

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 January **THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Sunday of the Word of God; Exchange Sunday**
Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Ps 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21
2pm Church open
Public Mass and live - stream 2.30pm Janusz Szura (Spec Int)

Sunday 23 January 9.30am Church open
Public Mass and live - stream 10am Ellen, John and John Wright RIP
4pm *Live-stream: Rosary and Benediction*

Monday 24 January **Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church**
Live - stream Mass 2 *Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Ps 88; Mark 3:22-30*
10am Ray Cossburn RIP (S&PB)

Tuesday 25 January **Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Apostle**
Places are limited in church *Acts 9:1-22; Ps 116; Mark 16:15-18*
11.30am Funeral Mass for the repose of the soul of Barbara Duffin

Wednesday 26 January **Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus, Bishops**
No Mass today *Titus 1:1-5; Ps 95; Mark 4:1-20*

Thursday 27 January **Memorial of St Angela Merici, Virgin, Founder of the order of the Ursulines**
Public Mass and live - stream 2 *Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 131; Mark 4:21-25*
9.30am Church open 10am Joan McKenna Floyd RIP

Friday 28 January **Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church**
Mass will be celebrated at St Mary’s Academy
2 *Samuel 11:1-10, 13-17; Ps 50; Mark 4:26-34*

Saturday 29 January 10am to 10.30am Confessions will be celebrated in the church.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Public Mass and live - stream *Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 70; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:-13; Luke 4:21-30*
2pm Church open 2.30pm For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 30 January 9.30am Church open 10am Joan McKenna Floyd RIP
Public Mass and live - stream 4pm *Live- stream: Rosary and Benediction*

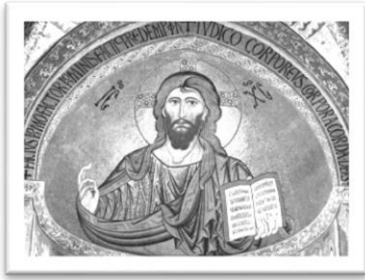
Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Administrator	Mrs Geraldine Duffy-Jentz	administrator.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
St Mary’s Catholic Academy	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 714944
Safeguarding Rep	Appointment pending	
	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 ext 76400
	Macclesfield District Hospital	tel 01625 663386

Please pray for the sick Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Brian Dale, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, David Wright, Janusz Szura and those who are in self-isolation and have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
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.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for January - For true human fraternity. We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution, may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Anniversaries Claire Skerritt Stevens, Lilian Clowes, Sister Magdalen Love I.B.V.M, Mary Patricia Hall, Winifred Gertrude Rushton, David England, Jan Jurkieweill, John Hall, Sister M Joseph I.B.V.M, Sister Anne Manning I.B.V.M, Helen Ita Brough, Hilda Bowyer, Pamela Lawlor, Joan Kathleen McKenna Floyd, Veronica Rose, Lesley Margaret Salt, Gertrude Hall, Stanislaw Gutkowski, Pamela Helen Bristow, Brian Thomas Ball, Sister Wilfred Jemmison I.B.V.M.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed We pray for the repose of the soul of Barbara Duffin. Barbara’s Funeral will take place on Tuesday 25 January.



Dear Friends,

Today, Sunday, we welcome Barbara and Derrick from St Edward's parish on this Exchange Sunday which is part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Last Monday, we launched the daily prayers at Trinity Church. I am very grateful to those who came along in support on that occasion and have been supporting the daily prayer meetings there. Later today, the annual United Service will take place at 4pm at St Edward's church.

Sunday of the Word of God. This weekend, the Catholic Church around the world observes the Sunday of the Word of God. This annual observance was instigated by Pope Francis in September 2019 and first celebrated two years ago.

Here is a suggestion to mark this day at home;

On the Sunday of the Word of God, the entire family gathers around the main table in their home, where the crucifix, a picture of Our Lady, a candle, and the Bible are placed. They recite certain prayers before listening to the Word of God. They can read one of the Bible readings proclaimed at Sunday's

Mass. Once this has been read, the family can share with one another about what they have just read. Here are some helpful prompts to that sharing:

- What part of the passage struck me the most and why?
- Which person in the biblical story do I identify with?
- What behaviour or situation caught my attention?
- Did I experience any emotions during the reading? Which ones and when?
- How does this passage relate to my life?
- Do I feel inspired by the words I have heard?

