 137; John 16:5-11</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Wednesday 8 May	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Holy Day of Obligation <i>Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Ps 148; John 16:12-15</i> 2pm Early Vigil Mass for the Ascension of the Lord Peggy Finglass
Thursday 9 May	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: Holy Day of Obligation <i>Acts 1:1-11; PS 46; Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20</i> 7pm Mass Alice Devaney (RIP)
Friday 10 May	Easter Feria <i>Acts 18:9-18; PS 46; John 16:20-23</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Mass in School during the day Celebrant’s intention
Saturday 11 May	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: World Communications Day <i>Acts 1:15-17, 20-026; PS 102; 1 John 4:11-16; John 14:11-19</i> 6.15pm Mass Dennis Wilkes (RIP)
Sunday 12 May	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Kathleen McInerney Ints 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 May For the formation of religious and seminarians. We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

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, 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.

Anniversaries for this week: Ira Lowe, Stanislaw Bangrowski, Albert Henry France, Thomas Salt, Fred Stafford, Wawrzyniec (Charles) Nawrot, Cynthia Mottershaw, Janina Szmuniewska, Lillian Mitchell, Sylvia Sullivan, Hannah Casey, Mrs Lovatt, Colin Sheldon, Maria Rita Kagan, Lionel Gregory Beetham, Frederick Cox, Maksymillian Kania, Anne Mary Stapleton, William Murphy.

Dear friends, we continue to celebrate the Easter Season. This week we have the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Let's make a great act of witness to our Catholic faith by being at and participating in one of the two Masses. The First Mass for the Ascension is an Early Vigil Mass at 2pm on Wednesday afternoon with all the children from St Mary's Academy. On Ascension Thursday itself there will be a Parish Mass at 7pm. Let's fill the church! If you haven't been to Mass for a while: we have missed you! It will be great to see you!

Thursday 16 May 2024 2pm at Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle – Stations of the Resurrection Parishioners are invited to share this traditional Catholic Devotion led by the students at Painsley Catholic College followed by afternoon tea. If you would like a ticket, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock I have been in contact with Patricia in Knock about the possibility of a short pilgrimage from 10 September flying from East Midlands and returning on Saturday 14 September. Staying in Knock - no day trips. Single rooms would incur an extra fee. For this to be feasible, there needs to be 10 pilgrims. If you would like to go, please let me know by sending an email to stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

The Easter Season The Church's Easter Season is 50 days: seven weeks to rejoice and delve into the Resurrection of Jesus.

Beautiful Eucharist – please do collect your copy from the back of the church. The testimonies of faith are refreshing and encouraging. Let's dedicate ourselves, our whole parish, to discovering the Risen Lord at Mass.

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.

Ascension Thursday is one of the Holy Days of Obligation and we will celebrate over two days: Wednesday 8 May we will have an early vigil Mass with the children from St Mary's Academy at 2pm in church; and on Thursday 9 May we will have Mass at 7pm.

Pentecost Novena – please join the daily prayer in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost. We shall have some prayer cards available at the back of the church.

Pentecost – Saturday 18 May at 615pm we shall have the Pentecost Vigil Mass; Sunday 19 May at 10am Canon Paul McNally, the local Episcopal Vicar will be here to present the Bene Merenti medals from Pope Francis.

Edge@Alton Youth Group Edge@Alton is a youth group for young people across the parishes of the Staffordshire Moorlands in school Years 6-9. We meet once a month in Alton on a Sunday afternoon from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. In order to enable our committed young people to continue to meet for fun, friendship and faith we need more adult helpers. Please could you volunteer to help us?! We are looking for core team who will be at most monthly meetings, as well as adults to occasionally help - perhaps just twice a year. If you feel you could help, please contact us by emailing edgeatalton@gmail.com We'd love to hear from you! Anna, Jane, Filip and Grace. The next Edge@Alton meetings are: On May 12 we are going for a walk in the beautiful Churnet valley from the Soli Centre to Ramblers Retreat, (June we are away on a trip – the KYT It's a Knock Out diocesan youth groups challenge day), and on 14 July we'll be in Alton.

