



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. Parish Office: 01257 262665. E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Presbytery: St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Second Sunday of Lent



Second Sunday of Lent. Year A. 1st March	8.30am	Rita Carney, RIP
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mon 2nd March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Graham & Cara Cottam & Family
Tuesday 3rd March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Marjorie, Joseph & Raymond Miller
Wednesday 4th March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Russel & Jane McKenna & family
Thursday 5th March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	For God's mercy, forgiveness & help
Friday 6th March: Feria of Lent	7pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
	7.30pm	CONFESSIONS
Saturday 7th March: Feria of Lent	9am—10am	CONFESSIONS
Third Sunday of Lent. Year A. 8th March	8.30am	Joan Pedley, LD
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection for CAFOD next week.

100 Club: Bernadeen Leyland (54).

Fr Simon's blog is at **offerimus tibi domine** (where you will also find the Mass times each week)

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 159.

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 673.



Your Prayers are asked for all the sick, including: Rosena Stacey, Vivienne Lee, Tom Miller, Paul Casey, Linda Melling, Tilly Gee, Kathleen Ward, Clare Butler, Maureen MacDonald, Louie Baines, Margaret McNiff, Elle Miller, Mark Duncan, Mary Ann Monaghan, Bernard Lawson, Mick Marshall, Carol Parkinson, Margaret Lawler, Catherine Thompson, Pat Fishwick, Stephen Dilworth.

We pray for those who are housebound & for those who love & care for them.
Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.

JOIN OUR PARISH 100 CLUB: Thank you to those who have signed up for our 100 Club. Please be patient as we digitalize the process and collate all our new members. You will be informed of your numbers in due course. Thanks to Grace Barton, who has volunteered to revamp and streamline how the 100 Club functions and help our parish in this way. **Please take a SIGN UP FORM from the back of church for a Standing Order or scan the QR Code on the coloured leaflets.**

The Parish Centre is open during Sunday Masses, where toilets are easily accessible.



SOME THOUGHTS FOR PARISH PILGRIMAGES: Two possible parish pilgrim holidays. Thanks to those who came to the first meeting: we have enough to move forward & further details will appear soon. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church if you would like to express an interest, which does not commit you to anything.

This year, **early August or early September 2026 a 5 day Pilgrimage holiday to Saint Pierre de Maillé in France**, where St Catherine's parishioners have visited several times over the years. The dates can be flexible until we see which would suit people best. An historic area in the heart of France, exploring history and Catholicism, staying in the Villa St Pierre. Suitable for families as well, with particular activities like canoeing possible to be built in to the timetable. Cost to be around £600 per person. Including transport, flights and most meals (with wine for the meals) and en-suite accommodation & daily Mass.

Pilgrimage next year 2027 in Rome, again, in the late summer/Autumn. Staying in a 3* hotel in the heart of the *Centro Storico*, the ancient heart of Rome, visiting the famous sites but also some less well-known ones, giving a fascinating glimpse into *La Bella Roma!* Please note that both of these involve walking the routes, which requires anyone with mobility issues to think carefully about their ability to take part.

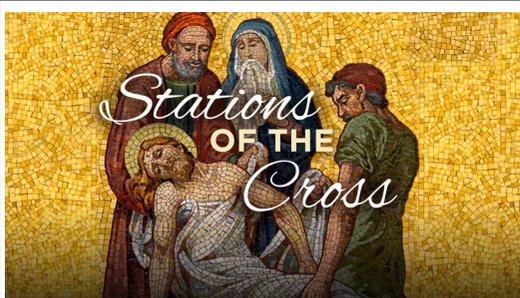
A SIMILAR MEETING AS WE HAD FOR FRANCE WILL BE HELD FOR A TRIP TO ROME IN 2027 IN DUE COURSE.

