



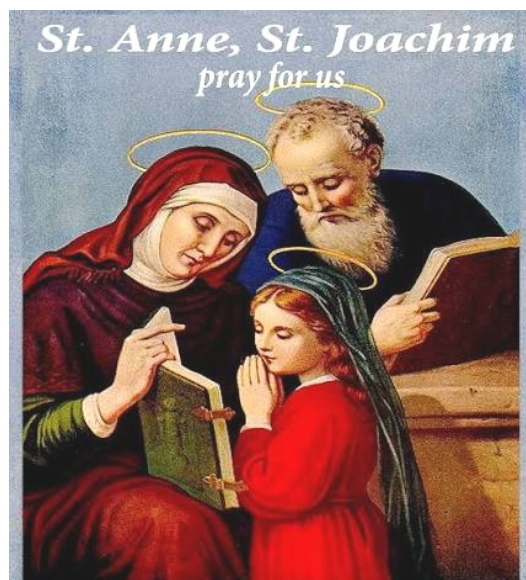
The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year



Seventeenth Sunday of Year A. 26th July	8.30am	Vincent McDonald
<i>Ss Joachim & Anne. Day of prayer for Grandparents</i>	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Monday 27th July: Feria	9.30am	John James & Family
Tuesday 28th July: Feria	9.30am	Eade & Raymond Proctor & Family
Wed 29th July: St Martha. Mass and First Blessing of newly ordained Fr Maximilian Eynaud	9.30am	Benefactors of the Lancs Infirm Clergy Fund
Thurs 30th July: St Peter Chrysologus	9.30am	Veronica & Tom Hodgeson & Family
Friday 31st July: St Ignatius Loyola	7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
		Confessions following
Saturday 1st August: St Alphonsus Liguori	—	—
Eighteenth Sunday of Year A. 2nd August	8.30am	Barbara Routledge,
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection NEXT SUNDAY for our SVP.

100 Club: Marc Ponde (65). Please collect your winnings from the sacristy.

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

Safer Recruitment and DBS Representative : New appointment pending.

MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 750.

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 731.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY ON THE FEASTDAY OF THE GRANDPARENTS OF JESUS: SS JOACHIM & ANNE.

From an article by Krissy Pierno; a teacher for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Parenting is a wild ride. For anyone who is a parent to small children, they can attest to the highs and lows that this responsibility can have. Children are full of joy and curiosity, they show the purest form of love, and they can be sweet and kind to others without fear or embarrassment. Children are also full of big feelings, strong wills, and lots of opinions without the ability to reason their way out of problems. It's complicated and confusing. Even to the best-intentioned parents, it can feel overwhelming and stressful. Meanwhile, you experience the sweetest moments in between. My husband and I are parents to a 4 year-old that fits this description. We are trying and we are definitely getting it wrong sometimes, but we want what is best for little Vincent and we love him more than we knew we could.

There is a lot of noise out there about parenting, and everyone wants to give advice and share their best practices. Whether on social media, in endless books of how-to's, or from relatives and friends, there seems to be a never-ending amount of information to sort through and try out. One way that I have taken a pause from this noise is by learning from the saints. I have looked up to so many for various things in my life – for personal reasons or in deepening my relationship with Christ. But now as a parent, I look to what I might call “the experts” who raised the mother of our Savior, Ss. Joachim and Anne. I have drawn a few relatable comparisons between these two people, who remain supportive and hopeful to the Holy Family.

Saints Joachim and Anne are the patron saints of parenting and grandparents. Having been childless for the majority of their married life, the two continued to pray for God's favor and have hope. While Joachim retreated for prayer far from home, Anne grievously prayed for her husband's safety in exchange for dedicating any future child's life in service to God's plan. The two then shared a dream and vision where an angel told them that their fervent prayer had resulted in God choosing them to conceive a “wondrous” child. When Mary was born and became of age to be presented in the Temple, they brought her and followed the plan of God. There are parallels in their hope and dedication to faith that I have seen in so many parents I know and have met, and their faith is admirable and should be celebrated.

Grandparents are special. My family is lucky enough to have grandparents actively a part of my son's life. Whether in his day-to-day childcare or in the vacation weeks spent with them, my husband and I would not be the same without their care and love in our lives and in our son's life. A lot can be learned in the witness that the previous generation brings to our current lives; for good, bad, or otherwise, these people raised us and taught us how to love and live. Now, it is fun to see how they adore and dote on their grandchildren in ways we never quite knew was possible. The whole family unit, then, is a masterful conglomeration of love, mistakes, trying things, and showing up. Imperfectly, and unconditionally. Not everyone has this experience; I am very aware of that. But for those of us that do, in whatever small way or mix of ways families can be, it is fearfully and wonderfully made.

Ss Joachim and Anne were faithful examples of the hardship that parents and grandparents can face. They suffered in ways we as parents similarly suffer, but they remained resolute in their fervent prayer and unshakeable love for God and for each other. Their daughter became the Virgin Mary, and their grandson became Christ himself. Although I recognize this is a little bold, we as Catholic parents cannot deny that our little rascals could one day become the saints of future generations who love and also remain faithful to Christ. Parents, pray for courage to love. Grandparents, pray for your children and grandchildren's hope. Stay faithful and the Lord will see your love.

A Parent's Prayer.