St Nicholas Owen: Could we have a parish pilgrimage to Harvington Hall in Worcestershire? On 23 January the Church in the Archdiocese of Birmingham celebrates the memory of St Nicholas Owen. He lived during the 16th and 17th century and was a skilled carpenter. To show his devotion to the celebration of Mass and the life and ministry of priests, he built hides in the homes of Catholics with the purpose of protecting priests during the times of religious persecution. In our diocese, we have Harvington Hall near Kidderminster which has been a place of pilgrimage for a number of years as it was a location for priests to hide. Among those priests was St John Wall, also a martyr of the 17th century. If you would like to make a visit to Harvington Hall later this year, please let me know and I would be happy to make the arrangements.

Pope Francis wants us to be a Synodal Parish The Pope wants us to walk together, focused on Christ and knowing that we are valued members of the Church each capable of contributing to its life and mission. Every parish in the Church is being asked to take part in this process. This is, arguably, the most significant move made by the Church to discern the Holy Spirit's work among us since the 1960s. I have almost completed a questionnaire which I would like you to complete. There are no right or wrong answers and no one will be judged; you are unique, and we want to know your thoughts and ideas. To be a Synodal Parish in a Synodal Church is to talk about being part of the Church and listening to each other about being members of the Church: what nourishes and feeds our belief; what do we do well as a parish; what are we proud of; and what would we do together? For me, I want this to be a meaningful and relevant for every parishioner: young and old, convert to Catholicism, lapsed and the faithful.

Staying safe in church Both the number of vulnerable people attending Mass and the number of people who attend Mass and return home to vulnerable relatives, have deemed it necessary to continue with the cautious approach which is already in place.

Here is a summary of the Covid safety rules.

- The Government's revised Covid guidelines mean that in churches we must carry on as we have been, sticking carefully to the precautions and remembering that no-one should be doing anything in church or for church that they consider too risky for them.
- Face coverings are now mandatory
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit
- Keep a 1m distance if you can
- Ventilation is important. Please bring a coat!
- Lateral flow testing: please test yourself each week so that if you know you have the virus you stay at home
- Feeling ill: if you feel unwell, please stay at home and do not risk passing on the virus to others
- Vaccination: HAVE YOUR JABS! This keeps others safe too and is not just about the individual who is vaccinated. We Christians have a duty to take care of others and to neglect any of these ways of reducing infections is to neglect our neighbour. We are all in this together.

The Celebration of the Sacraments

Baptisms and weddings may be celebrated (with precautions above). Please see Fr Martin after a weekend Mass.

Confession is available on Saturdays from 10am – 1030am. Confession will be celebrated face to face in the narthex and by appointment. Please bring a face covering.

Funerals - We shall have a gradual and phased reintroduction with the following routines:

NHS Track and Trace	Use of hand sanitizer	Social distancing	Use of face coverings
Limit of 50 people	A team of volunteer cleaners and stewards	The organ cannot be used and no singing	

Unfortunately, the Polish Mass and face to face parish meetings remain suspended.

200 Club A huge thank you for your generous response to the appeal to renew your subscriptions to the 200 Club. If you would like to join, please contact the parish office. The subscription is £1 per month. A draw takes place after Mass on the last Sunday of the month with cash prizes for the winner and runner up. The more subscriptions, the bigger the cash prize.

Christmas raffle and Christmas cards I am very grateful to you for your kind generosity in supporting the Christmas raffle and the Christmas cards. We raised £121 on the raffle and £83 with the Christmas cards. We also received very generous cash donations for the live-streaming equipment, a brand-new computer and Wi-Fi extender for which I am very grateful to the individual donors.

Repairs to the church and Sweep and Clean Over the last two weeks repairs have been carried out to the rose window in the west gable where the scaffold was established in November. Since then, some masonry has been replaced and repointed. There have been repairs to the sacristy roof and the possible causes of the leaks into the sacristy and over the altar of St Joseph. Thank you for your patience over the last months. I have been informed that the repairs should be complete by 21 February. Towards the end of that week, on Friday 25 February at 2pm could we have two Sweep and Clean teams: one inside the church and another to clean the car park, driveway and avenue? In the church, a large amount of dust has settled on the arches and under the rose window. If we could get the scaffold set up and clean these hard-to-reach places, I would be very grateful.

Dates for your diary

- Sunday 23 January 4pm United Service at St Edward's church - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Saturday 5 February 2.30pm Family Mass
- Sunday 6 February Accession Day
- Wednesday 2 March Ash Wednesday: The Season of Lent
- Thursday 2 - Sunday 5 June Extended Bank Holiday to mark HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

At Facebook Mass we can't have a collection Thank you to those who have used the "Donate" button on the Parish Website. If you would like to donate by standing order, please send an email to me at the Parish Office at stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk.

Collection –	Week 8-9 Jan gift aid £104.02,	non-gift aid £166.85	Total - £270.87
	Week 15-16 Jan gift aid £173.17	non-gift aid £91.54	Total - £264.71

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