



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

Remembrance Sunday



Remembrance Sunday. 9th November	8.30am	Michael Purtill, Anniv & Holy Souls
<i>Readings (32nd Sunday Yr C.)</i>	10.30am	Pro Populorum. Pious List & Holy Souls
	3pm	Civic Remembrance Service
Mon 10th Nov: St Leo the Great	9.30am	Pious List & the Holy Souls
Tuesday 11th Nov: St Martin of Tours	9.30am	Pious List & the Holy Souls
	1.30pm	Funeral Service for Leo Heaps
Wed 12th Nov: St Josephat	9.30am	Pious List & the Holy Souls
Thur 13th Nov: Votive Mass for the Holy Souls	9.30am	Holy Souls
Friday 14th Nov: Feria	7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Saturday 15th Nov: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	—	— (No public Mass today)
Thirty Third Sunday. Yr C. 16th November	8.30am	Pro Populorum. Pious List & Holy Souls
	10.30am	Holy Souls & Abina Cottingham, BR

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

SVP: Thank you for £126 in last week's collection.

Youth Sunday next week. Retiring collection for Animate: diocesan youth service.

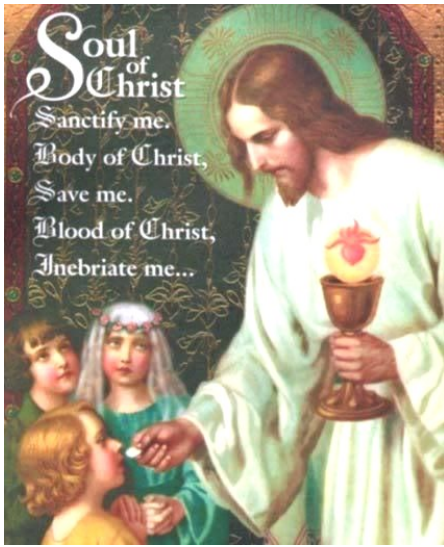
100 Club: J. Nix (32)

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

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Pending appointment.

MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED: Sunday Pg. 1087.

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



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 Wednesday 12th November at 6.30pm.**

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

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 of next year. If families are not able to make this commitment, then those children can defer and join the program next time round.



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

SOME PARISH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT YEAR!

BURN’S NIGHT SUPPPER Saturday 31st January 2026.

A formal evening with a three course meal, including the Haggis, Neeps and Tatties with the piping in of the Haggis and traditional speeches and entertainments. Traditional Scottish dress if you have it! This will be run with any profits going to the charities of the Order of St Lazarus. Further details to follow.



ST PATRICK’S NIGHT CÉILIDH Saturday 21st March 2026.

A traditional Irish celebration with Irish Stew and live music to dance to. Suitable for all the family. Again, further details to follow.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

As we pray for those who are sick and housebound each week from the names on our Sick List, a note of thanks to our Extraordinary Ministers of Communion who faithfully visit them in Order to take the Blessed Sacrament to them and in these ways include them in our Parish Family. If there is anyone interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, do speak to me to find out more.

Fr. Simon

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS. CAKE SUNDAY!

All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass.

Come and say hello!

Especially all our First Communion families, now that their preparation has begun. A great chance to get to know folks.

WE ARE 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.



GROUNDS TIDY DAY.

THIS Saturday 15th November 9am—12 noon.

A morning to clear the leaves and do some general tidying up in the church grounds. Families and kids welcome—they seem to enjoy the leaves! Come and join us for the whole morning or pop along for an hour, if you can.

Bacon butties served half way through,
for the workers deserves their keep!



100 CLUB: For many years St Catherine's Church has run a 100 Club to assist with parish funds. It seems sensible to keep this going under our new circumstances. There are, in fact, several free numbers for new people to be able to join. Pay £1 each week with a chance to win £50 each week. This can be set up by direct debit or paid by cheque - monthly, quarterly or annually.



Thanks to two parishioners who have volunteered to run the 100 Club. We Will have a focus on it **NEXT Sunday 16th November**. Thank you.



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, Eric Nielson, Margaret Lawler, Catherine Thompson, Martin Croft, Pat Fishwick.

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.

NOTE ON WIDER DEANERY INVOLVEMENT. Some of you will know that St Joseph's Church at Brindle said goodbye to the presence of the Benedictines after running the mission there since 1677. The Diocese is unable to provide a full-time parish priest there, so the Dean has been made Parish Administrator but the Sunday Mass will be offered there at 4.30pm on a Saturday. I am one of a number of priests assisting him to celebrate this Mass, until after a further period of discernment early next year. Some parishioners will also know that I also assist in offering Mass in Wymot and Garth Prisons as another duty beyond the parish. This is a reminder of the scarcity of priests and the increasing demands on their time, when most people are thinking of retiring! Please pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and for all our Deanery Priests.

