

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’.**

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| Saturday 7 October Stamp 4 | 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Isaiah 5:1-7; Ps 79; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43</i> 6.15pm Family Mass For you, the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 8 October Stamp 4 | 10am Mass Janusz Szura- Zwierski (Spec Int) 4pm Rosary and Benediction |
| Monday 9 October | Feast of St John Henry Newman, Priest <i>1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Ps 144(145); Matthew 13:47-52</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Shiela Bird RIP (CF) |
| Tuesday 10 October | Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Jonah 3:1-10; Ps 129; Luke 10:38-42</i> 8.30am Mass Marlon Domingo RIP |
| Wednesday 11 October | Memorial of Blessed William Howard, Layman, Martyr <i>Jonah 4:1-11; PS 858; Luke 11:1-4</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion |
| Thursday 12 October | Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Malachi 3:13-20; Ps 1; Luke 11:5-13</i> 11am Funeral Mass for George Edward Boone RIP |
| Friday 13 October | Memorial of St Edward the Confessor, Patron Saint of Leek <i>Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Ps 9; Luke 11:15-26</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Mass will be celebrated in School during the day |
| Saturday 14 October Stamp 5 | 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Isaiah 25:6-10; Ps 22; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14</i> 6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish |
| Sunday 15 October Stamp 5 | 10am Mass (Spec Int) (CF) 4pm Rosary and Benediction |

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| 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 |
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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 October For the Synod. We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries 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
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 Fr Edwin Cownley, Fr Paul Chavasse, CO, George Edward Boone, John Carding, Shriley Regan, Brian Washington John Balay, Peter Murfin.
George Edward Boone’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 12 October at 11am, Brian Washington’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday 21 October at 10.30am and John Carding’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10am Monday 23 October, here at St Mary’s.

Anniversaries for this week: Sister M de Sales Kelly I.B.V.M. Ellen Mary McDonough, Theresa Rushton, Roland Richardson, Patrick O’Donnell, David Bowyer, Elijah Biddulph, William H Marston, Muriel Anne McNulty, Tony Thorley, Kenneth Phillips, Anthony Joyce, Konrad Wladyslaw Zwierski, Michael Patrick Joseph Duffy, Jozef Gorski, Lilian (Lily) Mabel Walmesley, Pauline Ann Milward, Thomas William Collier, Rosemary Lawson, Phyllis Stafford

Dear friends, the Synod is underway!

On Wednesday of last week (4 October) Pope Francis opened the Synod of Bishops which is discussing the Church: the Synodal Church.

Pope Francis understands the Church as a Synod that is we – all the members of the Church – walk together. When we walk together we have to change: first, to change the speed at which we are walking; and, to listen carefully to each other.

During 2021 every parish, chaplaincy and Religious Community in the Catholic Church was asked to contribute to the Synod which has just started. For us, here at St Mary's, we identified two overwhelming priorities. First, encouragement for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). The second for young people in our parish.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday from 10am. If you are unable to make this time, please call me to make another arrangement. By the Confessional there are copies of a guide about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please do take one.

We are reaching out to encourage young people. We continue with a weekly Mass in school; we have monthly Family Mass; we had a recent Parish Council Meeting at Painsley demonstrating our parish's wish to include young people – our next Parish Council Meeting will be at St Mary's; I have had constructive conversations with the Scout Leaders; another Scout Group has approached me to ask if the Cubs can complete their Faith Badge at St Mary's; and, I have been in a fruitful conversation with the Chaplain at Leek College.

These two issues are raised at every Parish Council meeting because they are the ways we have discerned that we should be walking together as a Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church. Let's keep walking ... together!

During the period of the lockdown as a parish, we also considered the characteristics of living our faith. We had four actions:

Sunday Mass; Monthly Confession; 5 Minutes of prayer everyday; and, sharing our time, talent and treasure.

During this time we defined our parish mission as "Love one another as I have loved you."