Opposing the decriminalisation of abortion The government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill has two important amendments, that will likely be debated and voted on shortly in the House of Commons, that could fundamentally change our laws on abortion. We uphold the dignity and value of every human life from conception to natural end and have clear views on these amendments. New Clause 1 (NC1) – Decriminalisation An amendment New Clause 1 (NC1) has been tabled by Dame Diana Johnson MP. This amendment would remove offences that make it illegal for a woman to perform her own abortion at any point right through to birth. These changes to the law would apply throughout all nine months of pregnancy and would create a situation where abortion, including sex-selective abortion, is legal at any stage. As Pope Francis says: "It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child". In England and Wales, both unborn child and pregnant mother deserve full protection under our laws, as some of the most vulnerable in our society. As such we oppose this amendment. New Clause 15 (NC15) – Upper Limit This amendment has been tabled by Caroline Ansell MP, representing a cross-party group of 25 MPs, with a view to changing the law to lower the abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Due to advances in medical science, many babies can now survive before Britain's 24-week limit. The current limit is also double that of most of our neighbouring countries. We would encourage MPs to support this amendment. Our response: contact Karen Bradley MP – please do write to Karen and let your voice be heard!

A Year of Encounter: a joint initiative between CAFOD and SVP With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A Year of Encounter is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including an online session on 4 May to learn more.

North Staffordshire Deanery Talks on St. John of the Cross by Fr. Matthew Blake OCD The National Director of the Carmelite Secular Order. He is known both nationally and internationally, for his talks and courses on Carmelite spirituality. There will be three talks at St. Wulstan's Catholic School Hall, Wolstanton: Friday May 10 7.00pm First Talk Setting the Scene; Saturday May 11 10.00am Second Talk; 3.00pm Third Talk; and, Sunday May 12 3.00pm Final Talk. Each session will be for a maximum of 1hr 30minutes. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion.

An Evening Talk on The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy By Mgr. Timothy Menezes The session will outline the key principles of the Church's Liturgy which will be identifiable from our experience of Mass. It will highlight how our private prayer during the week feeds into Sunday Mass and nourishes our prayer for the week ahead. Tea and Coffee available. Friday 17 May 2024 7.30pm At Holy Trinity Community Centre, London Road, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 1LQ

Dates for your diary 8-9 May Ascension of the Lord: Wednesday 8 May 2pm Early Vigil Mass; Thursday 9 May 7pm Mass

11 May 11am Sweep and Clean – can you help! We need to put the marquee out and clean the car park. If you can help, it will be greatly appreciated.

1-2 June Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) during Masses that weekend, the Eucharistic Ministers will be recommissioned.

Holy Days of Obligation Wednesday 8 – Thursday 9 May Ascension of the Lord: Wednesday 8 May 2pm Early Vigil Mass; Thursday 9 May 7pm Mass Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June St Peter and Paul: Saturday 29 June 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

Trip to London and Private Tour of Westminster Friday 14 June 2024. The coach will depart from Robin Hood Travel, Macclesfield Road, Leek, ST13 8PS at 8am prompt, arriving in London at approximately 1.30pm. The cost is £34.50 per person which is entirely to cover the cost of the coach and bookings will be made on a first come, first served basis. If anyone would like to book, please contact Karen Bradley's office on 01538 382421 top request further details.

North Staffs Vocations Promotion Group

Evening of Prayer and Reflection for Vocations Led by Fr John Waters Tuesday May 21 7.00pm St Thomas of Canterbury St Thomas's Road Tean Stoke on Trent ST10 4DS

Red Boxes. Please do not bring your Red Boxes to church, if you could please count the money and send a check for the amount to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU.

Second Collections Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 May Catholic Communications Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 June Day for Life Saturday 29 – Sunday 30 June Peter's Pence Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 July Apostleship of the Sea

Collections Gift Aid £140.00 Non Gift Aid £151.90 Total £291.90

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