

## 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 1 February</b>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions <b>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD:</b> <i>World day of Prayer for Consecrated Life</i> <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 Szczotka RIP 1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language 4pm Rosary and Benediction
<b>Monday 3 February</b>	<b>Memorial of St Blaise:</b> <i>after Mass the customary blessing of throats</i> <i>Hebrews 11:32-40; Ps 30; Mark 5:1-20</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass John Lynch (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
<b>Tuesday 4 February</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <i>Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 102; Mark 5:21-43</i> 9. 9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Margaret Jackson (JA)
<b>Wednesday 5 February</b>	<b>Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr</b> <i>Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 102; Mark 6:1-6</i> 9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
<b>Thursday 6 February</b> <i>Please note change of time</i>	<b>Memorial of St Paul Miki, and companions, Martyrs</b> <i>Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 47; Mark 6:7-13</i> 8.30am Mass Tony, Billy and Julia Lynch RIP
<b>Friday 7 February</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time: First Friday</b> <i>Hebrews 13:1-8; Ps 26; Mark 6:14-29</i> 9.40am Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
<b>Saturday 8 February</b>	10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions <b>FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:</b> <i>Day of Prayer for the victims of Human Trafficking</i> <i>Isaiah 6:1-8; Ps 137; 1Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11</i> 6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 9 February</b>	9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office 10am Mass Piotr Zwierski 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 0800 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 February** For vocations to the priesthood and religious life Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life

**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 soul of Agnes Wood, Agnes’s Funeral will take place in Scotland, Please pray for the repose of the soul of Thelma Swiercz: Thelma’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated, here at St Mary’s on Thursday 13 February at 10am.

**Anniversaries for this week:** Joseph Carding Winifred Mary Lovatt, Johanna Williams, May Shaw, Cyril Shenton, Bernard Hargreaves, Albert Stapleton, Eric M Bowcock, Robert E Trafford, Roylance 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, Eleanor Roby, Jess Jones, Jean Margery Bowyer, Maureen Ann Jones, Leonard Folga, Mabel Leese, Eileen Johnson, Winifred Mary Boswell, Margaret Whittaker, Anthony John Hammond, William Manuel, Mary Agnes Mitchell, Paul Kurdziej, Kathleen Leek, Catherine Birch, Margaret Mary Williams, Jeffrey Hugh Proctor, Denis Ball, Jeffrey Nixon

Dear friends, let's continue seek Eucharistic Glory together!

This weekend, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord instead of the Sunday in Ordinary Time and this occasion only takes place once every 5 or 6 years. Today's Feast celebrates the first century Jewish tradition of parents, following the Law of God, the Torah, and taking their child to the Temple in Jerusalem. It is a conclusion to the celebration of Christmas!

In the Christian tradition, this Feast is also known as Candlemas and is the occasion when the candles to be used at Mass in church are blessed. Before both weekend Masses there will be the customary blessing of candles and a procession.

**Piety Stall Sale** From this weekend and for the next few weeks, we shall have a Piety Stall Sale. The Piety stall is our way of promoting that Gift of the Holy Spirit which we receive at the Sacrament of Confirmation and encouraging our personal prayer lives; it is also a way in which the parish can earn some income from the selling of prayerbooks, crucifixes, cards and rosary beads.

For the next few weeks there will be a 50% reduction on crucifixes, rosaries and prayer books. All cards will be sold at 4 cards for £1.

**Your donation to St Mary's Parish** I am very grateful for your personal financial support to our parish. In the last few days we have received the news that the Leek branches of Nat West and Halifax will both be closing in the next few weeks. We will not be able to use the Post Office as the service which is offered is only for personal customers. This will have a huge impact on us and I have to ask for your help.

When these branches close it will become difficult to pay cash into the parish bank account. We, like all the other customers, have been offered alternative branches in Hanely, Congleton and Macclesfield: these suggestions are unrealistic and unreasonable.

Can you consider making your financial donation to our parish in other, cash less, ways. For instance:

- Can you set up a Standing Order from your account, please? This is completely safe for you and you have control. There are mandates available at the back of the church. Complete these and send to your own bank.
- Could you use the contactless donation terminals. These are completely safe. They give you power over your donation.
- Could you give your donation with a cheque? For weekly offertory collection, please make cheques payable to BRCDTR St Mary's, Leek.
- Could you use the QR code here on the Parish Newsletter: this gives you complete control over your donation.
- Could you, if you are a UK Taxpayer, sign up to Gift Aid – when you sign this, for every £1 you give, the UK Government will add an extra 25pence.



**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.

**New Altar Servers' albs** The new albs have arrived! Some of the servers have tried on their new albs: they will be the best altar servers for miles around! 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.

**Sacramental Preparation** I am very grateful to the parents of children preparing for First Communion and Confirmation for ensuring that they are 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.

This weekend, I have a project for all the young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Can parents ensure that their child collects the task from me at the end of Mass when their Mass Attendance cards are signed, please.

**Can you help? Come and join us!** We have received some great offers of help for our cleaning team. 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. Following an excellent Parish Placement, he returns to Spain this weekend.

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** We have a few numbers left for the 200 club the more numbers we sell, the bigger the prizes. Each month we have a draw with 2 prizes to be won. Please fill in an envelope at the back of Church, payment can be made by cheque or by card at for just £12 per year. Jane and/or Maureen Wilde will be at the back of church this weekend if you have any questions.

#### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 6 February** 4pm Parish Council

**Saturday 8 February** 1130am RCIA

**Thursday 13 February** 12noon for 1230pm Chips and Chat –  
POSTPONED DUE TO FUNERAL

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

**Leek Almshouses** There are currently 2 first storey flats which are available on Compton. The charity provides housing for needy persons who are member of the Church of England and live within 5 miles of the Market Square, Leek. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact [leekalmshouses@gmail.com](mailto:leekalmshouses@gmail.com)

#### Mass attendance Collections

Saturday 25 January 38      Sunday 26 January 97  
Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 January      Gift Aid £98.00

Non Gift Aid £99.30

Total £197.30

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