

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 24 February	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Ps 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark 9:2-10</i> 6.15pm Mass David Wright (RIP) (GW)
Sunday 25 February	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Piotr Zwierski (RIP) 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction
Monday 26 February	Lent Feria <i>Daniel 9:4-10; Ps 78; Luke 6:36-38</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Family Intentions (MF)
Tuesday 27 February	Lent Feria <i>Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Ps 49; Matthew 23:1-12</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish
Wednesday 28 February	Lent Feria <i>Jeremiah 18:18-20; Ps 30; Matthew 20:17-28</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 29 February	Lent Feria <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10; Ps 1; Luke 16:19-31</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Maureen Kelly (RIP) (HK)
Friday 1 March	Feast of the St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales: World Day of Prayer, First Friday <i>Philippians 3:8-14; Ps 1; Matthew 5:13-16</i> 10am Stations of the Cross 1.30pm Mass at St Mary’s Academy Celebrant’s Intention
Saturday 2 March	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT <i>Day of Prayer for the Candidates of the Sacraments</i> <i>Exodus 20:1-17; PS 18; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25</i> 6.15pm Mass John Balay (RIP) (HK)
Sunday 3 March	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Shiela Hagger (PW) 1.30pm Polish Mass 4pm Stations of the Cross 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 Archdiocese of Birmingham NSPCC	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk tel 0121 230 6240 tel 0808 800 500
Gift Aid Co-ordinator	Mrs M Lawton	ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01782 676400 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 February **For the terminally ill.** We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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 Let’s pray for the repose of the soul of Arthur Piggott.

Anniversaries for this week: George Joseph Camillus Gunia
Karen Helen Fuidge, Eileen Miriam Morton, Francis McDonough, Gertrude E Beck, Robert John Walmsley, Frederick Donald Stanmore, Barbara Gunia, Francis Salt, James Malkin, Ernest Birch, John Tatton, Giuseppe Cumbo, Eileen Elizabeth Arrowsmith, Hilda Chadwick, Mrs Coyne, Albert Briscoe, Christine Kirkham, Denis Heywood, Martin McNeilly, Jan Szdelko, Christopher David Williams, Stanley Pocock, Sister Baptist Haslam, Annie McDonough, Hilda Barker

Dear friends, I am incredibly grateful to you for your support with Michael's Funeral Mass at the beginning of the week. As one parishioner said to me immediately following the Funeral Mass, "We have given him a good send off!" And, indeed we did! I found it very moving: the sung litany of the saints as his body was received into the church, the good number of people in the congregation, and everyone together! It was an act of witness to being a caring Christian community. Let's keep this going! It is great to be among and to be shepherding a kind-hearted and generous parish community.

These are the times of the Holy Week Liturgies

Holy Thursday 28 March 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 29 March 3pm Solemn celebration of the Passion

Holy Saturday 30 March 730pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 31 March 10am Easter Mass

Thursday 29 February 2.30pm Coffee and Cake. If you wish to come along please sign the list at the back of church. This will be a Lenten afternoon tea of sandwiches, fruit salad and hot cross buns.

Let's go to Mass this Lent! The Season of Lent is a great time to go to Mass in church. Let's use the six weeks of Lent to go to Mass and revive our connection to Christ in this sacrament. Let's do something extra instead of giving up.

Pray! Keep going with your 5 minutes of prayer every day! If you miss a day, make sure you start again the next day. No one can fail in prayer. We are observing the Year of Prayer at the request of Pope Francis. Please pray the Lord's Prayer in unity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Fast! Making a sacrifice is customary during Lent. Instead of fasting from chocolate, give up being impatient or quick tempered. Try something extra: praise, encourage, support.

Charity! This year we are having a raffle to raise funds for our parish SVP Group so that they can continue their mission to send meals to the lonely and isolated parishioners. The raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend, the First Sunday of Lent. The draw will take place on Sunday 24 March after Mass

Penance Services Monday 25 March 7pm at St Augustin's Meir

Tuesday 26 March 7pm at St Giles' Cheadle

Lent at St Mary's Academy During Lent you are invited to the following

Weekly Class Liturgies. They are taking place on the following days:

Monday 26 February at 3pm with Year 5

Thursday 29 February at 3pm with Year 1

Tuesday 27 February at 3pm with Year 4

Monday 4 March at 3pm with Year 2

Wednesday 28 February at 3pm with Year 3

Tuesday 5 March at 3pm with the whole School.

