



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twenty Sixth Sunday of the Year



Feast of the Archangels on Tuesday

Twenty Sixth Sunday. Year A. 27th Sept	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Private Intention
Monday 28th Sept: St Wenceslaus	9.30am	Mary Sherrington, BR
Tuesday 29th Sept: Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	9.30am	Intentions of Bill & Dalia Wendt
Wed 30th Sept: St Jerome	9.30am	Joan la Roche, RIP
Thurs 1st Oct: St Therese of Lisieux	9.30am	Margaret Lawler
Friday 2nd Oct: The Guardian Angels	7pm	Novena & Benediction.
		Confessions following
Saturday 3rd Oct: Feria	—	—
Twenty Seventh Sunday. Year A. 4th Oct	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Bryan Shorrock, Anniv

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection NEXT Sunday for the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day on Friday.

100 Club: Joanne Paddison (36). 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 782.

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day this Harvest: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools to provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens.

The envelopes are in the porch as you leave church today, or you can simply place cash the collection box.

The collection will take place at NEXT WEEK'S Sunday masses, or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Thank you for your continued support. Mick James - CAFOD Parish Volunteer.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Thanks to the members of the Parish Council who met last week.

We talked about finding ways that our **Catholic schools** might be more involved in parish life. Fr Simon has interaction with both our Primary Schools, as their Chaplain, and involvement with three local High Schools. Links with our Primary Schools are very strong and growing but developing initiatives to involve High School children in the weekly life of the parish would benefit both schools and the parish. We agreed to pursue ideas to accomplish this.

Fr Simon also invites any of our parishioners who are Governors in our schools—whom he may not know yet—to make contact with him, with a view to facilitating that process.

We have also been discussing the **role of the Parish Pastoral Council**.

It was noted that it provides a body of people who are in place to help Fr Simon and the parish as any need arises.

Also, to help convey ideas and information to the parish priest from the wider parish. To that end, those on the Parish Council need to be able to be identified by everyone, so we will work towards that, with a small display at the back of church, letting people know who they are. They are also listed on the parish website.

Sunday Morning Refreshments were also discussed. For a long time, when the refreshments were only served at on Sunday Mass once a month, the donations went to CAFOD. Now that refreshments are served after both Masses each Sunday, it seems only equitable that this eight-fold increase be shared out a little, as CAFOD is already well supported in the parish with your usual generosity. It is proposed that we have a 4-week rota with 4 different Charities being supported, still including CAFOD one of the weeks.

With that in mind, suggestions are invited from parishioners for the other 3 Sundays. These need not be specifically Catholic but they must be in harmony with the Faith and Catholic Social teaching. They can be local or international but not those already supported by the parish in other collections.

Speak to Fr Simon, one of the Council members or email the parish address with your suggestions.

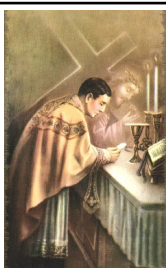
Liverpool Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2027: Applications are now open for young people in Year 10 and up to the age of 22 to travel to Lourdes to work with our assisted pilgrims. Coach 5 takes young people from the Lancashire areas of Orrell, Chorley, Leyland and Penwortham. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience of service, faith, joy, and learning new skills. There is a £50 reduction for anyone applying before 18th October. There is a further £100 reduction for any young person who achieved the Gold level of the Faith in Action Award at the end of the last school year. Apply at www.liverpool Lourdes youth.co.uk

For more information, please email Ben McMullen, Coach Leader at coach5@rcao.org.uk



CATENIANS:

There is a poster at the back of church highlighting the work of the Catenians. There is a QR Code to scan or you can look the up online. There will be a different one each month, encouraging you to join or find out more about their work.



MASS CARDS: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass can be offered for any intention but if you wish to have Mass offered for someone who has died, there are Mass cards in the sacristy at £1 each. These are signed by the priest when you ask for the Mass. Please write the Mass Intention on an envelope and enclose your offering.



 **Holy Cross**
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Open Evening

Thursday 8 October 2026

4.30 pm - 7 pm

LAST ENTRY AT 6.30 PM



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.

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



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027. We have a group of around 20 interested for a date to be confirmed late September/early October 2027. As soon as flights can be booked, we will move forward with this.

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.



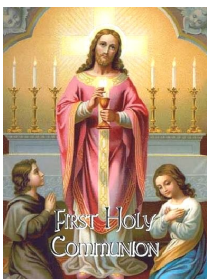
We have a new Facebook page. Search Parish of St Mary & St Catherine.

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.



FIRST SACRAMENTS PREPARATION. I have now met with parents of Year 4 children in both of our Primary Schools to invite children to participate in preparing to make their First Confession & First Holy Communion. This will involve a firm commitment to attend the sessions and to attend Mass each week.

The sessions will begin THIS Wednesday 30th September 6.30pm—7.30pm and be held once a month until Easter.

If you have a child in Year 4 who is not at one of our Primary Schools, then please contact Fr Simon to enroll your child.

