

**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 19 July</b>                   | 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions<br><b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br><i>Genesis 18:1-10; PS 14; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42</i><br>6.15pm Mass Bridget Hills RIP           |                   |  |
| <b>Sunday 20 July</b>                     | 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office<br>10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish<br>1.30pm Mass in the Polish Language   |                   |  |
| <b>Monday 21 July</b>                     | <b>Feria Ordinary Time</b><br><i>Exodus 14:5-18; EX 15; Matthew 12:38-42</i><br><i>Please note change of time</i> 8.30am Mass John O'Conner (INTS)  |                   |  |
| <b>Tuesday 22 July</b>                    | <b>Feast of St Mary Magdalene</b><br><i>Song of Songs 3:1-4; PS 62; John 20:1-2, 11-18</i>  |                   |  |
| <b>Wednesday 23 July</b>                  | <b>Feast of St Bridget, Religious, Patron of Europe: Day of Prayer for Europe</b><br><i>Galatians 2:19-20; PS 33; John 15:1-8</i><br>9.40am Rosay 10am Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion                       |                   |  |
| <b>Thursday 24 July</b>                   | <b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b><br><i>Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20; Dan 3:52-56; Matthew 13:10-17</i><br><i>Please note change of time</i> 6.40pm Rosary 7pm Mass Edward Szczotka RIP                                   |                   |  |
| <b>Friday 25 July</b>                     | <b>Feast of St James, Apostle</b><br><i>2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Ps 125; Matthew 20:20-28</i><br>9.40am Rosary 10am Mass Dean Kavrane  |                   |  |
| <b>Saturday 26 July</b>                   | 10am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions<br><b>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br><i>Genesis 18:20-32; PS 137; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13</i><br>6.15pm Mass Lawrence Baxter RIP (AB) |                   |  |
| <b>Sunday 27 July</b>                     | 9.30am Morning Prayer from the Divine Office<br>10am Mass For you, the People of the Parish<br>11.30am Sacrament of Baptism<br>4pm Rosary and Benediction   |                   |  |
| <b>Parish Priest</b>                      | Fr Martin Pratt   | tel: 01538382385  | <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 July** For formation in discernment. Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

**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** Chris Rea, Kathryn Higginbotham, Norman Syddall, Andrew Clifford, Janusz Szura- Zwierski, Fr Anthony Dykes, Madeline Horter, Anne Malkin, Tom Gronkiewicz, Deacon Stephen Saum, Jaz Byrd.  
*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.*

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed** We pray for the repose of Stan Jones. Stan’s Funeral Mass will be celebrated here at St Mary’s on Monday 4 August at 11am followed by the Committal at Carmountside at 1245pm.  
We pray for the repose of the souls of Deacon Brian Cox, permanent deacon of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, and Deacon Adrian Davies

**Anniversaries for this week:** Zbigniew Turek, Maria Britton, Josephine Margaret Wright, Mary Lydia Bridgett, Kathleen Mary Salt, Amelia Klara Chudyk, Lilian Frances Harasimow, Stefan Salak, Mary Washington, Margaret Pulham, Marion Hawkins, Lancelot (Lance) William Gell, Elsie Tideswell, Muriel Heath, Eric Mills

Dear friends **Mass in the Polish Language** I was very surprised to learn last Monday that it has been decided that the Polish Mass will be ceased with immediate effect. For over 80 years there has been a wonderful collaboration of faith and life between both the English and Polish Communities. This week's Polish Mass will be the final celebration of Mass in the Polish Language here in Leek. If you are free to be present – it may mean being at two Masses this weekend – it would be a gesture of fraternity.

In related news, Fr Jacek, the Polish Parish Priest has also been asked to move to a new parish in Swindon. We wish him well in his new appointment and welcome Fr Mateusz who will be the Parish Administrator of the Stoke Polish Parish.

**We have received some incredibly good news!** Before the pandemic, we had plans drawn up to restore the sanctuary in our beautiful church. This restoration will include rebuilding the original stone altar, constructing a new tabernacle setting which includes the gradine on which the big 6 candles and flowers can be placed; the fabrication of a new lectern in keeping with the rebuilt altar and tabernacle setting; and, some additional items including a new carpet in the sanctuary, some electrical works, the purchase of new altar cloths, changes to the benches and the revarnishing and reupholstering of the priest's chair. These plans have now been revised and I am delighted to let you know that we are incredibly fortunate to have the resources to commit to this project. We have asked for and received the Archbishop's assurance that our church will not be closed. The planning permission and the Ecclesiastical faculty have been applied for, and if all goes to plan, we will have – in effect – a new church in time for Christmas!

