

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 23 November 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE: *National Youth Sunday*

Sunday 24 November
6.15pm Mass Kathleen Greenwood RIP
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP
1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language
4pm Rosary and Benediction

Monday 25 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Apocalypse 14:1-5; PS 23; Luke 21:1-4
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Declan McKenna RIP (JA)

Tuesday 26 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Apocalypse 14:14-19; Ps 95; Luke 21:5-11
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Michael Kail RIP (SVP)

Wednesday 27 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Apocalypse 15:1-4; PS 97; Luke 21:12-19
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 28 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Apocalypse 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9; PS 99; Luke 21:20-28
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Jean Floyd McKenna RIP (JA)

Friday 29 November **Feria in Ordinary Time**
Apocalypse 20:1-4, 11-21:2; PS 83; Luke 21:29-33
9.40am Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Saturday 30 November 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Confessions
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Jeremiah 33:14-16; PS 24; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Sunday 1 December
6.15pm Mass Talitha Rose RIP
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski Spec Int
1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language
4pm Rosary 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	sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
	Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0800 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.

Children of primary school age must be accompanied by an adult if they need to leave the church to use the toilets during Mass or other Church services. Also, please do not let children of this age go near the votive candle stands unaccompanied, and do not let them run round the car park. It is important that we do everything to ensure that accidents do not happen. Thank you for your help in keeping our children safe.

The Pope’s Prayer Intention for November For anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

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 Moyra Chadwick, Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura- Zwierski, Fr Anthony Dykes, Madeline Horter, Anne Malkin.

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.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed We continue to pray for the repose of Michael Kail. We pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Cope.

Anniversaries for this week: Florence Moss, Irena Grzegorzek, John Mountford, John Joyce, Gertrude Mary Donnelly, Donald Kirkby Brough, Mary Agnes Burgess, Mary Magdalene May, Edward Salt, Father Charles Eagle (PP 1924-1936), Tadeucz Bodgafurk, Beatrice Mary Robinson, Patricia Anne Upton, Patrick Doherty, Elizabeth Steele, Amy Chilcott, Evelyn Kwiatkowski, Rose Ada Flanagan, Horace Edward Millward, Emily Wain, Walter Andrews, Talitha Rose (Tally)

Dear friends, "Love one another as I have loved you." I must apologise: I have been told that for a number of weeks I have not mentioned both parts of the Parish Mission Statement. With a new start, I will resolve to use the whole Parish Mission Statement. For me, every day of every week I am loved and encouraged by your kind generosity. This last week this has been the case. I want to tell you about a few ways this has happened. First, I am grateful for the help with the snow on Tuesday morning and getting the pathways gritted before Michael's Funeral Mass. Then, thanks to everyone who helped with the Funeral Mass: those who opened the church, prepared the sacred vessels, and the choir who lead the music. It was an act of witness of everyone working together and sharing the responsibility. Let's keep this up! I am incredibly grateful to you!

This weekend we celebrate Christ the King and World Youth Day This weekend we acknowledge the importance of the young people of our parish. This parish is their parish! Three years ago at the beginning of the Synodal process we identified two big priorities one of which was to reach out and to involve young people in the life and mission of our parish community. The parish mission statement, "Love one another as I have loved you," applies to them just as much to anyone else.

This weekend at Saturday's Mass, we will be joined by young people from Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle. We have also invited the young people from our parish who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in recent years. The young people are welcome!

- We want the young people to have roles and responsibilities in our parish. Here are some of the ways we want to invite the young people to have
- Readers at Mass
 - Help with the monthly Sunday Social with the refreshments
 - Read the Bidding Prayers at Mass
 - Altar Servers at Mass
 - Help with some gardening jobs at Sweep and Clean
 - Singers and musicians at Mass
 - Help by welcoming people as they arrive at church for Mass

Are you Advent ready? The Season of Advent begins with Mass for the First Sunday of Advent on the weekend of 30 November – 1 December. Here are some resources for your personal use:

Walk with Me – the new prayer books with daily reflections are at the back of the church

Best Advent Ever – sign up at www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent for daily reflections

Advent Gospel Reflections from Bishop Robert Barron – sign up at www.wordonfire.org

Advent is the Church's New Year and we will have a new Lectionary The Lectionary is the book used for the Bible Readings at Mass and the other sacraments. From the First Sunday of Advent (30 Nov – 1 Dec) a new lectionary with a new English translation of the Bible will be used in all Catholic Churches and communities in England, Wales and Scotland. Since the 1960s and the Second Vatican Council, the Church's vision is that we all benefit from the treasures of the Bible and since then every book in the Bible is proclaimed and read at Mass except the Old Testament prophet Obadiah. The new Lectionary will be an opportunity for us all to observe the Christian Calendar, be familiar with the story of our salvation from the Bible and be our prayer book.

