

The Catholic Parish of St Mary, Leek
This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216
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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 6 April 10am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 4:32-35; Ps 117; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31
6.15pm Mass Margaret Scanlon (RIP)
- Sunday 7 April**
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Peter Harry Lowe J.P (DL)
1.30pm Polish Mass
- Monday 8 April** **SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD** (transferred from 25 March due to Holy Week)
Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10; PS 39; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Tuesday 9 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 4:32-37; Ps 92; John 3:7-15
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Peggy Laydon
- Wednesday 10 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 5:17-26; Ps 33; John 3:16-21
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 11 April** **Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr**
Please note change of time Acts 5:27-33; Ps 33; John 3:31-36
8.30am Mass Joan Broome RIP
- Friday 12 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 5:34-42; Ps 26; John 6:1-15
11am Whole School Mass in church Kathleen Donnelly
- Saturday 13 April**
10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48
6.15pm Family Mass Private Intention
- Sunday 14 April**
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Martyn Paul Wilkes (RIP)
1.30pm Polish Mass
- Monday 15 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 6:8-15; Ps 118; John 6:22-29
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
- Tuesday 16 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 7:51-8:1; Ps 30; John 6:30-35
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Peggy Laydon
- Wednesday 17 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 8:1-8; Ps 66; John 6:35-40
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 18 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 8:26-40; Ps 65; John 6:44-51
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Joan Broome RIP
4pm First Confessions
- Friday 19 April** **Easter Feria**
Acts 9:14-20; Ps 116; John 6:52-29
Mass will be celebrated in School during the day Darren Caldwell RIP
- Saturday 20 April**
10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Acts 4:8-12; Ps 117; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18
6.15 Mass Alice Devaney RIP
- Sunday 21 April**
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Polish Mass
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Dear friends, Welcome to this special double edition of the Parish Newsletter!

I am incredibly grateful to you for the splendid Holy Week and Easter celebrations! I am very grateful to you for your support and willingness to share the work and the responsibility of preparing and celebrating these important liturgical celebrations. Our Holy Week has been exceptional! One parishioner contacted me and said, "Easter was great this year. Thank you!" Let's make this a good benchmark from which we can continue "to love one another as Christ loved us!"

Thank you for your kind and generous Easter cards, gifts and Easter Offering.

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
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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

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- 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.

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

Anniversaries for this week: Sister Martha Cliff I.B.V.M., Mary Spencer, Joseph Anthony Rushton, Michael Horgan, Tadeusz Bielecki, Vincent Kwiatkowski, Elizabeth (Betty) Healy, Angela Patricia Oakden, Diane Mary Bridget Stubbs, Charmaine Winifred Shenton, Stanislaw (Stasha), Peter Sullivan, Mildred Taaffe, Francis (Frank) Rushton, Sister Charles Irwin IBVM, Mrs Gandolfo, Stefan Drozd, Margaret Alice Fairclough, Marie Thraves, Sister Mercedes Doyle I.B.V.M., Mary Veronica Browning, Charles Gell, William Walmsley, Euhenia Elkowicz (Gienia), Dorothy May Sheldon, Dorothy Rose Forrester, Hannah Pernice, Charles Thorley, Jack Morris Shufflebotham, Margaret Edith Hoyland

This weekend, we welcome Fr Joseph! He is a priest of the Mill Hill Missionaries and he's here to make an appeal on behalf the Missio charity and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you to parishioners who already give to Missio, the Pope's charity for world Mission. Your generous donations either through Red Box or Direct Debit support the Church around the World where it is young or in need. There will not be a second collection as the appeal is for membership to the Red Box scheme. Please keep the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries in your prayers. To find out more go to: www.missio.org.uk

School's Back! This week, Monday in fact, is the first day of the summer term. Please do support the mission of our Catholic Schools by your prayer! The mission of the Catholic School is to educate the young people of our parish. This mission supports the parents who are the first teachers of faith in their homes. The goal of the Catholic School is to give children and young people the confidence to make faith choices in a world which wants to erase God. Let's give the schools our full support! We have an incredibly good working relationship between the schools, the parish and the homes. Let's ALL work together to ensure that this working relationship supports the schools, the parents and most importantly the children and young people. This Friday, 12 April, there will be a Whole School Mass in church at 11am. On Saturday 13 April, there will be the Family Mass at 615pm.

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 Easter Season.

Let's pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life At the beginning of September, Filip will formally begin formation for the priesthood at the seminary at Valladolid, Spain. There are four strands to priestly formation. The second of these strands is Spiritual Formation: it's not all study! We are told, "The essential content of spiritual formation specifically leading toward the priesthood is well expressed in the Second Vatican Council's decree *Optatum Totius*: "Spiritual formation...should be conducted in such a way that the students may learn to live in intimate and unceasing union with God the Father through his Son Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Those who are to take on the likeness of Christ the priest by sacred ordination should form the habit of drawing close to him as friends in every detail of their lives. They should live his paschal mystery in such a way that they will know how to initiate into it the people committed to their charge. They should be taught to seek Christ in faithful meditation on the word of God and in active participation in the sacred mysteries of the Church, especially the Eucharist and the Divine Office, to seek him in the bishop by whom they are sent and in the people to whom they are sent, especially the poor, little children, the weak, sinners and unbelievers. With the confidence of sons they should love and reverence the most blessed Virgin Mary, who was given as a mother to the disciple by Jesus Christ as he was dying on the cross." (Pastores Dabo Vobis, 45)

Let's support Filip with our prayer! Let's keep him supported by our generous prayer for him. Let's not stop praying for more priests. We should double our efforts and pray that another man from our parish will be willing and free to give himself to serve Christ and the Church.

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 next weekend, 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 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

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:

Sunday 19 May Presentation Bene Merenti awards

Second Collections

6 – 7 April for Mission Appeal

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 April for Clergy Training Fund

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