CARD PAYMENT IN CHURCH. The card machine is getting some use, so thanks to those venturing into modernity!

A reminder that if you intend to use it regularly and have signed up to Gift Aid, you can set it up to recognize your payment and the parish will still be able to receive your Gift Aid. You only need to do this once and it will recognize you after that by following the on-screen instructions.

It also has the facility to give to particular causes. So, for example, if there is a special collection or for the 100 Club, you will be able to use it for that as well.

SAVE THE DATE:

Hedge cutting morning on Saturday 10th October 9am—12 noon. Tackling the big hedge on the car park in particular. Any help gratefully received. Bacon butties half-way through for the workers.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH OR JUST LEARNING MORE?

No meeting this week. Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 5th October.

100 CLUB: Thank you to those who have joined or continue with the 100 Club. There is an updated list on the noticeboard. We now have just 8 numbers left, so if you would like to join with a chance of winning £50 each week, then please take a form from the back of church and return it to the parish, confirming that you have set up a Direct Debit from your account.

SOME HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN SETTING UP A Direct Debit ON THEIR BANK APPS. IF THAT'S HAPPENED DO TRY AGAIN. EVEN IF IT SAYS THE NAME DOESN'T MATCH THE ACCOUNT NUMBER, IF YOU CLICK GO AHEAD ANYWAY, IT SHOULD STILL GO THROUGH & IS OKAY AFTER THAT. IT'S UNKNOWN WHY THIS HAPPENS WITH SOME BANKS.

The title of the account is: **St Catherine's 100 Club**

We need to fill all the numbers if we are to maximize the potential of running the whole thing.

David Barton is the contact person for the Club.

THE ARCHANGELS & GUARDIAN ANGELS. TWO FEASTS THIS WEEK.

"Your Guardian Angel was one of those great warriors who, together with the Archangel Saint Michael, defended the honor of God against satan and his followers. He is still powerful against the devil... and his charity has not diminished, nor will he ever fail in defending us. Develop the beautiful habit of always thinking of him; that near us is a celestial spirit, who, from the cradle to the tomb, does not leave us for an instant, guides us, protects us as a friend, a brother; will always be a consolation to us especially in our saddest moments. Know, my child, that this good Angel prays for you; offers to God all the good works you accomplish; your holy and pure desires. In the hours when you seem to be alone and abandoned, do not complain of not having a friendly soul to whom you can unburden yourself and in whom you can confide your sorrows. For pity's sake, do not forget this invisible companion, always present to listen to you; always ready to console you." – St. Padre Pio.

The Christian doctrine of God's angels has survived into modern culture but, without the Church to guide it, has become debased and esoteric. The angels, while we may depict them with wings and bodies, are pure spiritual beings – i.e., without physical bodies. As stated in the Baltimore Catechism, "*Angels are pure spirits without a body, created to adore and enjoy God in Heaven.*" They were created to praise God, manifesting a state of perpetual adoration of the Most Holy Trinity. They are the attendants of God, "mighty in strength," who "execute His word, hearkening to the voice of His orders" (Ps. 102:20). They act as messengers and are sent to communicate with humans what God's Will is in a given situation.

All the angels were created by God prior to His creation of man. Like humans, angels have intelligence and free will – the ability to recognize and understand truth, and to embrace either good or evil, to either obey God or rebel against Him. Unlike humans, however, the angels do not experience bodily passions or re-thinking of prior decisions, repentance or amendment for sin. As such, they were given one opportunity by God to either choose Him or not, shortly after He created them. Sadly, as we read in Scripture, many chose to rebel:

"And there was a great battle in Heaven, Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels: And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in Heaven. And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduceth the whole world; and he was cast unto the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." (Apoc. 12:7-9) The Catechism of the Council of Trent explains that "*although they were all endowed with celestial gifts, very many, having rebelled against God, their Father and Creator, were hurled down and shut up in the darkest dungeon of earth, there to suffer for eternity the punishment of their pride.*"

Scripture and Tradition indicate that there are various Choirs of Angels. These levels or orders have distinct qualities and have identifiable roles in the angelic world. Pope St. Gregory the Great gives us a clear idea of the view:

"We know on the authority of Scripture that there are nine orders of angels, viz., Angels, Archangels, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Dominations, Throne, Cherubim and Seraphim. That there are Angels and Archangels nearly every page of the Bible tells us, and the books of the Prophets talk of Cherubim and Seraphim. St. Paul, too, writing to the Ephesians enumerates four orders when he says: 'above all Principality, and Power, and Virtue, and Domination'; and again, writing to the Colossians he says: 'whether Thrones, or Dominations, or Principalities, or Powers' If we now join these two lists together, we have five Orders, and adding Angels and Archangels, Cherubim and Seraphim, we find nine Orders of Angels."

St. Thomas Aquinas divides the angels into three hierarchies, each of which contains three orders, with their proximity to God serving as the basis of this division. In the first hierarchy, he places the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones; in the second, the Dominations, Virtues, and Powers; in the third, the Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. We hear of these at Mass at the end of many of the Prefaces, as we join their eternal worship of the Blessed Trinity.