

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 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

Monday 21 April

Easter Monday, Solemnity

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 15; Matthew 28:8-15

Please note change of time

10.40am Rosary 11am Mass Grahame Savage RIP (GC)

Tuesday 22 April

Easter Tuesday, Solemnity

Acts 2:36-41; PS 32; John 20:11-18

Please note change of time

10.40am Rosary 11am Mass Christopher O'Reilly (Anniversary)

Wednesday 23 April

Easter Wednesday, Solemnity

Acts 3:1-10; Ps 104; Luke 24:13-35

Please note change of time

10.40am Rosary 11am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 24 April

Easter Thursday, Solemnity

Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8; Luke 24:35-48

Friday 25 April

Easter Friday, Solemnity

Acts 4:1-12; Ps 117; John 21:1-14

Please note change of time

10.40am Rosary 11am Mass Margaret Delicata RIP

Saturday 26 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER: *Low Sunday; Divine Mercy Sunday*

Acts 5:12-16; PS 117; Apocalypse 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

6.15pm Mass To celebrate the Marriage of Thomas & Isobel at St Mary's, Trinidad and Tobago

Sunday 27 April

9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office

10am Mass Sue and Tony Ellis RIP (ML & MW)

1.30 Mass in the Polish Language

4pm Rosary and Benediction

Anniversaries for this week: Hannah Pernice, Charles Thorley, Jack Morris Shufflebotham, Margaret Edith Hoyland, Lucy Moon, Margaret Winifred Salt, Susan Frances Ellis, Margaret Delicata, Peter Harry Lowe, Clifford Mayers, Agnes Sullivan, Gladys Byatt

Monday 28 April

Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England: *Transferred from 23 April*

Apocalypse 12:10-12; Ps 125; 2 Tim 2:8-13, 3:10-12; Luke 9:23-26

9.40am Rosary 10am Mass David Egan

Tuesday 29 April

Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe

1 John 1:5-2:2; Ps 102; Matthew 11:25-30

Wednesday 30 April

Easter Feria

Acts 5:17-26; Ps 33; John 3:16-21

9.40am Rosary 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

Thursday 1 May

Memorial of St Joseph the Worker

Acts 5:27-33; Ps 33; Matthew 13:54-58

Friday 2 May

Memorial of St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church: *First Friday*

Acts 5:34-42; PS 26; John 6:1-15

Please note change of time

11am Whole School Mass Doreen Anderson Ints

Saturday 3 May

10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Ps 29; Apocalypse 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

6.15pm Mass For you, the People of the Parish

Sunday 4 May

9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office

10am Mass Piotr Zwierski RIP

1.30 Mass in the Polish Language

4pm Rosary and Benediction

Anniversaries for this week: Clifford Mayers, Agnes Sullivan, Gladys Byatt, William Challinor, Nora Brown, Wladyslaw Hryciuk, Stanislaw "Stasha" Bielecka, Sister Philomena O'Brien I.B.V.M, Terry Murphy, Moira Gabriel, David Briggs, Alice Laskowski, Katherine Butler, May Gladys Flannigan, Mary Machin, Thomas Ball, James Campbell, May Elizabeth Notter, Michael Baratynski, Edward Stepek, Kathleen Fairbanks, Jan Urbanczyk, Albert Grain, Jean Ball, Mr Brindley, Francis Borkowski, Irene Haywood, Mary Ansell, Ida Alice Bowcock, Boadicea Marren, Brenda Burnett Gibson, Avery Mary Biddulph, Christine McDonnell, Josephine Mary Thompson, Les Oliver, Kathleen Mary Patricia Pointon, Kristina Bernadette Tilbury, Bernard Joseph Dawson, Christopher Birch

Parish Priest	Fr Martin Pratt	tel 01538 382385 stmary.leek@rcaob.org.uk
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Hospital Chaplaincy	University Hospital North Midlands	tel 01782 676400
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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.

Dear friends, Happy Easter! I pray that the Risen Lord will bless your homes and families, the staff, governors and children at our Catholic Schools, our personal lives of faith and discipleship.

This weekend, the whole Church around the world celebrates the Resurrection. This year both Christians in the west and the Christians in the east celebrate Easter on the same day. This is does not happen every year. This year both calendars unite on the date of Easter.

Let continue to "Love one another as Christ has loved us." (See John 13:34) The Resurrection of the Lord gives us fresh incentive to continue the mission in our parish. Let's receive good encouragement from the Lord and extend to each other the goodness and the wholeness that he grants to us.

A special Newsletter this week This edition of the Parish Newsletter is a double edition for both the weekend of Easter and the first weekend after Easter.

Low Sunday in Albis On the Sunday which follows Easter, now known as the Second Sunday of Easter, is the last day of the eight days which continue the celebration of Easter Sunday known as the Octave of Easter.

The "in albis" or "in white" refers to the newly baptised return to church wearing their white baptismal garments as a sign of witness to their new baptised status.

This Second Sunday of Easter is also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, recognizing the relatively new devotion to the Divine Mercy which was promoted by St Faustina. The Divine Mercy devotion acknowledges, as does the more traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart, the beautiful mercy the Lord has for us. There are some leaflets with the prayers for this devotion at the back of the church.

There are Divine Mercy devotions at St Augustine's, Meir, on Sunday 27 April :

- 2pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession
- 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3.30pm Mass

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.

Piety Stall Our Piety Stall has been relaunched 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.

North Staffordshire Deanery – 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.

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!

What to do with Palm Crosses Last weekend, the topic of what to do with Palm Crosses from previous years was raised. Please do not discard your Palm Crosses in the household waste or recycling. It is customary - and proper - to burn Palm Crosses for the Ash on Ash Wednesday. This shows us that we can make irreversible changes in our lives during Lent with God's help and grace. For the time being, hold on to your Palm Crosses. In due course, we can collect them and use them for Ash Wednesday next year.

Your donation to St Mary's Parish I am very grateful for your personal financial support to our parish. We know 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 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 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

Friday 2 May 11am Whole School Mass in church

Thursday 8 May 4pm Parish Council Meeting

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, Wolstanton a talk by Phil Mayland on the "Joy of the Gospel"

Second collections

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

Mass attendance Saturday 12 April 37 – Sunday 13 April 115 – this is brilliant! This is 5 weeks above 100 at Sunday Mass.

Collections Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 April Gift Aid £30.00 Non Gift Aid £148.45
Total £178.45

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

Here's an extract from the Catechism of the Catholic Church on the Resurrection of the Lord.

Paragraph 2. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

638 "We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus." The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

Christ is risen from the dead!

Dying, he conquered death;

To the dead, he has given life

I. THE HISTORICAL AND TRANSCENDENT EVENT

639 The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56 St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. . ." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.

The empty tomb

640 "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." The first element we encounter in the framework of the Easter events is the empty tomb. In itself it is not a direct proof of Resurrection; the absence of Christ's body from the tomb could be explained otherwise. Nonetheless the empty tomb was still an essential sign for all. Its discovery by the disciples was the first step toward recognizing the very fact of the Resurrection. This was the case, first with the holy women, and then with Peter. The disciple "whom Jesus loved" affirmed that when he entered the empty tomb and discovered "the linen cloths lying there", "he saw and believed". This suggests that he realized from the empty tomb's condition that the absence of Jesus' body could not have been of human doing and that Jesus had not simply returned to earthly life as had been the case with Lazarus.