



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul



Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul. 28th June	8.30am	Jack Hoole, RIP
	10.30am	Mary Sherrington, Anniv
Monday 29th June: Feria	9.30am	Gilbert Melling, successful operation
Tuesday 30th June: First Martyrs of the Roman Church	9.30am	Thomas Alan Robinson, Anniv
Wed 1st July: St Oliver Plunket	9.30am	Joseph Loughlin, BR
Thurs 2nd July: Feria	9.30am	John Loughlin, BR
Friday 3rd July: St Thomas, Apostle	11.30am	Requiem Mass for Bill Briggs
	—	— <i>Novena will return next week as usual</i>
Saturday 4th July: St Elizabeth of Portugal	10am	Baptism of Leo Lopez-Evans
Fourteenth Sunday of Year A. 5th July	8.30am	Paul & Irean Walmsley
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for Peter's Pence.

Retiring collection NEXT Sunday: Our Parish St Vincent de Paul Society.

100 Club: Colin Perks (15). *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)

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 1155.

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

PETER'S PENCE. You may not know it but this worldwide collection has its origins here in England!

Peter's Pence is a traditional annual collection where Catholics worldwide make direct financial donations to the Holy See. Originating in Anglo-Saxon England, it began as a voluntary royal alms to Rome, eventually transforming into a global philanthropic fund used by the Pope to support global emergencies and church administration. The tradition traces its roots to 8th-century England, originally known as *Denarius Sancti Petri* (Alms of Saint Peter).

King Offa of Mercia (757–796) and King Aethelwulf of Wessex (839–858) pledged annual gold payments to Rome to support English pilgrims and the Papacy. By the time of King Cnut in the 11th century, it had formalized into a mandatory annual tax of one silver penny per household for landowners.

It was originally a tax of one silver penny collected from every household—or "hearth"—on August 1st, the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula. The funds were originally designed to support the *Schola Saxonum*, a hospice in Rome that provided material and spiritual assistance to English pilgrims. You can still see this huge yellow bricked building complex near the Vatican, in between the River Tiber and the bottom of the Via della Conciliazione.

Other northern European kingdoms adopted similar customs to show allegiance to the Pope.

During the English Reformation, King Henry VIII and Parliament passed the Ecclesiastical Licences Act in 1534, permanently outlawing the payment of Peter's Pence to Rome.

The collection is now traditionally taken up globally on or around the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29).

In the modern era, with the end of the Papal States (1870), the unity of the Church was shattered. The same thing is true for the bond, which used to be represented by the Offering of the Christian Peoples to the Holy See, in several countries.

The crisis that arose from these events marked a major break with the past, which also gave St. Peter's offering an entirely new meaning that has been passed down to the present day. In Europe and overseas, a spontaneous movement of Catholics arose whose goal was to offer material aid to the Holy Father of their own accord. The warm response from Catholics was a great source of encouragement for the Pope. Thanks to this aid, he was able to allocate part of the offering to the care of those suffering the most (for example, following the devastating earthquake in Croatia in 1881), thus expressing a father's concern for his children. He receives in order to give, and to give to those who need it most at that moment.

Today the (*Obolo di San Pietro*) are allocated directly by the Pope for global charitable works, disaster relief, war-stricken populations, and the administrative costs of the Vatican.



BAPTISM: Through the washing away of Original Sin we welcome Leo Lopez-Evans into God's Church this Saturday. May the grace of the Sacrament keep him and his family always faithful to the promises they make and enfolded in the Love of God's family.

CLOCK RESTORATION: THIS 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 us 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. We have raised some money through parish social events.



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.



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.



CLEANING TEAMS FOR CHURCH AND SACRISTANS. A dedicated band of parishioners clean the church each week—a holy service that is of benefit to us all! However, some time back there were two teams and now there is just one, so a greater burden falls on the few. If there is anyone who could lend a hand, you would be much welcomed. There is a sheet at the back of church to put down your contact details to be contacted by Margaret Hill, who can tell you more.



ALSO: a helping hand with sacristy work would be a great help. Keeping the candles trimmed and polishing the thurible as well as a host of other little jobs in service of the liturgy is more time consuming than you might think. Please speak to Fr Simon if you would like to know more.

NOVENA & BENEDICTION:

Please note that there will be no Devotions this Friday evening due to a number of people helping to set up for the Eux-ton Gala. Back next week as usual.



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.



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.



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.

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.

OUTSTANDING BALANCES, INCLUDING LUGGAGE COSTS, PLEASE PAY THESE BY 13th JULY. Payable to “St Mary’s Parish.”

EUXTON GALA

THIS COMING SATURDAY 4th July. 12 noon—4pm. Our schools are taking part in various ways but we are particularly looking for

helpers for the Refreshments

and the

Tombola

you can volunteer to do just an hour or even half an hour, so that no-one is working all afternoon. **If you can help, please let us know by signing up on the sheet at the back of church TODAY, so that a rota can be drawn up.**

Also, any general help most especially setting up in the morning and taking everything down afterwards. Again, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

TOMBOLA PRIZES

There is a box at the back of church for any donations for Tombola Prizes.

We also need volunteers to assist setting up on the Friday evening and Saturday morning and clearing up after 4pm. Sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

CAKES

If you are able to bake, parishioners could also bake cakes etc for the cake stall, ideally brought on Saturday morning to our Social Centre.

The parish will now benefit from any funds raised by the Gala. We are not just “helping out” as a parish but now a full partner in the Gala, so please do rally round and make our presence felt, by helping out and most importantly to come along on the day with your family and friends.



MISSIO COLLECTION BOXES.

A message from our organizer, Peter Worthington, to say

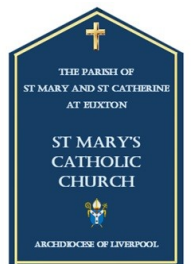
THANK YOU

for your generosity of £482.24.

Our thanks to Peter for his work in organizing this.

CHURCH SIGNAGE:

The Parish Council at their last meeting discussed renewing the main sign on the corner for our church to take into account our new parish designation. This is in hand. We would like to renew the sign but keep the lovely frame made by a parishioner, Tony Hart, who went to God some years ago but his handiwork lives on). The woodwork frame is in need of some restoration, if there is anyone with the requisite skills who would like to take that on.



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

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 29th June.