

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 9 September 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Please note change of time **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Education Sunday**
Ezekiel 33:7-9; Ps 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20
6.15pm Family Mass Stephen Flaherty RIP

Sunday 10 September 10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 11 September **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Colossians 1:24-2:3; Ps 61; Luke 6:6-11
9.40am Rosary 10am Guy Bourne

Tuesday 12 September **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Colossians 2:6-15; Ps 144; Luke 6:12-19
9.40am Rosary 10am Aaron Humphriss (spec Int) (CF)

Wednesday 13 September **Memorial of St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Colossians 3:1-11; Ps 144; Luke 6:20-26
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 14 September **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**
Numbers 21:4-9; Ps 77; John 3:12-17
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass MT (Spec Int)

Friday 15 September **Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**
1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 15; John 19:25-27
9.40 Rosary 1.30pm School Mass For you, the People of the Parish

Saturday 16 September 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
Stamp1 **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Evangelii Gaudium Day**
Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Ps 102; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35
6.15pm Mass Luke Theobald (Spec Int) (CF)

Sunday 17 September 10am Mass Eric and Barbara Duffin RIP
Stamp 1 4pm Rosary and Benediction

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

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for September For people living on the margins. We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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 John Balay, Jenny Kirkham, Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura- Zwierski, Shirley Regan

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 soul of Jan Dziurdzik. Jan’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday 18 September at 11am here at St Mary’s: please, do come and pray for Jan and support his family and relatives. We pray for Fr Keith Enstone, a retired priest, and for Fr Edwin Cownely, the Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Gregory, Bearwood, Birmingham.

Anniversaries for this week: Eileen Whittaker, Ann Mary Spencer, Alojzy Borkowski, Mary Thelma Enid Shenton, Sister M Magdalen I.B.V.M., Alf (Adolf) Shelton, John Edward Kenneth Chilcott, Antoni Fenn, Winifred Mary Grayson, Elizabeth Sheila Gallagher, Elizabeth Carding, Sister Paula Maughan I.B.V.M., Wladyslaw Trusz, James Henry Collier, John Clulow, Bernard Traynor, Michael Kenneth Riordan, Ilse Elisabeth Joyce, Michael Higgins, Victor Kuchta, Eileen Mary Halpin.

Dear friends, this weekend, we observe **Education Sunday**. For us, there is an important working partnership between Catholic schools, parishes and homes where faith in Christ is taught and handed on to children and young people. Following the times of lockdown due to the pandemic, it is important for all of us to encourage and build up each other's belief in God. Let's use this weekend's observance of Education Sunday for our schools, parish and homes to work together to build up the mission of Christ and the church in our parish.

Archdiocese of Birmingham – vacancy: Director of Education The Diocesan Education Service is recruiting for a Director of Education. Details for this role can be found on both the Diocesan Education Service www.bdes.org.uk/vacancies and the Archdiocese www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk websites. The closing date is Monday 18 September.

The Season of Creation From 1 September until the 4 October, the Church marks the Season of Creation. This isn't a liturgical season, but a time to raise awareness of our Christian role to be stewards of creation. Pope Francis has sent a message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This has been uploaded to the Parish Website.

October is the month of the Rosary During an audience at the Vatican with member of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Pope Francis has asked that the forthcoming month of October which is, by custom, the month of the rosary, be dedicated for praying for peace in Ukraine. Let's continue to pray for peace. Let's expect great things from the prayers of our patron, Saint Mary!

Do you have a Red Box for Missio? There are some parishioners have a red missio box at home. Please send your donation as a cheque – don't put cash in the mail – to Missio, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU

Chips and Chat Chips and Chat is a monthly occasion for parishioners to join the Parish Priest for lunch in the Presbytery. If you would like to join me on Thursday 14 September, please sign the list at the back of the church. There are limited items on the menu. Please return your orders and monies to Fr Martin before Monday 11 September.

Sacramental Preparation for 2024 The compulsory meeting for parents of those children in School Year 3 or School Year 6 at Saint Mary's Academy will take place this Thursday, 14 September at 4pm in church. During this meeting, parents will be asked to provide details of their child's baptism by Friday 29 September, 2023. During the next academic year children preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation will have to attend Mass in church on Sundays in four blocks of six consecutive weeks. Each child will receive their own Mass attendance and activity card; there is one activity card for each of the four blocks of six Sundays; there will be a short activity to be completed. At the end of the task, the Mass attendance and activity card will have be stamped by the priest. The four blocks of six weeks will coincide with the school term; holiday time will not be affected. There will be more about this in the parents' meeting on Thursday 14 September.

Parents should be aware that Sacramental Preparation will take place in school on Thursdays beginning in January, 2024. Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation will take place during lunch time. Sacrament Preparation for First Holy Communion will take place after school. A register of attendance will be taken each week.

I would also like to inform parents of children who will be starting school Year 3 in September that the parents of children aged 7 years old and over wishing to be Baptised must attend a course of instruction. If your child was baptised in another Ecclesial Community ie the Church of England your child can only be admitted to the Sacraments if they are aged 7 years or over, attend an additional course of instruction with their parents, and attend Mass every Sunday. Parents are asked to contact Fr Martin and attend Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers Here is some news and important dates for our Eucharistic Ministers:

Thursday 28 September 6pm in church an evening Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. During both the Saturday 615pm Mass and Sunday 10am Mass I will recommission the Parish Eucharistic Ministers

During the last few years, I am incredibly grateful to several Eucharistic Ministers have taken Holy Communion to parishioners at home. If you would be willing to help with this vital ministry which enables parishioners to receive Holy Communion and keep in contact with the parish, please do let me know. If you would be willing to take this up, I will explain how to conduct visits and the administration of Holy Communion at home. For safeguarding purposes, you will be required to apply for a DBS (Disclosure Barring Service certificate).

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

9 – 10 September Catholic Education Service
16 -17 September Catholic Evangelization
23 – 24 September Fr Hudson's
7 – 8 October CAFOD
21 – 22 October Missio: World Mission Sunday

4 -5 November Johnson Association
18 -19 November Parish SVP
24 – 25 November Catholic Youth Services
9 – 10 December Poor Parishes

Dates for your diary

Saturday 9 September 615pm Family Mass for Education Sunday
Thursday 14 September 1230pm Chips and chat; 4pm in church, Sacramental Preparation Meeting
Thursday 21 September 5pm Parish Council

Thursday 28 September 6pm Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers
Sunday 1 October 10am Mass with Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers

Standing Orders Collection

The August 2023 standing order donations were £1,181.50
Gift Aid £138.15 Non Gift Aid £152.67 Total £290.82 Thank you for kind generosity!

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