It has been carefully considered that the Synod on the Synodal Church begins now: on the day of St Francis of Assisi, the Pope's Patron Saint and the saint who was asked to rebuild and maintain the church; the readings at Weekday Mass are currently taken from a period of Old Testament history when the people of God was rebuilding after the time of exile: we have had our exiles including the pandemic, the wars in the world, the financial uncertainty; and, the Gospel reading at Mass this weekend (Mt 21:33-34) which proclaims our life of faith.

We are a parish that makes Holy Moments. A Holy Moment is when I listen to God and do his will. Holy Moments include calling a friend or a neighbour; responding to a plea for help; being patient; resisting temptation and putting God first in our daily routines and activities.

For the next three weeks, the Pope with bishops, priests, and lay people will meet in Synod. They will discuss three topics:

Communion that radiates: How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?

Co-responsibility in Mission: How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?

Participation, governance and authority: What processes, structures and institutions in a missionary synodal Church?

These topics are exactly what we experience as a Parish. Let's keep walking together!

Weekly celebration of Mass in the Polish Language Beginning on Sunday 29 October at 1pm, the weekly celebration of Mass in the Polish Language will recommence. I am grateful to Fr Jacek for his understanding and co-operation.

Pope Francis publishes a brand new Apostolic Exhortation, "Laudate Deum" (Praise God) On Wednesday 4 October, Pope Francis published his latest Apostolic Exhortation which is a sequel to the 2015 "Laudato Si". In this letter, The Holy Father addresses the situation of climate change in "Laudate Deum" because "a human being who pretends to take the place of God becomes the worst danger to himself" (LD 73)

October the month of the Rosary Pope Francis has asked that together we pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine and other areas of the world affected by war. Let's continue to pray for the Synod at the Vatican, for the those in our parish who have stopped being at Sunday Mass and Confession, for the children and young people preparing for the Sacraments, and for the sick and housebound.

Do you have a Red Box for Missio? On the weekend of 22 – 23 October, the Church observes World Mission Sunday. On that weekend, our Masses will be Special Masses for the Evangelisation of the Peoples.

Year of Prayer, 2024, Preparing for the Jubilee, 2025. I am planning to distribute a prayer card with our parish's intentions in time for the beginning of Advent.

Dates for your Diary

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| Saturday 7 October | 6.15pm Family Mass | Wednesday 31 October | 2pm Early Vigil Mass |
| Saturday 14 October | 11am Sweep and Clean | Wednesday 1 November | Holy Day of Obligation All Saints |
| Thursday 26 October | 4pm Coffee and Cake with Fr Martin | Saturday 11 November | 6.15pm Family Mass |
| Friday 27 October | Half Term begins | | |

Holy Days of Obligation The Holy Days of Obligation are occasions for us to give an act of witness to our faith. The next Holy Day of Obligation is for All Saints' Day. Here are the arrangements:

Tuesday 31 October 2pm Early Vigil Mass

Wednesday 1 November 7pm Mass

Second Collections

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

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| 7 – 8 October | CAFOD | 18 -19 November | Parish SVP |
| 21 – 22 October | Missio: World Mission Sunday | 24 – 25 November | Catholic Youth Services |
| 4 -5 November | Johnson Association | 9 – 10 December | Poor Parishes |

North Staffordshire Area Pastoral Council Day pilgrimage to the church of St Anne and Blessed Dominic Barberi Sutton St. Helens also, visit to Liverpool Catholic Cathedral Saturday 14th October 2023 Pick-up points: St. Augustine's Meir 8.30am Holy Trinity Newcastle 8.45am Cost per person £15 Under 16 £7.50

Our Lady Day Saturday the 21 October at St Joseph's church, Burslem, between 11am-3pm. The day will start with Mass then lunch will be provided, continuing with Rosary and more. The People to Lourdes Trust are organising the event. Lead by Fr Tony, the Trust Chaplain.

Collection Gift Aid £266.00 Non Gift Aid £133.91 Total £399.91 Thank you for kind generosity!

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