Class Masses will be celebrated on Fridays at 130pm in School. On Friday 22 March there will be a Whole School Mass at 1030am in church.

The next Family Mass will be on Saturday 2 March at 615pm

Sacramental Preparation The new Mass Attendance and Activity cards are now available for those who have not collected them from Fr Martin at either Saturday evening Mass or Sunday morning Mass. Sacramental Preparation Classes will begin after half term: For children preparing for First Confession and First Holy Communion the classes will take place after school on Thursday afternoons; and, for Confirmation candidates, their Sacramental Preparation will take place on Thursday lunchtimes. A register of attendance will be taken.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the new day for First Confession will be Thursday 18 April at 4pm in church.

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

Year of Prayer We are well underway for the Year of Prayer and the spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Year next year. I encourage you to keep up your 5 minutes of prayer every day! Keep going! No one can fail in their prayer. Let's be part of Pope Francis's bold vision of a "Symphony of Prayer". What an great thing to be part of the whole Church, around the world, dedicating this year to prayer! It is good to be part of a worldwide movement which is doing good. I encourage you to set aside 5 minutes of prayer every day. Pray the Lord's Prayer as the Pope has asked to. Pray for our parish prayer intentions:

the children and young people of parish preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation;
for the sick and housebound parishioners;
for families;

for parents as the first teachers of the faith;
for children suffering from sickness;
for peace and justice.

Administration of Holy Communion Due to the prevailing risk, the norm for receiving communion remains on the hand. For those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please come to the Altar as the end of the congregational procession has received Communion, as the Minister of Holy Communion will need to sanitise his/her hands after every person receiving on the tongue.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 29 February 230pm Coffee (or tea) and cakes Please sign the list at the back of the church if you want to join!

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.**

Going into hospital If you are going into to 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.

Parish Piety Stall There are some Rosaries of Our Lady of Sorrows on sale. In the last two weeks of Lent, we shall pray the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady before Mass. The special rosaries are available at £10. Can you help? Can you help with the Piety Stall especially on Sunday mornings? If so, please be in contact with Fr Martin.

Business cards Do you have a business card you would like to add to our Parish directory? We would like to put together a list of trades and services provided by our Parishioners that is available to others and encourage support within our community. If you would like to be added to the directory please pass your details on to Fr Martin.

North Staffordshire Deanery Bethsaida Youth Leader Training will take place at Our Lady and St Werburg's, Clayton, on Saturday 24 February and Saturday 2 March between 2pm and 6pm. For more information contact Anna Howard at anna.howard@kenelmeyouthtrust.org.uk

Churches Together in Leek and District Lent Course at St Edward's church Following the success of last year's Lent Course bases on series 1 of the TV Programme The Chosen this year's Lent course at St Edward's church will use series 2 to look at the Biblical themes of grace, suffering, faithfulness, love, transformation, redemption and sacrifice. The course will run for 5 weeks on the Wednesdays of Lent beginning at 730pm on Wednesday 21 February. You can join online if you prefer. Please contact Rev Nigel Irons at stedwardsleek@hotmail.com

Lent Course at Trinity church The Act on Poverty course which has come from Christian Aid and their partners including The Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty. We will start on Thursday 15 February at 230pm at Trinity church. An evening course will also be running on Thursdays. For more information, please contact Trinity Church office tel 01538 298483 email trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net

Churches Together in Leek and District

Friday 1 March at 730pm at Trinity Church, Derby Street, "The Narrow Road" by Paul Birch will be performed by the Riding Lights Theatre Company. Tickets at £10 and £5 for children. Please see fliers at the back of the church.

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

Second Collections. This week 24-25 February CAFOD **Next week 2-3 March** St Chad's Cathedral Maintenance Fund
Collection Gift Aid £163.00 Non Gift Aid £120.26 Total £283.26

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