Sunday 8 December 4pm Carol Service We invite young people from our parish to take part in this occasion. We need some help with

- Can you welcome parishioners to church and hand hymn books?
- Can you help with the collection at the end of the Carol Service?
- Help sell raffle tickets
- Help with refreshments after the Carol Service
- If that's you, and you can help at the Carol Service, please see Fr Martin.

St Mary's Christmas cards There are Christmas cards on sale at the back of the church. There are three designs in packets of 12 for £6. The monies raised from the Christmas Cards will go towards our expenses for Communion Breads, Altar Wine, incense and charcoal which are used at Mass.

Christmas Raffle Our Christmas Raffle tickets have arrived and are now on sale after Mass at the back of the church. We have some amazing prizes including: £50 cash; Double duvet and 2 pillows; 4 flute champagne glasses and a bottle of prosecco; Christmas cake; Christmas floral arrangement; Blue Mugge Lunch Voucher; Bottle of Baileys; Nativity scene; Gents after shave; Ladies perfume. The proceeds of this year's raffle ...

Next Year is the Jubilee of Hope Every 25 years, the Church celebrates a Jubilee. The biblical origin of the Jubilee can be found in Leviticus 25 with the injunctions for a yearlong remission of debt: social, personal and spiritual debt. In preparation for the Jubilee, Pope Francis has called us to pray the Our Father prayer everyday during 2024. Let's keep up with his vision for a Symphony of Prayer!

Jubilee display – during the yearlong celebration of the Jubilee there will be display of hope in the narthex to mark this great occasion and it will help us to observe this special time by providing resources for our keeping of the Jubilee Year.

Red Boxes Do you have a Red Box for collecting for Missio? Could you return your Red Box to Liz Pegg our Parish Missio representative as soon as possible, please.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults We have a strong group involved in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism or to be received into Full Communion with the Church next year: there are four adults and one child. Please do keep them in your prayers!

Christmas Prayer Tree This year we will have prayer tree located near the Nativity Scene. Its purpose is for parishioners to write the name of a deceased loved one onto a wooden angel decoration and hang onto the Christmas Tree in their memory. I am grateful for the suggestion as well as donations of the tree, the decorations and the wooden angels.

Winter Weather Team I am asking for help ahead of any winter weather and for a team of volunteers to move snow and apply grit in the car park and along the two walkways to the church. Many of the people who used to do this aren't able to help any longer. If you can help, please let Fr Martin know.

Guide on Assisted Dying and resources to help with writing to MPs For decades, the Anscombe Centre has been at the forefront of research into the dangers of EAS. In 1982, under its previous name as the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics, it published a report on *Euthanasia and Clinical Practice* which was contributed to by the analytic philosopher Professor G. E. M. Anscombe (1919-2001), after whom the Centre is now named. This was reproduced in 1994 alongside the Centre's submission to the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics (1993).

Since then, the Centre and its staff have produced important original research and aggregation of the best research concerning EAS. Its Director, Professor David Albert Jones, has written published articles looking into the relationship between legalisation of EAS and incidence of conventional ('unassisted') suicide. The Centre has also published a series of briefing papers on EAS since 2021, links to which are also included in the Guide.

This has put the Centre in an excellent position to create and contribute this Guide for public information, and we commend it especially to all who wish to be best prepared to write to their Member of Parliament to oppose the legalisation of practices that would endanger the lives and welfare of many of the most vulnerable members of society.

For more information, please visit www.bioethics.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Sunday 8 December	4pm Carol Service	Saturday 30 November	11.30am RCIA
Sunday 22 December	Sunday Social after Mass	Saturday 7 December	11.30am RCIA

Mass attendance	16 - 17 November	Saturday Mass 36	Sunday Mass 90
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Collections	16-17 November	Gift Aid £45.00	Non Gift Aid £110.96	Total £155.96
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Have a good week! With my prayers and best wishes, Fr Martin