

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’.

YEAR OF PRAYER

Saturday 6 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD <i>Isaiah 60:1-6; Ps 71; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12</i> 6.15pm Mass Dennis Wilkes (RIP)
Sunday 7 January	10am Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP) 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 8 January	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord <i>Isaiah 55:1-11; Isaiah 12; Mark 1:7-11 (School Mass readings Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29; Mk 1:7-11)</i> 2pm School Mass in church Ray Cossburn RIP (GC) (Contingency arrangement: Mass in School at 2pm)
Tuesday 9 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Sam 2; Mark 1:21-28</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Angela Kneale (Spec Int)
Wednesday 10 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 39; Mark 1:29-39</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 11 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>1 Samuel 4:1-11; Ps 43; Mark 1:40-45</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Marlon Domingo RIP (BR)
Friday 12 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22; Ps 88; Mark 2:1-12</i> 1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy For you, the People of the parish
Saturday 13 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; Ps 39; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42</i> 6.15pm Family Mass Ken and Marion Levell (AM)
Sunday 14 January	10am Mass Jan Dziurdzik 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 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 January For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

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 the repose of the souls of Fr John Lungley, Fr Paul Lomas, Fr Christopher Greany and Geoffery Hemming.

Anniversaries for this week: John Nicholson, Elizabeth Barnes, Sister Zena Carus OCV, Muriel Galton, Pauline Teresa Pointon, Raymond Evan Cossburn, Winifred Mary Kearns, Wladyslawa (Gladys) Hryciuk, Rose Esther Birchenough, Ethel Titterton, Irene Collier, Anthony William Rutter, Mary Ellen (Eileen) Swann*, William Davenport, Molly Brookes, George Bernard Adams, John Morgan, Ellen Barlow, Jerzy (George) Kowalski, Catherine Ellen Jarvis (Kay), Gabriele Haywood, Anne Nancy Brough, Margaret Cross, Norman Stafford, Elizabeth Barnes, Pauline Wright

Dear friends, the Christmas season continues this weekend with the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord when we acknowledge the Magi visiting the Lord and making their homage to him.

At Mass today (Sunday) we have invited the children who were baptised during 2023 and their families to the 10am Mass. Last year, there were 9 Baptisms celebrated here at St Mary's. Let's continue to support the parents of the children as they teach and inspire them in the ways of faith.

Epiphany House Blessing As well as our celebration of Mass, it is customary to bless our homes on the occasion of the Epiphany. Here is a suggested Blessing which you may like to conduct at the front door of your house.

Leader ✕ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All Amen

Leader Let us pray. God our loving Father, we ask you to bless this house, our home, so that it may become a shrine to the Holy Spirit, a shelter of love, justice and peace, and be a beacon of Christ's light in our neighbourhood.

All Amen.

The following inscription is made either above or to the side of the front door of the house in chalk. 20 ✕C ✕M ✕B 24

The numbers 2024 are the current year.

The letters C M B refer to the customary names of the Magi, Caspar, Melchoir, Balthasar; they are also the first letters of the words of a Latin blessing, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," meaning, "Christ Bless this House."

Leader Let us pray. Visit this house, we pray you, Lord. May your holy angels stay here and guard us in peace, and let your blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord,

All Amen.

Back to School Tomorrow (Monday) sees the restart of the school term. Please do continue to pray for our Catholic Schools: St Mary's Catholic Academy in Cruso Street and Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle. If you can, send a message of encouragement and support to Mrs Turner, the Principal at St Mary's, and Mrs Waugh, the Principal at Painsley; they do appreciate your encouragement and the assurance of your prayers.

The mission of a Catholic School is to support the parents of the children. I want us to work together: parishioners; parents; and, the staff and governors of the school so that we can hand on the Catholic faith to our children and inspire them to grow and develop as disciples of Christ.

This week we have three school Masses: Monday at 2pm in church; Friday in School at 130pm; and, next Saturday 13 January at 615pm the Family Mass.

Coffee and cakes If you would like to join me for Coffee and Cakes on Thursday 18 January at 4pm, please sign the list at the back of the church.

Pastoral Statistics for 2023 Every year, each parish has to file pastoral statistics so that the national body of Bishops in England and Wales can get an accurate picture of what's happening and how many people are in church. For us, here are some of the statistics which have submitted for last year, 2023.

Baptisms - 9

Receptions into Full Communion with the Church - 2

First Holy Communions

Confirmations - 15

Marriages - 1

Funerals - 16

Number of people receiving Holy Communion at home - 25

Average weekly Mass attendance (Sept – Oct) - 152

Holy Days of Obligation during 2024

Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 January The Epiphany of the Lord

Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday

Thursday 28 March Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 29 March Good Friday: the Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Saturday 30 March Holy Saturday: the Easter Vigil

Sunday 31 March Easter Sunday

Thursday 9 May Ascension of the Lord

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 June Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles, martyrs

Thursday 15 August Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday 1 November All Saints' Day

Wednesday 25 December Christmas

Second Collections during 2024

Saturday 24 – Sunday 25 February CAFOD

Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 March St Chad's Cathedral Maintenance Fund

Saturday 6 – Sunday 7 April Mission Appeal for the Association for the Propagation of the Faith

Saturday 20 – Sunday 21 April Clergy Training Fund

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 July – Sunday 14 July Apostleship of the Sea

Saturday 10 – Sunday 11 August Mission Appeal for the St Patrick Missionaries (Kiltegnans)

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 September Catholic Education Service

Saturday 14 Sunday 15 September Catholic Evangelisation

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 September Fr Hudson's the Diocesan Social Care Agency

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 October CAFOD

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 October Missio

Saturday 2 – Sunday 3 November Johnson Association for retired and infirm clergy

Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 November Catholic Youth Services

Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 December Poor Parishes of the Diocese

200 club

It's time to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. Please fill out one of the envelopes at the back of the church and enclose cheques of £12 for your annual membership. Cheques should be made out to BRCDTR St Mary's, Leek. If you are not already taking part please consider joining the parish 200 Club this year as it raises valuable funds for the running of St Mary's church and the costs associated with our Masses. There are two monthly cash prizes to be won!

200 club winners **November** - 1st Prize # 24 2nd Prize #122 **December** – 1st Prize # 44 2nd Prize # 26

Collection Gift Aid £154.00 Non Gift Aid £112.20 Total £266.20

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