

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 4 November** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10; Ps 130; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12
6.15pm Mass John Balay RIP (CF)
- Sunday 5 November** 10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP
1.30pm Polish Mass
- Monday 6 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Romans 11:29-36; Ps 68; Luke 14:12-14
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Tuesday 7 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Romans 12:5-16; Ps 130; Luke 14:15-24
- Wednesday 8 November** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Romans 13:8-10; Ps 111; Luke 14:25-33
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 9 November** **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8,9,12; Ps 45; John 2: 13-22
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Donor’s Intention
- Friday 10 November** **Memorial of St Leo the Great**
Romans 15:14-21; Ps 97; Luke 16:1-8
Mass 1.30pm in School For you, the People of the Parish
- Saturday 11 November** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
11am Sacrament of Baptism
Stamp 1 **THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Remembrance Sunday**
Wisdom 6:12-16; Ps 62: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (1 Thess 4:13-14) Matthew 25:1-13
6.15pm Family Mass Shirley Regan RIP
- Sunday 12 November** 10am Mass Januz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
Stamp 1 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 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 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 Joan Williams. Joan’s Funeral will be celebrated Thursday 16 November at 11am, here at St Mary’s.

Anniversaries for this week: James Edward O’Rourke, Nancy Moss, Mary Deenda (Enda) Matthews, Joseph Lankiewicz, Czeclan Rydzkowski, William Edward Harrison, Patricia Ann Allen, Mary Ellen Jones, Annie Gibson, Helga Mountford, Margery Violet Agnes Briggs, George Keates, Leslie Fitchett, Alexander Peter McCleish, Basil Pulham, Allan Pegg, Clara Lilian Duke, Brian William Williams, Joan Sherratt, Grace Mary Murray, Gertrude England, Hieranium Naget, Thomas Frederick Meigh, John Cunningham, John Droog, Charles Cooper, Frances Mary Swann

Dear friends, **Gift Aid and GASDS claims** I have recently heard that our annual Gift Aid and GASDS claims for 2021-2022 have been credited to our account. The Gift Aid Claim totalled £4978.69 and GASDS totalled £1273.05. If you are a UK tax payer could you sign a Gift Aid declaration? When you sign a Gift Aid declaration and make regular donations to the parish, for every £1 you give the UK Government will make an additional 25p. This is a great way to supplement our parish income. I am incredibly grateful to you for your generous financial support to the parish.

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.

Getting ready for Advent at St Mary's Let's read St Luke's Gospel for Advent! Luke's Gospel has 24 chapters. This may seem a daunting task, but it isn't that difficult. It would be a great united action for everyone in our parish to read one chapter of Luke on the 24 days before Christmas. I have ordered some large print copies of Luke's Gospel which includes a very good introduction. If you would like a copy they are £4.99 each and are available at the Piety Stall at the back of the church. When reading St Luke during Advent, I suggest that you keep a personal reading journal. In your journal note down the phrases that Jesus says and the images which have been recorded by the Gospel-writer which inspire, encourage and challenge you. How can you grow in your love for Christ? Happy reading!

St Mary's Christmas cards There are Christmas cards on sale at the back of the church. The image on this year's card is that of the scene of the stable in Bethlehem from the stained glass window in church which has been taken by one of our parishioners, a keen and talented photographer. Christmas cards are in packs of 10 and are on sale for £3.50.

Christmas trees and flowers This year, we want to have two Christmas trees in church: one either side of the sanctuary. Instead of a collection, would you be able to make a donation towards the Christmas trees and the flowers in church, please? If so, please place a donation in an envelope marked "Christmas Trees and Flowers".

Sunday 10 December 3pm Charity Carol Service For a number of weeks preparations have been taking place for a Charity Carol Service. We want to include as many young people in this occasion. We have been in contact with both Painsley and St Mary's. Refreshments have been arranged. We are also including a raffle and a collection for two charities: the Parish SVP so that they can continue their mission of food deliveries to parishioners and to Haregate Community Centre. Please do come along and invite your families and friends.

St Mary's Christmas Raffle The raffle tickets for this year's raffle will soon be here! There are some great prizes to be won.

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.

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 Last Sunday, the first Polish Mass since 2020 was celebrated in church. I was delighted to take part in the Mass and welcomed the good number of people who came to church for the Mass. Let's continue to encourage each other to build up our faith!

Safeguarding Sunday 18 – 19 November Safeguarding Sunday is an awareness-raising campaign organised by Christian Safeguarding Charity Thirtyone:eight. We will be marking this in our parish. In doing this we will be joining thousands of other churches across the UK to share this message and demonstrate unity. We believe that safeguarding is an outworking of our faith in a loving and just God – the God who calls us to speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and to defend the rights of the vulnerable (Proverbs 31:8). Please join us in praying for all those who work to ensure our communities and churches are safe for all.

Saturday 25 November 615pm 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.

CAFOD World Gifts 2023-2024 At the back of the church there lots of copies of the new World Gift catalogue from CAFOD. Please do take a copy!

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, helping us to provide quality food and service for young people and staff on retreat. You will join a fabulous team of committed staff and be highly valued as we work to continue to achieve high standards in the catering department .Please see our website www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk for the job description and application form. We look forward to meeting you.

St Chad's House is looking for new trustees St Chad's Retreat House has been operating since 1998. At present there are four Trustees one of whom will retire next March. There are three posts that need to be filled: Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, ideally by three different people. You can find out more about the ministry of the house at; <https://leekparish.org.uk/churches/st-chads-house/> If you are interested in taking up one of the above roles, or would like to find out more, please contact the Team Rector Revd Nigel Irons at stedwardsleek@hotmail.com

Johnson Association – the Second Collection this weekend is for the Johnson Association. The Johnson Association provides financial support to help those priests of the Archdiocese of Birmingham who are living in retirement or have stepped down from active ministry due to ill health. Currently there are about 60 priests being supported by the Johnson Association. For more information, please see www.johnsonassociation.org

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

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

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

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

4 -5 November Johnson Association

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

24 – 25 November Catholic Youth Services

Collection Gift Aid £187.50 Non Gift Aid £100.21 Total £287.71

Saturday 25 November 11am Sweep and Clean

Saturday 25 November 615pm Mass with Painsley Students

9 – 10 December Poor Parishes

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