I am very keen to involve everyone in this! First, I need your prayers and we should all pray for each other! One Hail Mary each day from everyone would be brilliant! Let's expect great things from Our Lady! Second, I need your support in thousand different ways: we share the responsibility for our parish: let's work together! Next, I want everyone to be part of sharing the responsibility for the parish: young and old alike: no one is excluded. There is one group I am trying to reach: parents of children and young people in our Catholic Schools: we want your children to have a part in our parish and to see their faith in God grow! And, finally, if you want to make a financial contribution to some of the smaller additional works those donations would be gratefully received.

I want to us to look forward to 2027 which will be the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of our beautiful church. I would like the Archbishop to dedicate or consecrate our church: the dedication of a church is to a church what baptism and confirmation are to a person. We have lots to do. So, let's get to work!

#### **Let's revive the following ...**

**Collections at Sunday Mass** We are now ready to restore collections during the Sunday 10am Mass only. I have made contact with some parishioners who are willing to help with this so that it is in good order and can be part of the offertory procession.

**Collections at Saturday Mass** At present, the collection at Saturday evening Mass will remain a collection at the end of Mass.

**Votive candles** Votive candles in front of the statues of St Mary and St Joseph are up and running! Some candles will be lit before Mass: I want the church to look like a church. However, we cannot restore the other candle stands due to matters of fire safety and health and safety.

**Rosary prayer group** Before weekday Mass we have an excellent custom of praying the rosary: this is outstanding! We shall restore people led prayers.

**Mass at school** From the beginning of September, I would like to invite parishioners to Mass in school. It is incredibly important – more than ever before – that we work together to hand on the gift of faith to the children and young people in our care and to reach out to families, encouraging them to be at Mass in church on Sunday. For a number of decades there has been a successful working relationship between school – home – parish. When we work together and expect great things from God amazing things happen! The children and young people at school need to see good role models from our parish practising faith by being at Mass: the faith impact you have on the children at school during Mass is huge!

**St Mary's Parish Gift Aid Appeal** Two weeks ago, we made an appeal for parishioners to continue or sign up to the gift aid scheme.

We share the responsibility to maintain our beautiful church and grounds and I am incredibly grateful to you for your financial donations to the parish along side your generous sharing of your time and professional skills.

The UK Government supports charities like the church by increasing your donations if you are a UK taxpayer. The Gift Aid scheme allows the church to claim an additional 25p per every £1 you generously donate. So your £1 is worth £1.25. If you are willing to sign up to this scheme it will make the world of difference for our parish. We don't ask any personal details; we ask for some information which is kept private and confidential. Please ask Marie Lawton our Gift Aid Administrator for more information.

I am incredibly grateful to those who have signed up following the appeal. Thank you for your kind generosity.

**33 Days to Eucharistic Glory** – a change of plan. We will meet on Thursday 7 August at 10am in the church. We have read the book and made an Act of Consecration, now we can learn more together. On some Thursdays during the summer, let's reflect on the importance of Mass and the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

#### **First Holy Communion and Confirmation for 2026 - For parents of Catholic children in School Years 5 and 2**

In the last few weeks we have celebrated First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. They were uplifting occasions for our school, families and our parish!

I am asking for your support, please! I want all the children to have a part in the life and mission of our parish especially at Sunday Mass. I want their faith in God to grow strong. I know that you are incredibly proud to see you children having a role of responsibility in church!

Here is some important information concerning sacramental preparation for parents and carers of children in school years 2 and 5 whose children will be due to receive First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation during the next school year.

**Meeting for parents in church during September** Thursday 11 September at 4pm in church.

**Sunday Mass during term time** I invite all children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and their families to join us for Sunday Mass in church every Sunday during the school term time. You will be most welcome! It will be great to see you! Being at Mass either on Saturday evening at 615pm or Sunday morning at 10am is part of our Catholic life of faith.

Each child will have a Mass Attendance and Activity Card. There is one card for each half term of the School Year. These will be available in early September from me at the end of Mass.

Each week at the end of either Saturday Mass or Sunday Mass the children will have to complete a short activity and have their attendance card stamped as proof of attendance.

The activity is prepared so that children can learn about our parish church and Catholic traditions.

If you and your child are not able to be at St Mary's for either Saturday Mass or Sunday Mass, priests in other Catholic churches will sign the attendance card.

Mass Attendance and Activity Cards will be checked at the end of each half term.

**Sacramental Preparation classes** These will take place in school from January 2026. Attendance at these class is obligatory. More details will be available during the autumn term.

**Jubilee 2025** These are the next Jubilee Days. For more information visit [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va)

**28 July – 3 Aug** Jubilee of Youth

**15 September** Jubilee of Consolation

**28 – 29 July** Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers

#### **Dates for your diary**

**Weekend of 26 – 27 July** CAFOD Appeal

**Thursday 31 July** 4pm Parish Council Meeting in the presbytery

**Saturday 2 August** 11am Sweep and Clean

**Thursday 14 August** Day of Prayer for Vocations

**Thurs 14 – Fri 15 August** Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Holy Day of Obligation: there will be two Masses: Thurs 14 Aug at 230pm and Frid 15 Aug at 7pm.

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