

## 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’.**

<b>Saturday 25 January</b>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions <b>THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Sunday of the Word of God</b> <i>Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10; Ps 18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21</i> 6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 26 January</b>	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
<b>Monday 27 January</b>	<b>St Angela Merici – she is depicted in one of the stained glass windows.</b> <i>Hebrews 9:15, 24-28; Ps 97; Mark 3:22-30</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Jacqueline Cunningham RIP
<b>Tuesday 28 January</b> <i>Please note change of time</i>	<b>Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church</b> <i>Hebrews 10:1-10; Ps 39; Mark 3:31-35</i> 9.45am Funeral Mass for the repose of the soul of Betty Moss RIP
<b>Wednesday 29 January</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Hebrews 10:11-18; PS 109; Mark 4:1-20</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 30 January</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Hebrews 10:19-25; Ps 23; Mark 4:21-25</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Mary Nolan (Anniversary)
<b>Friday 31 January</b>	<b>Memorial of St John Bosco, Priest</b> <i>Hebrews 10:32-39; Ps 36; Mark 4:26-34</i> 9.40am Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
<b>Saturday 1 February</b>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions <b>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: World day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</b> <i>Malachi 3:1-4; Ps 23; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40</i> 6.15pm Family Mass For you, the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 2 February</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Mary Szczołka RIP 1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 <a href="mailto:stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Mrs Alice Murray	
<b>St Mary’s Catholic Academy</b>	Mrs G Turner	tel 01538 493888
<b>Painsley Catholic College, Cheadle</b>	Mrs R Waugh	tel 01538 493777
<b>Safeguarding Rep</b>	Mr Malcolm Sproat	<a href="mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
	Archdiocese of Birmingham	tel 0121 230 6240
	NSPCC	tel 0808 800 500
<b>Gift Aid Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs M Lawton	<a href="mailto:ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk">ga.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk</a>
<b>Hospital Chaplaincy</b>	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](mailto:sg.stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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** Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Theresa Maria Bowers, Theresa’s Funeral will take place at Macclesfield Crematorium on Monday 27 January at 1215pm. Betty Moss, Betty’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated here at St Mary’s on Tuesday 28 January at 945am. Agnes Wood, Agnes’s Funeral will take place in Scotland

**Anniversaries for this week:** 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, Dorothy Walker Graham, John Manuel, Richard Byrne, Stephen Christopher Walmsley, Josef Ignatowicz., Mary Winifred Booth, Joseph Carding, Winifred Mary Lovatt, Johanna Williams, May Shaw, Cyril Shenton, Bernard Hargreaves, Albert Stapleton, Eric M Bowcock, Robert E Trafford, Roynance Wakelind, Richard Byrne, George Finney, Mr Charles, James Boyle, John Frain, Nobby Jones, Edith Flanagan, Jack Flanagan, Mr Morgan, Mary Machin, Edith Plant, Jessie Higgins, Doreen Joan Kirkham

Dear Pilgrims of Hope, I must admit that I have been challenged by this mission which the Pope has given to us for this Jubilee Year. All of us, Parish Priests included, experience set backs and disappointments of one kind or another. During the week, I experienced a set back here in the parish: it was a disappointment! I was reminded of the Pope's vision for us to be Pilgrims of Hope. For us, we believe in Jesus who was hope and brought hope to others. Last year, in one of his Pastoral Visits, the Pope who is giving us the mission to live hope said to priests: "Don't give in to the disappointments." They seemed warm words at the time. During this week, these words became a challenge and then later a resilient mission.

The Jubilee of Hope is time of renewal and an occasion for action. The action is hope. Let's let our hope guide us through the disappointments and persevere with faith even if it has sustained some dents and scratches on the way.

**This weekend, the Church observes Sunday of the Word of God** This is an initiative of Pope Francis to remind us of the importance of the Word of God, the Bible. This also includes our personal reading and understanding of the Bible as well as its proclamation in church during Mass and the other sacraments.

During the Masses this weekend, those who I have appointed to be Readers in our parish will be blessed for their crucial ministry. Everyone who helps at Mass: Altar Servers, Sacristans, Musicians and Singers do so in a way that serves the act of worship: they are there to help us meet Christ rather than meet the individual reading or singing.

During our Masses this weekend, it is a great occasion to bring your Bible so that it can be blessed.

**Churches Together in Leek and District Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** I am very grateful for your support last Monday when we lead the prayers for Christian Unity at Trinity Church. **Today (Sunday)** there is a Service for Christian Unity at St Edward's church at 4pm.

**Next weekend, 1- 2 February** The Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Before both Masses the blessing of candles will take place.

**Parish Finance Report for 2023** Please find available at the back of church the Parish Finance Report for 2023. I am incredibly grateful to the Parish Finance Committee for their support and for compiling the report.

**New Weekday Missals** Following the introduction of the New Lectionary and the new ESV-CE translation of the Bible, we are able to begin orders for Weekday Missals. This new missal will be released on 30 April and will cost £55. If you would like to order one, please complete one of the envelopes which are available at the back of the church. Please return the envelope including payment by 10 April 2025.

**New Altar Servers' albs** The new albs have been ordered. It would be really good to start a rota for the washing of the albs (they don't need ironing). It would be good that as many people can help with this and that we don't assume that someone else will do it. I would be keen that we can keep the new albs in a good condition. If you can help, please let Fr Martin know.

**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. It is hard work to maintain the working relationship between home – school – parish. Over the last 30 years or so, this working relationship has suffered from a number of complacencies. Let's all work together to maintain the mission of the parish, our schools and homes. These are the dates of our next Family Masses:

**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.

**Your donations to St Mary's** I am incredibly grateful to you for your financial support to our parish. Your donation goes towards a number of items including maintenance. Over the Christmas and New Year period the gutters on the church and presbytery were cleaned. The bill was over £2600 which included hiring a high level platform and labour costs.

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 are now two contactless giving terminals. There is the QR code. We want to encourage all UK Taxpayers to sign up to Gift Aid – when you sign this, for every £1 you give, the UK Government will add an extra 25pence.

**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.

**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

#### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 30 January** 530pm Sacramental Preparation

**Sunday 26 January** Sunday Social after Mass

**Thursday 6 February** 4pm Parish Council

**Saturday 8 February** 1130am RCIA

**Thursday 13 February** 12noon for 1230pm Chips and Chat

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

#### Mass attendance Collections

Saturday 18 January 46      Sunday 19 January 87  
Saturday 18 - Sunday 18 January      Gift Aid £65.00

Non Gift Aid £131.25      Total £196.25

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