

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’.

Dear friends,

Welcome to this special summer edition of the Parish Newsletter.

New Mass times for Parishes across the Staffordshire Moorlands Following the Parish Visitation, consultation of the priests in the North Staffordshire Deanery and the permission of the Archbishop, it has been recommended that the Parish Priests of Alton, Cheadle and Leek, supply for each other when need arises. In order for this to happen, it will be necessary to make a new arrangement for time of Sunday Masses in each of the three parishes. This will take effect at the first weekend of September, 2 -3 September this year.

The new arrangement will be:

St John the Baptist, Alton	Sunday Mass at 9am
St Giles’s, Cheadle	Saturday evening at 430pm and Sunday morning at 1030am
St Thomas’s, Tean	Sunday evening at 530pm
St Mary’s, Leek	Saturday evening at 615pm and Sunday morning at 10am

This new arrangement creates the possibility for two priests to celebrate Masses in the four churches. If one priest is absent another priest can celebrate two Vigil Masses on a Saturday: one in Cheadle, the other in Leek.

Let’s encourage each other!

Let’s give courage to each other to be at Mass every Sunday, to go to Confession once a month, to pray for 5 minutes every day and to share our time, talent and treasure. Last year there were over 2000 hours of volunteering in our parish.

Let’s increase the number of children and young people with roles and responsibilities in church. It would be great to welcome new altar servers, readers and singers. I can arrange more training meetings for new altar servers; and, readers, don’t have to read all the readings, they could read one of the readings or the bidding prayers at Mass.

Let’s pray for each other. Let’s pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood – there is an acute need for more priests in our parishes. If each parish of the 217 parishes in our diocese sent one man to the seminary there would be no need to cluster parishes or close churches.

Please pray for your priests!

Thursday 31 August Parish Outing to Trentham

There is a lot of interest in a parish outing to Trentham Gardens on Thursday 31 August. The coach will leave St Mary’s at 10am and pick up at Trentham at 4pm. The cost of the coach is £17 per person. Please secure your place by signing the list at the back of the church and paying a £5 deposit.

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 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.

Important notice Road closure – Between 21 August and 1 September, Compton, A520 will be closed daily between 8am and 5pm.

Dates for your diary

Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 August The Assumption of Our Lady, Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday 19 August 11am Sweep and Clean

Sunday 20 August Before Sunday Mass, visit and blessing for Ecumenical Pilgrimage
Thursday 24 August 6pm New Eucharistic Ministers
Monday 21 August – Friday 1 September Closure of Compton, A520
Sunday 27 August Sunday Social after Mass
Thursday 31 August Parish Trip to Trentham
Friday 8 September 10am Whole School Mass for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday 9 September 615pm Family Mass for Education Sunday

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

Be part of World Youth Day 2023 1- 6 August

World Youth Day is the Church on pilgrimage! Tens of thousands of young pilgrims will gather this year in Lisbon, Portugal. For more information visit: www.lisboa2023.org

You can immerse yourself in the extraordinary event of 'World Youth Day - Lisbon 2023'. The live broadcast is brought to you by the Catholic channel *Shalom World TV*, the Media Partner for World Youth Day. Join the link :- <http://shalomworld.org/wyd2023> to bring the electrifying atmosphere of the world's largest youth gathering straight to your screens! Witness the excitement, joy, and unity of millions of young hearts from around the world! Please don't miss a moment! Let your living rooms be filled with the contagious energy and love that only this global celebration with young people can offer!

Your dedicated hub for all things World Youth Day Lisbon 2023! <https://www.shalommedia.org/connectedtv/>

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. For ideas, go to seasonofcreation.org

Parish Priest

Fr Martin Pratt

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Parish Administrator

Alice Murray

St Mary's Catholic Academy

Mrs G Turner

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Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle

Mrs R Waugh

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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 August

For World Youth Day. We pray that World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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.

