

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 9 March** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** *Day of Prayer for the Candidates of the Sacraments*  
*2 Chronicle 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 136; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21*  
6.15pm Mass Margaret Scanlon (RIP)
- Sunday 10 March** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office  
10am Mass Alice Devaney (RIP)  
1.30pm Polish Mass  
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction
- Monday 11 March** **Lent Feria**  
*Isaiah 65:17-21; Ps 29; John 4:43-54*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Douglas Grantham (Spec Int) (FG)
- Tuesday 12 March** **Lent Feria**  
*Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Ps 45; John 5:1-3, 5-16*  
Please note change of time 830am Mass Special Intention
- Wednesday 13 March** **Lent Feria**  
*Isaiah 49:8-15; PS 144; John 5:17-30*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 14 March** **Lent Feria**  
*Exodus 32:7-14; Ps 105; John 5:31-47*  
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
- Friday 15 March** **Lent Feria**  
*Wisdom 2:1, 12-22; PS 33; John 7:1-2, 25-30*  
10am Stations of the Cross  
1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Kathleen Greenwood (RIP)
- Saturday 16 March** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT** *Day of Prayer for the Candidates of the Sacraments*  
*Jeremiah 31:31-34; P 20; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33*  
6.15pm Family Mass Shirley Regan (RIP) (JR) MASS WITH PAINSLY STUDENTS
- Sunday 17 March** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office  
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)  
1.30pm Polish Mass  
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 <a href="mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Alice Murray	
<b>St Mary’s Catholic Academy</b>	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
<b>Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle</b>	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
<b>Safeguarding Rep</b>	Mr Malcolm Sproat	<a href="mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
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<b>Gift Aid Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs M Lawton	<a href="mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy</b>	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](mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**The Pope’s Prayer Intention for March** For the new martyrs. We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**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** Let’s pray for the repose of the souls of Arthur Piggott and Alma Merry. The arrangements for Arthur’s Funeral: Monday 18 March 1130am Funeral Liturgy followed by committal at Carmountside. The arrangements for Alma’s Funeral: Tuesday 19 March 1230pm Funeral Liturgy followed by Committal at Carmountside.

**Anniversaries for this week:** Sister M Aloysius I.B.V.M., Albert Sharpe, Antoni Kendrick, Hilda Wood, Betty Weller, Marguerita Kurdziej, Dennis Joyce, Annie Moss, Martin Reilly, Mary Lewis, George Albert Hill, Stefan Kowalczyk, Vera Mary Piggott, Sidney Francis Hurst, Sister Anne Antonia Mckee I.B.V.M., Elsie Nash, Alice Coyle Cooper, Jane Munday, Evelyn Carding, Joan Doreen Shufflebotham, John Goodfellow

Dear friends, on Thursday evening we had a very fruitful Parish Council Meeting. We heard reports from our parish groups and the two Catholic Schools connected to our parish. It was very encouraging and I am incredibly grateful to all the members of the Parish Council. The topic of young people and their role in the life and mission of the parish is always mentioned. During the meeting, I mentioned Pope Francis's letter to young people which he published on 2 March. It begins, "... dear children as the Bible teaches us, and as Jesus showed so often, "you are precious" in God's eyes (Is 43:4). With all the insecurity and uncertainty in the world at present, our children and young people, and ourselves need to hear this message more than ever! You are, we are precious in God's eyes.

As we continue to encourage the children and young people to grow in faith, let us maintain the working relationship between our parish, the schools and your homes. When we work together we can be confident in building up each other and the ongoing mission of the Church to bring the Good News of Jesus. Next Saturday, 16 March, we shall have Mass with Painsley Students and their families. I do encourage parents to bring their children to this Mass!

**I am looking forward to Holy Week and Easter** We have passed the half-way point in the season of Lent and I am looking forward to celebrating Holy Week! I hope that you are too! I want everyone in our parish to be involved and to be uplifted by the celebrations of Holy Week! May this year's celebrations help us to cherish that for all of us, young and old, we are precious in God's eyes!

