

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’.**

Saturday 18 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Peace Day <i>Isaiah 62:1-5 PS 95; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11</i> 6.15pm Mass Kathleen Greenwood RIP	
Sunday 19 January	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Ellen, John and John Jr Wright RIP (PW) 1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction	
Monday 20 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Hebrews 5:1-10; PS 109; Mark 2:18-22</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Pat Cassidy (1 st Anniversary) 12noon at Trinity church, Derby Street: Prayers for Christian Unity Week	
Tuesday 21 January	Memorial of St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr <i>Hebrews 6:10-20; PS 110; Mark 2:23-28</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Thomas and Lily Barrett (Anniversary)	
Wednesday 22 January	Feria in Ordinary Time <i>Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17; PS 109; Mark 3:1-6</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion	
Thursday 23 January	Memorial of St Nicholas Owen <i>Hebrews 7:25-8:6; PS 39; Mark 3:7-12</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Philomena Towey (Anniversary)	
Friday 24 January	Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church <i>Hebrews 8:6-13; PS 84; Mark 3:13-19</i> 9.40am Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.	
Saturday 25 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Sunday of the Word of God <i>Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Ps 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:14, 14-21</i> 6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish	
Sunday 26 January	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Patricia Simpson RIP (PW) 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 January For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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 are asked to pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Fred Sheldon, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham; Fr Brian Boyle SCJ; and, Deacon Paul Hender, a retired Deacon of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Please pray for the repose of the soul Theresa Maria Bowers, Theresa’s Funeral will take place at Macclesfield Crematorium on Monday 27 January at 12.15pm Betty Moss, Betty’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated here at St Mary’s on Tuesday 28 January at 9.45am, Agnes Wood, Agnes’s Funeral will take place in Scotland.

Anniversaries for this week: Edith Hambleton, Vincent William Beetham, Peter Noel Meharg, Mary Goodfellow, Alexandra Duffy, Teresa Gallagher, Rose Palin, Henry Swietek, Josef Jeremi, Zofia Dziurdzik, Lily Cope, Alice Winifred Duffy, Claire Skerritt Stevens, Lilian Clowes, Sister Magdalen Love I.B.V.M., Mary Patricia Hall, Winifred Gertrude Rushton, David England

Dear Pilgrims of Hope, let's continue to love one another as Christ has loved us; let's continue to seek Eucharistic Glory: how is your reading of [33 Days to Eucharistic Glory](#)? Keep going!

This weekend in Leek is Exchange Sunday and it is part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity For this Exchange Sunday one of our parishioners will be at St Edward's and we shall welcome a parishioner from St Paul's.

Tomorrow – **Monday 20 January** – at 12noon at Trinity Church, we are leading Prayers for Christian Unity: I need your support! Let's make a great act of witness!

Next **Sunday, 26 January**, there will be a united act of worship at St Edward's church to conclude the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

Next weekend Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 January – I got the wrong date in last week's newsletter – will be the Sunday of the Word of God. The annual observance of the Sunday of the Word of God is an initiative of Pope Francis. The Pope wants to highlight the important role that the Reader or Lector has during Mass and at the celebration of the other Sacraments During the two Sunday Masses, there will be a blessing for those who are Readers in our parish and a blessing of Bibles.

Your donations to St Mary's I greatly appreciate the financial support you give to our parish. The donation you make to the parish helps with the maintenance and the statutory health and safety routines to provide a safe and secure site; the items we need to celebrate Mass which include Mass books, new music books for the choirs with up to date translations, Communion Breads, Altar Wine, Altar candles; there are the running cost for the utilities especially gas, electricity and water in both the church and presbytery; the costs towards our Parish Priest including monthly salary, travel expenses and stipends for supply priests. We also have to contribute to the Diocese especially for specialist support in property care and safeguarding.

You can make your donation in a number of ways: in person, in church; by standing order – for more information contact the parish office. There is now contactless giving with special terminals in the church. We also encourage all UK Tax Payers to sign up to Gift Aid – the UK Government gives us 25p per £1 you donate. You can also donate using the QR code provided.



