

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 4 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (<i>transferred from Monday 6 January</i>) <i>Isaiah 60:1-6; PS 71; Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12</i> 6.15pm Mass Clive Owen (CO) RIP	
Sunday 5 January	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Januz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int) 1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction	
Monday 6. January	Christmas Feria <i>1 John 3:22-4:6; Ps 2; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25</i> 11am Whole School Mass (<i>contingency Mass will be celebrated in school</i>) Helena Connor RIP (PC)	
Tuesday 7 January	Christmas Feria <i>1 John 4:7-10; Ps 71; Mark 6:34-44</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Ray Cossburn RIP	
Wednesday 8 January	Christmas Feria <i>1 John 4:11-18; PS 71; Mark 6:45-52</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion	
Thursday 9 January	Christmas Feria <i>1 John 4:19-5:4; Ps 71; Luke 4:14-22</i> 8.30am Mass Cliff Armstrong RIP	
Friday 10 January	Christmas Feria <i>1 John 5:5-13; PS 147; Luke 5:12-16</i> 9.40am Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.	
Saturday 11 January	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 103; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22</i> 6.15pm Family Mass For you, the People of the Parish	
Sunday 12 January	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Dennis and Martyn Wilkes 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 pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Fred Sheldon and Fr Brain Boyle SCJ.

Anniversaries for this week: Ellen Coughlan Waclaw Cztoch, Beryl Mary Davenport, Elizabeth Hirst, William Murfin, Vincent Harvey, Freda Milward, Albert Aleksander Menke, Joan Longthorn, George Clulow, John Nicholson, Elizabeth Barnes, Sister Zena Carus OCV, Muriel Galton, Pauline Teresa Pointon, Raymond Evan Cossburn, Winifred Mary Kearns, Wladyslawa (Gladys) Hryciuk, Rose Esther Birchenough, Ethel Titterton, Irene Collier, Anthony William, Rutter, Mary Ellen (Eileen) Swann*, William Davenport, Molly Brookes, George Bernard Adams, John Morgan Ellen Barlow, Jerzy (George) Kowalski, Catherine Ellen Jarvis (Kay)

Dear Pilgrims of Hope, let's "Love one another and Christ has loved us" and seek Eucharistic Glory.

I am very grateful to you for your incredibly generous Christmas offering, cards and gifts. I am thankful to you for your kind generosity to me!

We are having an amazing Christmas, here at St Mary's It has been very encouraging for everyone to see a good number of people all our Masses over the Christmas and New Year period.

Let's seek Eucharistic Glory This weekend, the Gospel reading at Mass takes us to the Nativity Scene once again, this time with the Magi, the Wise Men. Yes! It is still Christmas. Let's make the journey together to Christ.

How are you doing with the book, [33 Days to Eucharistic Glory](#)? Keep going: it is worth it. Let's make this spiritual pilgrimage together. This brilliant spiritual guide book is helping a number of us to make the pilgrimage to Christ at every Mass.

If you didn't get your copy, there are still copies available at church.

Epiphany Blessing This weekend, 4 – 5 January, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord; it has been transferred from Monday 6 January. There is a good family custom of the Epiphany House Blessing. Before the two Masses, chalk will be blessed and available to take home to mark the entrance door with the current year and the inscription CBM, the initials of Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior, the traditional names of the Magi. The inscription also stands for the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "Christ bless this home."

With the blessed chalk write near the door to your home: 20 +C +M +B 25

Prayer for the blessing of the home Peace to this house and all who live here! During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this festival of the Epiphany of the Lord. Through the guidance of a star, the coming of Jesus was made known to the Gentiles. We celebrate Christ made known to the Magi, to John the Baptist at the River Jordan and to the disciples at the wedding feast at Cana.

Today Christ in made known to us! Today this home is a holy place! The Magi came from the east to Bethlehem to adore the new born Christ.

Lord our God, bless our home and all who live here. May we be filled with health, kindness of heart, gentleness, obedience to your law. Help us to love and to serve one another, making your presence known by the we care for each other. May your blessing remain upon this house and all who live here. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Personal Prayer during the Christmas Season During this Christmas Season, do visit the Christmas Nativity Scene in the church after Mass to say a prayer for your home and family. Here is another extract from Pope Francis's Apostolic Letter on the meaning and importance of the Christmas crib.

"The Magi teach us that people can come to Christ by a very long route. Men of wealth, sages from afar, athirst for the infinite, they set out on the long and perilous journey that would lead them to Bethlehem (cf. Mt 2:1-12). Great joy comes over them in the presence of the Infant King. They are not scandalized by the poor surroundings, but immediately fall to their knees to worship him. Kneeling before him, they understand that the God who with sovereign wisdom guides the course of the stars also guides the course of history, casting down the mighty and raising up the lowly. Upon their return home, they would certainly have told others of this amazing encounter with the Messiah, thus initiating the spread of the Gospel among the nations."

New school term This week, the new school term will start. Please do keep both our local Catholic Schools in your prayers! The purpose of the Catholic School is to assist parents as they teach their children the ways of faith.

On Monday morning we are expected to have a Whole School Mass in church at 11am for St Mary's. However, if the weather is inclement, the location of Mass will have to be changed. Please keep tuned to the Parish Facebook page.

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.

Praying for Vocations to the Priesthood Over the last two weeks it has been great to see Filip while he is home from 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.

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.

Churches Together in Leek and District: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Here are some of the events taking place this year

Sunday 19 January – Exchange Sunday – it is customary that parishioners from another Christian church visit us here at St Mary's while we send parishioners to another church. We haven't heard about these arrangements. I invite someone or some to be our representatives: please remember your obligation to be at Mass.

Monday 20 January – Midday at Trinity church, Derby Street, we are due to lead the daily prayers.

Mass attendance	Saturday 21 December 39	Sunday 22 December 85	Christmas: Vigil 187; Midnight 81; Day 90
	Saturday 28 December 26	Sunday 29 December 86	

Collections	Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 December	Gift Aid £24.00	Non Gift Aid £81.29	Total £105.29
	Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 December	Gift Aid £65.00	Non Gift Aid £184.17	Total £249.17

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