#### **Holy Week at St Mary's These are the times of liturgies and devotions taking place during Holy Week**

##### **Thursday 28 March, 2024 Holy Thursday**

6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

##### **Friday 29 March, 2024 Good Friday**

10am Stations of the Cross for children

3pm Solemn celebration of the Passion

12noon Walk of Witness from the Nicholson Memorial

7pm Stations of the Cross

##### **Saturday 30 March, 2024 Holy Saturday**

10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows

730pm Easter Vigil

2pm Poswiecenie Pokarmow (Blessing of Food)

##### **Sunday 31 March, 2024 Easter Sunday CLOCKS GO FORWARD 1 HOUR**

10am Easter Sunday Mass

130pm Mssczka

#### **Holy Week at St Mary's I want to invite your participation in the Holy Week liturgies**

Holy Thursday, 28 March at 6pm 12 volunteers for the washing of the feet. Please sign the list at the back of the church and on the day bring your own towel

Good Friday, 29 March at 10am Young readers for Stations of the Cross, please get a parent or a grown up to send an email to me so that I can send the readings to you.

Two volunteers to assist with the Veneration of the Cross: to bring the Cross to the sanctuary, stopping at three points in the aisle for an exhortation and response and an act of reverence, then to hold the cross so that members of the congregation can come forward to make their own, personal veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday, 30 March at 730pm Three people to assist with removing the purple veils during the Easter Vigil. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

**Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows** From next Monday, 18 March, we shall use the Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows before Mass until Easter. I have been very encouraged by the number of people who have bought the special rosary beads for this devotion; I have had to reorder twice! One parishioner said to me the other day when asking me to bless their rosary beads, "This devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows is a mother's prayer!" And, I must agree! The seven sorrows of St Mary do connect with real life situations which mothers, fathers and priests connect with. There are more on the piety stall at the back of the church.

**Bene Merenti Presentations** Following the recent news that Pope Francis has honoured three of our parishioners with the Bene Merenti award, 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.

**Parish Census** Thank you for taking and returning the parish census forms. There have been a good number of returns. Thank you for completing the forms and letting us know about your skills.

#### **Dates for your diary**

**Saturday 16 March** 11am Sweep and Clean

**CHANGE OF DATE** The Mass with Painsley Students and their Families will now be celebrated at St Mary's on **Saturday 16 March at 615pm.**

**Tuesday 26 March** Sweep and Clean in church for Easter

**Sunday 19 May** Presentation Bene Merenti award

#### **Second Collections**

**Friday 29 March** The annual collection for the shrines and holy places in the Holy Land

**Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March** The Easter collection is for the parish priest and forms a major part of his income.

**Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 April** Mission appeal for the Association of the Propagation of the Faith

#### **Penance Services Monday**

**25 March** 7pm at St Augustine's, Meir

**Tuesday 26 March** 7pm at St Giles', Cheadle

**Going into hospital** If you are going into 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.

**Edge@Alton** is our Catholic youth group for young people in school years 6-9. They have lots of fun, games and challenges and are a great way to make new friends. Sessions cost just £2 and new members are always welcome. Please encourage your child to come along - we can promise lots of laughs! The next session is in Alton on Sunday 17th March from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. For more information or to book for your child to attend the session please email: [edgeatalton@gmail.com](mailto:edgeatalton@gmail.com)

#### **North Saffordshire Deanery**

**Tuesday 12 March at 6.00pm** Mass to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

**Tuesday 19 March 7pm** at Ss George and Martin, Birches Head, Mass for the Year of Prayer

**Monday 1 April 10am** at Sacred Heart, Hanley, Easter Men's Mass

#### **Churches Together in Leek and District**

**Good Friday 29 March** the annual walk of witness will begin at 12 noon from the Nicholson memorial.

**Collection** Gift Aid £212.00 Non Gift Aid £153.22 Total £365.22 Standing Orders for February £1049.83

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