Act of Spiritual Communion. My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

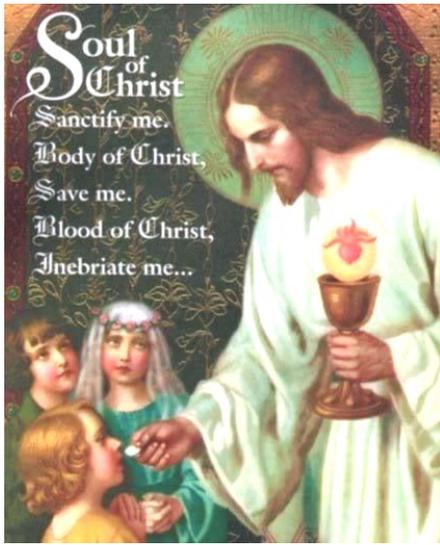
Spiritual communion is a practice that allows us to connect with God and express our longing for His presence, especially during times when we cannot attend Mass or receive the Eucharist. Many saints have emphasized the importance of this prayer, as it fosters a deep spiritual relationship with Christ & helps maintain one's faith and devotion.

LENTEN ALMS: During Lent, traditionally a collection is taken known as Lenten Alms. There is a basket at the back of church for your offerings, which will go towards the work of the Order of St Lazarus—specifically, supporting training Special Needs teachers in Rwanda. A project of Cardinal Kambanda, the Archbishop of Kigali.

THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC: There is one person who has expressed interest in becoming a Catholic recently; that being so, it seems opportune to ask if there is anyone else “hovering on the brink” - either already attending sometimes or someone you might know, so that we can follow a course of instruction together. Please contact Fr Simon.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARE PRAYED EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 7pm. The Stations of the Cross harken back to the earliest days of Christianity. The first Christians in Jerusalem venerated the places where Christ suffered, the *Via Sacra*, the sacred way. It is a great way to include more prayer in your week during Lent, one of the three Pillars of Lent, along with fasting and almsgiving. Of course, you can also choose to come to a weekday Mass during the course of Lent as well, as another way of accomplishing this goal.



FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNIONS.

Our First Communion preparation has begun, with forty or so children taking part. The next session is in the Social Centre **THIS COMING Wednesday, 4th March at 6.30pm.** **FIRST CONFESSIONS EACH SATURDAY.**



Children must sign the “Golden Book” at the back of church.

“Those whose names are written in the book of life.” Phil 4:3 .

This is to make a record of their prayers and attendance at Mass for each Sunday until their First Communion as a gift for Jesus. It will be carried up to the altar on the day of their First Communion.

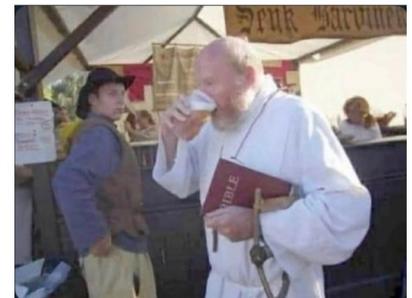
Please note that attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a prerequisite of being able to make First Communions in Eastertide. If families are not able to make this commitment, then those children can defer and join the program next time round.

CONFESSIONS: During Lent there will be Confessions each Saturday morning between 9am—10am. This is to enable children and their families to come to Confession in the normal way and thus accustomize them to coming again.

These times are also open to all parishioners, to enable people to come to Confession during Lent and make their Easter Duties: this is a traditional way to refer to the Church’s teaching that all should come to Confession at least once a year. There are some leaflets for both adults and children to assist you at the back of church.

Don’t worry if it’s a long time since you went: priests have ways of coping!

Priest after listening to my confession



CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT. CAFOD is part of Caritas, the global Catholic aid network that brings love, hope and practical help to our neighbours experiencing poverty.

Today's story is about hunger. Not the kind that comes from waiting too long to eat, but the kind that comes from having nothing to eat at all. Shorai in Zimbabwe put it simply: “As a father, it will be difficult for you to sleep.” It’s not just the hunger that kept him awake at night, but the guilt and pain of seeing his children go to bed with empty stomachs. Around the world – despite farmers’ best efforts – crops are failing. Where Shorai lives, in Zimbabwe, rain is scarce. In parts of Bangladesh and South Sudan, there’s too much water. Either way, the result is the same – seeds fail to grow, harvests disappear, and families go hungry. But there is hope and there is a solution. It needs all of us: you, me, CAFOD’s local experts, and families like Shorai’s in Zimbabwe and Rejoice’s in South Sudan. In God’s eyes, we are one global family, called to be neighbours – to stand with one another in love and solidarity.

