

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
Tel 01538 382385 Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

Saturday 22 July	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Day of Prayer for Europe; World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly <i>Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Ps 85: Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43</i> 6pm Mass Adriana Wheatley RIP
Sunday 23 July	10am Mass Rose Woolard RIP 4pm Rosary and Benediction
Monday 24 July	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Exodus 14:5-18; Ex 15; Matthew 12:38-42</i> 940am Rosary 10am Mass: Lavinia Houston RIP
Tuesday 25 July	Feast of St James, Apostle <i>2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Ps 125; Matthew 20:20-28</i> 940am Rosary 10am Mass Patrick Duffy RIP
Wednesday 26 July	Memorial of Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Exodus 16:1-5; Ps 77: Matthew 13:1-9</i> 940am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 27 July	Memorial in Staffordshire of Blessed Robert Sutton, priest and martyr. Born at Burton on Trent, he converted to Catholicism having been a clergyman of the Established Religion and being influenced by his brother who with a third sibling were all Catholic priests. Blessed Robert was arrested and executed in Stafford in 1588 <i>Exodus 19: 1-2, 9-11, 16-20; Dan 3:52-56; Matthew 13:10-17</i> Please note change of time. 8.30am Mass Lawrence Baxter RIP
Friday 28 July	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Exodus 20:1-17; Ps 18; Matthew 13:18-23</i> 940am Rosary 10am Mass Donor’s Intention
Saturday 29 July	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Ps 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52</i> 6pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Sunday 30 July	10am Mass Tom Stevenson RIP 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

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 July For a Eucharistic life. We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

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
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 Fr Bernard Garratt. We pray for the repose of the soul of Valerie Tatton. Valerie’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 2 August at 1030am, here at St Mary’s

Anniversaries for this week: Mary Lydia Bridgett, Kathleen Mary Salt, Amelia Klara Chudyk, Lilian Frances Harasimow, Stefan Salak, Mary Washington, Margaret Pulham, Marion Hawkins, Lancelot (Lance) William Gell, Elsie Tideswell, Muriel Heath, Eric Mills, Gertrude Mary Carding, Rose Elsie Murfin, Stanislaw Gorski; Ivy Cathrine Vickers, John Somers, Gerald Grant, Peter Chadwick, Margaret Prendergast.

Dear friends, today (Sunday) during Mass we shall welcome into our parish family two new parishioners. We speak of them being Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. During Mass they will profess the Creed, be Received, receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and make their First Holy Communion. I hope this is a good reminder for all of us that alongside the content of faith in the Bible, the Church's Tradition and the official Magisterium of the Church, faith is an action which we practise; we speak of practising our faith. We are the practitioners, the people of faith. So, for all of us: cradle Catholics and those who have been received into Full Communion may this Sunday's Mass revitalise and reinvigorate the practise of the faith in these four actions: Being at Sunday Mass every week, Going to Confession once every month, Praying for 5 minutes every day, Sharing our time, talent and treasure

World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly This Sunday, the Sunday nearest to the celebration of Ss Joachim and Anne on 26 July, the grandparents of Jesus, is the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. This annual World Day was instituted by Pope Francis in 2021. Grandparents have a great role to encourage and inspire children as they grow in faith. Keep making a positive contribution to the faith development of your grandchildren. There are copies of the Pope's message to Grandparents and the Elderly at the back of church.

The final meeting of the Visitation I am incredibly grateful to everyone who attended the final meeting of the Visitation which took place at St Gregory's, Longton, on Tuesday evening. During the meeting a number of recommendations were made for a number of the parishes in our deanery. There are copies of the report at the back of the church.

I want to increase the number of children taking part in Mass Children and young people have a central place in the story of Christ; there are over 30 events in the Gospels which include either Jesus as a child or another young person with a central role. Let's encourage the children and young people in our parish to take roles especially as Altar Servers, Readers and Singers.

Altar Servers I would like to invite those children in Year 3 who have recently made their First Holy Communion and any child in school Years 4 and above who have made their First Holy Communion to become Altar Servers. The ministry of the altar server helps both the priest and the people to take part in the celebration of Mass. To be an altar server requires being able to learn new skills, to adapt to new situations, to be part of a team and to give a good example to everyone in church.

The summer holiday has begun The long awaited summer holidays are now here! If you are having a holiday this year, I hope that you have a good break and rest. During this holiday period, let's remember not to forget God. Please do make sure that you can get to Sunday Mass and to make time for personal prayer.

The Synodal Church Since 2012, at the invitation of Pope Francis, you have been invited to be part of the Synod Process. It began with parish level discussion, then to diocesan, national and continental (for us, European) level. And every continent submitted its work. Remember, we are a universal Church. It would be very surprising if every part of the world expressed the same concerns and areas of interest. We continue with our parish priorities: encouraging the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession: this is celebrated in church on Saturday morning from 10am; the Confessional is now in use for this; or, alternatively, please be in contact if you want to go to Confession. During the week, I will be meeting the leaders of the St Mary's Scouts to discuss ways in which the young people can be part of our parish.

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 at 4pm on Thursday 14 September and will take place 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 been 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. Sacramental 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.

Holy Days of Obligation Let's continue to prioritise Mass on Holy Days of Obligation. The purpose of being at Mass on Holy Days is not to make life more demanding, but to show our devotion to the Lord. The next Holy Days of Obligation are:

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Monday 14 August 2pm Early Vigil Mass Tuesday 15 August 7pm Mass
All Saints Tuesday 31 October 2pm Early Vigil Mass Wednesday 1 November 7pm Mass

UN Food Systems Summit 24 – 26 July Our food systems are both contributing to and affected by climate change. Each step in food production creates greenhouse gases that trap the sun's heat and contribute to climate change. Reducing emissions from the food sector requires changes at all stages, from producers to consumers. Learn more about food and climate change here: <https://www.unep.org/events>

Season of Creation 1 September - 4 October Look ahead to the Season of Creation. How can you help your parish/community to celebrate? Begin to make plans. Go to seasonofcreation.org for ideas.

Donations for flowers in church There have been some donations made for the flowers in church in recent weeks. If you would like to donate towards the flowers, please give these to Fr Martin

Kenlem Youth Trust for the Archdiocese of Birmingham Summer Camp 7 – 13 August, 2023 The Summer Camp is for all young people aged year 7 - year 13. The camp week involves a range of exciting activities including a day at Alton Towers with its brand new roller coaster - 'The Curse of Alton Manor'. There is also messy games, a day trip to a secret venue, our camp live band, night prayer and daily Mass all with the Alton Castle Mission Team. All young people will have a Summer Camp small group leader for the week to accompany them and enable young people to mix and make lots of new friends. The camp being based at Alton Castle, also means we will be making great use of the activities on site including biking, archery, and survival. Alongside this, summer camp provides spaces and times for prayer, adoration and for young Catholics to connect and gather together. For more information please visit: kenlemyouthtrust.org.uk/summer-camp.html.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 23 July World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly; 10am Mass, Reception into Full Communion and Confirmation; Sunday Social
Monday 24 July 6.30pm Bible Book Club
Saturday 29 July 11am Sweep and Clean

Can you "Gift Aid" your donation? Many thanks to existing gift aid donors for their continued donations. Your generosity is vital for the running of the church and very much appreciated. Anyone not currently signed up for gift aid, the eligibility is to be a UK taxpayer and the amount you pay must exceed the 25% of your donation which is what we will claim. Sign up forms are available and can commence at any time not only at the start of a tax year.

Collection Gift Aid £155.34 Non Gift Aid £109.09 Total £264.43

Thank you for kind generosity!

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