Anniversaries for this week: Katherine Muir, Vincent Harold Heath, John Leigh Nadin, Margaret Rushton, Kate Challinor, Salomea Wasilewska, Howard William Lawrence Renshaw, Elizabeth White, Charles Hoof, Kenneth Arthur Lownds, Lawrence Stafford, Mary Margaret Yates, Jessie Pickford, Sister Brendan McCarthy I.B.V.M., Edward Ash, Martyn Paul Wilkes, Edith Boone, Stasia Przesmycka, Father John Clavin, Mary Ann Alcock, Josef Glogowski, Thomas Stanley (Stan) Booth, Robert (Bob) Carding, Lily Nadin, Horace Keith John Drury, Joseph William Emery, Elizabeth Ann Walwyn, Theresa Elizabeth Plant, Mary Ellen Allen, Josephine Bull, Sandra Winifred Clayton.

Collection for weekend of 29 – 30 July

Gift Aid £112.00 Non Gift Aid £93. 78 Total £205.78

Thank you for kind generosity!

What's on in church from Saturday 5 August to Sunday 20 August inclusive:

- Saturday 5 August** 10am- 10.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: church open for private prayer
FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 96; 2Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9
6pm Mass Adelaide Heagney RIP
- Sunday 6 August** 10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP
- Monday 7 August** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Numbers 11:4-15; Ps 80; Matthew 14:13-21
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Tuesday 8 August** **Memorial of St Dominic, Priest**
Numbers 12:1-13; Ps 50; Matthew 14:22-36
- Wednesday 9 August** **Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) Virgin, Martyr, Patron of Europe: Day of prayer for Europe**
Hosea 2:16-17, 21-22; Ps 44; Matthew 25:1-13
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 10 August** **Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr**
2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Ps 111; John 12:24-26
- Friday 11 August** **Memorial of St Clare, Virgin**
Deuteronomy 4:32-10; Ps 76; Matthew 16:24-28
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Saturday 12 August** 10am-10.30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: church open for private prayer
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Ps 84; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33
6pm Mass Martyn Paul Wilkes RIP
- Sunday 13 August** 10am Mass Januz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
- Monday 14 August** **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Holy day of obligation
1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2; Ps 131; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Luke 11:27-28
2pm Early Vigil Mass Bernadette (Spec Int)
- Tuesday 15 August** *Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10; Ps 44 1Corinthians 15:20-26; Luke 1:39-56*
7pm Mass John Balay (Spec Int)
- Wednesday 16 August** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Ps 65; Matthew 19:15-20
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 17 August** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17; Ps 113A; Matthew 18:21-19:1
9.40am Rosary 10am For you, the People of the Parish
- Friday 18 August** **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Joshua 24:1-13; Ps 135; Matthew 19:3-12
9.40am Rosary 10am Edward and Mary Szczotka RIP
- Saturday 19 August** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Ps 66; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28
6pm Mass Donor's Intention
- Sunday 20 August** 10am Mass Kevin Oliver RIP
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Here are some prayers and reflections.



A reading from the book of Genesis

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Genesis 2: 1-3

A reading from the book of Psalms

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

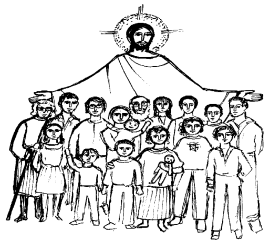
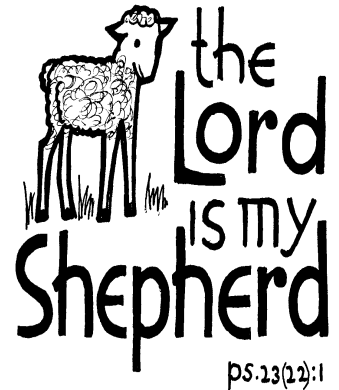
³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalms 23



A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

Mark 6:31-34



World Youth Day Prayer

From 1 August – 6 August, tens of thousands of young Catholics will gather in Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day. For more information visit: www.lisboa2023.org Here is the official World Youth Day prayer:

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord! We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and wellbeing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

Prayer before travel

Loving and merciful God, you have commissioned your angels to guide and protect us. Command them to be with us from our leaving until our return; keep us safe from all injury, accident or malice and sin. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Have a good summer!

With my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Martin