Sacramental Preparation I am very grateful to the parents of children preparing for First Communion and Confirmation for ensuring that they present at Mass every Sunday; thank you for making the sacrifice; I am aware that some people are staying away from Mass. Your being here each week is a great support for your children. Together with the preparation they will receive in school, being at Mass is important preparation. Many of the children take part in other activities which require regular attendance and practice: it is the same for us also. Your being at Sunday Mass is what we call practising our faith and the days on which the children will receive the sacraments will be more valuable and meaningful for the children and your family.

We want to involve more young people – can you take on a responsibility at Mass? We are always wanting to include more and more young people: it is your parish! Here are some ways you can help

- Can you welcome parishioners to church and hand hymn books and Mass sheets
- Can you help with the offertory procession – it would be great to have 6 candle bearers.

If that's you, and you can help, please see Fr Martin.

Family Masses We have a great routine of Family Masses here at St Mary's! We have the monthly Family Mass with St Mary's Academy and the termly Family Mass with Painsley Catholic College. There is a great working relationship between school, home and parish. Let's continue to maintain these relationships, please. It is hard work at times, but it is a worthwhile task so that we can encourage everyone in the parish, in our families and schools to share the responsibility of handing on the gift and the practice of our Catholic faith to the young people of our parish: our ancestors worked hard to give us our beautiful church, let's work hard to give the gift of faith to our young people!

Saturday 1 February 615pm Family Mass with St Mary's Academy for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Saturday 1 March 615pm Family Mass with St Mary's Academy

Saturday 8 March 615pm Family Mass with Painsley followed by a Cake Sale to help raise funds for the young people travelling to Lourdes during the spring half term.

Can you help? Come and join us! We want to expand our team of church cleaners. If you would like to join them, please let me know.

Praying for Vocations to the Priesthood Over the Christmas and New Year period it was great to see Filip at home after the first term at the seminary. He is now on a Parish Pastoral Placement in a Birmingham Parish.

Let's keep up our prayers for an increase in vocations: we can't be complacent about this! The need for priests is great. Please do sign up to the monthly Vocations prayer calendar in the Narthex. Let's encourage the young men in our parish to consider serving God and the Church in this most rewarding and blessed way.

200 Club It is time to renew our subscriptions for the 200 Club. Each number is £1 per month. There is a draw on the last Sunday of each with two cash prizes. If you are in, you may win. Please – we ask – can you use the specially prepared 200 Club envelopes

Holy Days of Obligation in 2025

Wednesday 5 March Ash Wednesday

Sunday 20 April Easter Sunday

Thursday 29 May Ascension Thursday

Sunday 29 June Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles, Martyrs

Friday 15 August Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 2 November All Saints' Day (transferred)

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

Second Collections for 2025

1 -2 March Cathedral Maintenance

15 -16 March CAFOD Fast Day

18 April Holy Places and Shrines in the Holy Land

10 – 11 May Clergy Training Fund

31 May -1 June Catholic Communications

14 -15 June Day for Life

28 – 29 June Peter's Pence

12 -13 July Apostleship of the Sea

13 -14 September Catholic Education Service

20 -21 September Catholic Evangelisation

27 – 28 September Fr Hudson's Caritas

4 -5 October CAFOD

18 – 19 October Missio

1 -2 November Johnson Association

22-23 November Catholic Youth Services

6 -7 December Poor Parishes of the Diocese

North Staffs Deanery Area Pastoral Council Thursday 23 January 7pm at St Wulstan's School, Wolstanton, David McLoughlin will explore Jesus's proclamation of the time of Jubilee, identifying how Jesus was Jubilee alive with his disciples and friends.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 23 January 530pm Sacramental Preparation

Saturday 25 January 11am Sweep and Clean

Sunday 26 January Sunday Social after Mass

Wednesday 19 March St Joseph's Day – Bishop Timothy, the auxiliary bishop will be with us for Mass at 7pm.

Mass attendance	Saturday 4 January 40	Sunday 5 January 58	Saturday 11 January 41	Sunday 12 January 106
Collections	Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 January	Gift Aid £65.00	Non Gift Aid £131.50	Total £196.50
	Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 January	Gift Aid £ 95.00	Non Gift Aid £116.81	Total £211.81

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