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings. We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope, and love, so they may know peace, truth, and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things.

May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen.



THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH?

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 27th July .



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: Please take a **SIGN UP FORM** from the back of church. Numbers still available.

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



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027. Thank you to those who came to the meeting and others unable to attend who have expressed an interest. We have a group of around 20 interested for a date to be confirmed late September/early October 2027.

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.



We have a new Facebook page. Search Parish of St Mary & St Catherine.

Like & share our posts to get the word out on our great parish & parishioners!

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Just come into the Social Centre opposite the church and say hello!

WE STILL NEED EXTRA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 10.30am MASS.



PILGRIM HOLIDAY TOP FRANCE. 13th—20th AUGUST 2026. 7 nights in Saint Pierre de Maillé in France.

An historic area in the heart of France, exploring history and Catholicism, staying in the Villa St Pierre, next to the River Gartempe. Cost to be £700 per person. Younger children at a discount, travelling at £300 each.

Including transport, flights and most meals (with wine for the meals) and en-suite accommodation, entrance costs to attractions & daily Mass.

Outward: Departing Manchester Airport Thursday 13th August. Return: from Limoges Airport 20th August.

All outstanding balances should now have been paid.

RYANAIR ALSO NOW HAVE A POLICY OF 100% DIGITAL BOARDING PASSES, SO THESE WILL NEED TO BE SENT TO YOUR PHONE.

A MEETING TO ANSWER ANY FINAL QUESTIONS, SET UP A WHATSAPP GROUP might be useful. Perhaps this FRIDAY at 8pm, after Devotions.

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH: The process of distributing items from the church to other parishes (who give a donation for them) has been quietly going on. The Font and the kneeler from the Confessional went to St Mary's Warrington this week. Some chalices are going to Holy Rosary parish in Aintree. The reredos will be going to Aigburth in Liverpool. The Stations of the Cross are now up in Fr Scott Lawler's church in Michigan, USA. The Sedilia set of chairs to St Peter's in Woolston. Two kneelers to St Peter's in Widness. Some smaller items have been donated to local school chapels. Some items are going to France to help furnish a house chapel at St Pierre de Maillé.

The pews, however, are not easy to dispose of. Due to the number of churches closing, the diocesan storage facility can take no more. Their length means that they are not suitable as garden benches without a lot of work. If you know anyone who would want some or all, simply for the wood, then please let me know. Otherwise we will end up paying someone to take them away.

Fr. Simon

PARISH HELPERS' BARBEQUE: Saturday 8th August. 1pm –4pm.

I'm hoping that we can hold a Barbeque for all parish helpers and their families. It will be a free of charge event to say "Thank You" to all those who are so generous with their time and to celebrate our gifts and our parish together. We can hold it on the lawn in front of the Social Centre with a Bouncy Castle for the kids and your own Parish Priest donning his chef's hat. We can provide some beer, wine, soft drinks & tea and coffee but feel free to bring your own drinks along if you have any special preferences.

And if anyone feels moved to provide any other entertainment, then that would be great. Feel free to offer any suggestions.

If you're wondering if you count as a "Parish "Helper" then if you can ask the question—YES, you do!

Over the months since I've arrived I've been amazed at the generosity of so many who help in so many ways; some who have been sure and steadfast for many years and some who have taken on new roles, great and small, as well as a special mention for those from St Catherine's who have transferred their various skills to our new situation. We are very blest to have a parish where so many do their part, all helping to build up our community in a truly Christian spirit.

There is a list at the back of church to sign up to ascertain numbers for catering purposes.

Fr. Swain



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

We now have parish donations of £10,000. We are still pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects. Euxton Parish Council is offering a very generous grant of £7,000. **So we are now in a position to move ahead.** We are now pursuing a final okay from Heritage bodies. How wonderful that we have been able to gather these funds outside usual parish giving, as we could not have otherwise considered doing this work *"for the permanent public benefaction of the Township of Euxton"*, as the commemorative plaque from the original donor, William Ince Anderton, puts it.



ALTAR SERVERS

DAY OUT.

Having spent the morning with our Altar Servers, I'm renewing my prayers for all of you with children now the summer holiday has begun!

Thanks to the parents who came along to help and to our Servers for their special ministry to God in His Church.

Fr. Swain



FIRST BLESSINGS OF A NEWLY ORDAINED PRIEST.

As we welcome newly ordained priest, Fr Max Eynaud this week, he will give the traditional blessing of a new priest after Mass on Wednesday. The faithful kneel at the communion rail to receive the blessing. Upon receiving it, the faithful kiss the palms of the newly ordained priest in recognition of the sacred character of his priesthood and of the hands that now hold the Eucharist and confer the sacraments. While he was still a Cardinal Pope Benedict wrote, *"When a priest extends his hand over us in blessing, we bow and stop for a moment, because we know that God's finger, the finger of the love that moves the world, comes into closer contact with our lives for a moment."* Through a new priest's hands, the hand of God reaches into my life.

Usually, the first person to ask for the blessing is the ordaining bishop, followed by the priest's family, friends and other priests. Followed by others in places where he says a "first Mass" during the initial months of his Priesthood. Let us pray fervently for Vocations to the Priesthood!

May - through the imposition of my hands and upon the intercession of Holy Mary Mother of God and St. Joseph - the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, come upon thee and remain with thee forever. Amen.