In South Sudan and Bangladesh, where devastating floods destroyed farmland, our local partners helped families develop a remarkable solution: gardens that float on water. Rejoice lives in South Sudan. Rejoice built a floating garden to grow food above the floodwaters. She told us: “The yields from the garden help me feed my family.”

In Zimbabwe, where drought threatened everything, Shorai and his family worked with our local experts to build an eco-garden, using drought-resistant crops and a solar-powered water pump. That pump, funded by CAFOD donations like yours, draws water from a nearby dam, turning dry ground into fertile land. Shorai told us: “A good neighbour is someone who can help me in periods of need.” By donating today you’re being the good neighbour Jesus calls us to be – loving others as we love ourselves.

The usual six monthly collection will take place at next week’s Masses. The envelopes are on a table in the porch, as you leave church. If you can, consider setting up a monthly gift to help more of our neighbours for the long-term – and if you’re a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid will add 25 per cent to your donation at no extra cost. If you prefer, you can simply put cash, or a cheque, into the collection box next week.

This Lent, let’s show love to our neighbours. Let’s eat simply and give generously – so another family can put food on the table. Thank you for reading this and for your continued support and thank you to Father Simon for letting me share this update today.

Mick James - CAFOD Parish Volunteer

THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM.

Following on from our Burns Night Supper raising funds for the Order of St Lazarus, a number of people have asked about the Order, so here is just a little about it. In common with other Orders of chivalry founded during the Crusades, such as the Hospitaller Knights of Saint John and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, the Order of Saint Lazarus still aims to defend Christianity while expecting its members to practice the Christian tenets of protecting the weak, helping the sick, and promoting justice. A solemn undertaking to maintain this code of conduct through personal spirituality and observance of the Constitutional Charter is made publicly before God and the assembled congregation on formal admission to the Order.



www.oslj.org.uk

Fr. Simon



**A reminder that the Warm Spaces Coffee Morning
held each month during winter is this Thursday at 10am—12 noon.**

PRESBYTERY WORKS: It looks like the refurbishment and repairs in the Presbytery might finally be completed soon, perhaps 2-3 weeks. Of course this is then just the start of a new phase of actually moving in. Thank you for all the offers of help from parishioners: they have been duly noted and you're on my list!

Fr. Simon

CLOCK RESTORATION: Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the installation of the clock and bell in the tower.

The clock face is severely weathered, the clock was last renovated in the late 1980's. The company who service the clock and bell have given me the cost for the work - taking it away and refinishing it properly to last for many years. It is a highly specialized job, and if not done properly, the paint will not last. However, with the scaffolding that would be needed, the cost would be around £20,000. Given that, we thought it would not be possible to go ahead but one of our parishioners is kindly pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects; and there may be other help available. If anyone has any other ways of accessing funds, please do let us know!

EUXTON GALA: This year the parish will take an active part in the Euxton Gala. Although it is held on the joint playing fields of both our School and the Church of England School and our car park and hall are used, we have not been properly a part of the Gala. A separate St Mary's Summer fete was held but this seems to have lapsed some years ago. It seems only suitable that we should take an active part in an event at the heart of Euxton life each summer. We are particularly looking for helpers for the Refreshments and the Tombola which we will help to collect prizes for nearer the time). Anyone can take part if you are a local charity or want to sell your local products or crafts on a stall. Any of our schools could also take part, as a shopfront to present themselves by running some event; a junior football tournament is also being proposed, if anyone can help with that. This would mean that we share in the work and fun of the day but also in the funds it raises. Thanks to Mr Miller in St Mary's School, who is going to run a football tournament. With the finals on the day of the Gala.

Any ideas in ways which we could contribute—stalls, displays charity stands etc would be very welcome. We will also need parishioners to set up any of these ideas that come to the fore. If you would be interested in helping with this, please email Fr Simon or parish assistant Michael Thompson, via the parish email address.



ST PATRICK'S DAY CÉILIDH Saturday 21st March 2026.

A traditional Irish celebration with Irish Stew and live music to dance to.

Suitable for all the family.

Bring your own drinks but the ticket includes the price of the Irish stew.

£10 per person. Children £3. Raising money for our parish funds.

Please sign up on the list at the back of church. "Dia dhuit"



REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Come and say hello!

WE ARE STILL SHORT OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP US CONTINUE ENABLING US TO MEET ONE ANOTHER AFTER MASS.

