

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

Tel 01538 382385

Email stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk

Facebook @stmaryleek

**“Our vision is to be a Catholic Parish living Christ’s command,
‘Love one another as I have loved you’.**

- Saturday 12 April** 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments
Isaiah 50:4-7; Ps 21; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56
- Sunday 13 April** 6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish
9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
10am Mass Janusz Szura-Zwierski (Spec Int)
1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language
4pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction
- Monday 14 April** **Monday of Holy Week**
Isaiah 42:1-7 Ps 26; John 12:1-11
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Dermott McBride RIP
- Tuesday 15 April** **Tuesday of Holy Week**
Isaiah 49: 1-6; Ps 70; John 13:21-33, 36-38
9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Margaret Catterson (Anniversary)
- Wednesday 16 April** **Wednesday of Holy Week: Spy Wednesday**
Isaiah 50:4-9; Ps 68; Matthew 26:14-25
9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
- Thursday 17 April** **Thursday of Holy Week: Holy Thursday**
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; PS 115; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15
7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper Francis John Hall RIP
- Friday 18 April** **Good Friday: Day of Fasting and Abstinence**
10am Stations of the Cross for Children and Young People
3pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross and Confessions
- Saturday 19 April** **Holy Saturday**
10am Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows and Confessions
1.30pm Blessing of Food
SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: Easter Sunday
Genesis 1-18; Ps 16; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Canticle Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, Romans 6:3-11; Ps 118; Luke 24:1-12
8pm Easter Vigil Patrick Duffy (First Anniversary)
- Sunday 20 April** 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118; Colossians 3:1-4; Luke 24:1-12
10am Mass Peter Rushe RIP followed by Easter Raffle draw and Sunday Social

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 0808 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 April For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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.

Anniversaries for this week: Peter Sullivan, Mildred Taaffe, Francis (Frank) Rushton, Sister Charles Irwin IBVM, Mrs Gandolfo, Stefan Drozd, Margaret Alice Fairclough, Marie Thraves, Sister Mercedes Doyle I.B.V.M., Mary Veronica Browning, Charles Gell, William Walmsley, Euhenia Elkowicz (Gienia), Dorothy May Sheldon, Dorothy Rose Forrester, Hannah Pernice, Charles Thorley,, Jack Morris Shufflebotham, Margaret Edith Hoyland

Dear friends, this is Holy Week! Let's live the vision Christ gave to us at the Last Supper to "Love one another as he has loved us." (see John 13:34)
This is the most important week in the Christian calendar. This week, we will celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. The Gospel will come alive!
I believe that this most sacred time is an occasion for God's blessings on our parish, our homes and families, our Catholic Schools and our personal lives of discipleship. Let's expect great things of God this week!
Let's focus on Christ this week. Let's follow him.

I need some help with some of the celebrations

Holy Thursday 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper - there are still some spaces for the Washing of Feet. This involves me pouring warm water over your feet; bring a towel. If you can help, sign the list at the back of the church.

Good Friday 10am Stations of the Cross for children and young people - If any young or young at heart people can help with some readings, please let me know!

Easter Sunday 10am Mass - children are invited to help with singing!

Confessions – the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Here are the times and locations for Confessions during Holy Week

Monday 14 April 7pm St Augustine's, Meir

Friday 18 April, 7pm Here – during the Stations of the Cross

Saturday 19 April, 10am Here – during Devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows

Easter Duties The time to complete our Easter Duties has begun; it began on Ash Wednesday. The Church knows the great spiritual benefits which we enjoy from the Resurrection of the Lord and we are obliged as Catholics to make our Easter Duties. That is: going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion, going to Confession during Lent and the Easter Season; in our diocese, this period is extended to Trinity Sunday which this year falls on 15 June.

Altar Servers There will be some short rehearsals ahead of the Holy Week celebrations:

Holy Thursday at 640pm - Good Friday at 240pm and Holy Saturday at 1030am

Piety Stall This week sees our relaunched Piety Stall, with lots of new cards for all occasions, gifts for First Communion and Confirmation, a wide variety of statues and crucifixes, and lots of rosary beads. There are many smaller items too, as well as items for children. Please take a look and support them.

Please write to Dame Karen Bradley MP The Third Reading of the Assisted Suicide Bill will take place on Friday 25 April. This Bill does not uphold the sanctity and dignity of human life. Please write to Karen, asking her to vote against the Bill at its forthcoming Third Reading. At the back of the church, there are some prepared postcards from the group "Not Yet Dead UK" who have written to every Parish in the country; these cards have evidence based reasons to oppose the Bill.

Let's seek Eucharistic Glory The Mass is the greatest act of worship that we can offer to God. Let's delve into the great love and respect that Christ shows us at Mass: this is the source of our life and summit towards which our family life, our parish mission, our teaching of the children, our care for the lonely, isolated is directed.

Holy Water There are some bottles of Holy Water available for parishioners to collect from the back of the church. There is also a large container from which you can fill up your Holy Water bottle. Holy Water is used to remind us of our Baptism. When we enter the church, we make the sign of the Cross with Holy Water and we can do this at home: it is a very good practice!

Your donation to St Mary's Parish I am very grateful for your personal financial support to our parish. In the last few weeks we have received the news that the Leek branches of Nat West and Halifax will both be closing in the next few weeks. 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 Hanley, 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 at the back of church: 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.

Here's a message from Veronica - she has done an amazing sponsored Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. If you have sponsored her or would like to sponsor her, she will be at the back of the church after Mass.

"With a few days left, I'm well on target to complete 200km of walking before the end of Lent! A big thank you for the generous support so far, let's see if we can raise a little more. "

Dates for your diary

Monday 14 April, 2025 11am RCIA - rehearsal for the Sacraments

Tuesday 15 April, 2025 Church Cleaning after Mass, followed by Hot Cross buns and tea

North Staffordshire Deanery

Monday 21 April 10am at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, Easter Monday Men's Mass in Honour of the Blessed Sacrament. Principal celebrant: Bishop Timothy

Monday 28 April 7pm at St Wolstan's School, Wulstanton a talk by Phil Mayland on the "Joy of the Gospel"

10 -12 July, 2025 Deanery Eucharistic Congress The priests and deacons of the Deanery have decided to mark the Jubilee Year with the celebration of a Eucharistic Congress. It will begin on Thursday 10 July with 7pm Mass at Sacred Heart church, Tunstall; Friday 11 July will be a day for all the schools in the Deanery; and, Saturday 12 July, at St Margaret Ward School, a Conference with speakers, Mass and Eucharistic Procession.

Second collections

Friday 18 April Annual collection for the shrines and holy places in the Holy Land.

Easter Masses This collection is for the Parish Priest and forms a major part of his income

Mass attendance Saturday 5 April 60 – Sunday 6 April 119 – this is brilliant! It's encouraging to see a full church! Let's fill the church!

Collections Saturday 5 - Sunday 6 April Gift Aid £20.00 Non Gift Aid £143.31 Total £163.31

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