SOME LITURGICAL NOTES: There have been a couple of questions arising from parishioners. In broad answer, there are some things in the Mass that are essential, others that are optional. The rubrics are usually quite clear about which is which.

1, Communion under both kinds. In theory, this is a desirable option, however, given the COVID experience, there are renewed concerns about just how desirable it is on a practical level. It can also be divisive: even when it is on offer, there are often a considerable number of people who (quite legitimately) do not choose to receive of the Precious Blood from the chalice. This means that there is a division among the People of God at the precise moment when we are expressing our unity. Communion means communion with Our Lord but it also carries the message of communion with one another. To my own mind, a parish needs to be catechized so that everyone receives under both kinds or no-one does. A huge project, which at this precise moment is, I think, beyond us. To be sure, the Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms: *"Since Christ is whole and entire in each of the Eucharistic species, anyone who has received either of the consecrated species has received Christ whole and entire"* (1390).

2. The Sign of Peace. To be clear, the Sign of Peace is always exchanged, when the Priest says *"The peace of the Lord be with you always"* and the people respond, *"And with your spirit."* The Missal then says the people MAY be invited to exchange a sign of peace among themselves. *"May"* in the rubrics indicates a choice for the priest whether to do this or not. In the Circular Letter on the Ritual Expression of the Gift of Peace at Mass, issued on June 8, 2014 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Holy See invited Conferences of Bishops to review current practices with an eye towards sobriety of expression and the avoidance of excessive, distracting gestures in order to *"safeguard the sacred sense of the Eucharistic celebration and the sense of mystery at the moment of receiving Holy Communion"*. The Congregation encouraged catechesis concerning the true nature, spirit, and expression of this rite, centered on peace rooted in Christ made present on the altar. The Circular Letter cited several practices to be avoided, namely;

- the introduction of a "song of peace" is not called for in the Roman Rite;
- the excessive movement of the faithful from their places to exchange a sign of peace;
- the departure of the priest from the sanctuary to share the sign of peace with some of the faithful; and
- the use of the Rite of Peace as a kind of "receiving line" of a social nature, to express congratulations, best wishes, or even condolences in a sometimes purely secular way.

These points are consistent with the restraint expressed in the 2002 Missal rubrics, currently in force. The letter also underscores the fact that the rubrics of the exchange of peace already allow for its omission when pastoral circumstances warrant it. At this point in the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is present on the altar, the physical hubbub which often accompanies the exchange is, I think, best avoided as a distraction at this point in the Mass.

NOVEMBER AND THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: We offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass— the greatest of all prayers— for our deceased loved ones. There are envelopes at the back of church in which you may place the names of any of those you would like to be remembered at Mass during November. Each Mass celebrated for the whole of the month of November is offered for them. Please also place your offering for the Masses in the envelope and return it to church. All Souls’ Day is a day when we pray for the souls of those in purgatory but the whole of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls, so do say a prayer in our cemetery or remember you deceased relatives & friends at Mass— and as a Spiritual Work of Mercy, pray also for those who have no one to pray for them

***ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.
MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED,
THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN***

November is an opportune time to recall the Church’s teaching on things connected to the funeral rites.

*It is most desirable that those approaching death make a final Confession and are offered the Last Rites IN PLENTY OF TIME to allow them to prepare.

*Requiem Mass on their funeral day is the best way to pray for those who have died. A Service in Church or the Crematorium or at the graveside (this latter not often seen in the UK because of the unreliability of the weather) without Mass is also a possibility.

*The immediate family should make it clear to wider relations and friends that if Mass is celebrated only practicing Catholics may receive Holy Communion. Those who are lapsed from the Faith or who are aware of serious sin should go to Confession before the Requiem Mass if they wish to receive Holy Communion.

*Secular “pop” music during Requiem Mass is forbidden (despite what you might see in many places). Organ music may be played by the organ instead of hymns. Any song must be in conformity with the Catholic Faith. We have a rich history of 2,000 years of Christian music to choose from, without resorting to secular culture..

*Readings from the Scriptures are the only ones permitted by the liturgical guidelines.

* A “Eulogy” is by no means essential at a funeral, indeed such were not historically envisaged (rather they took place at Memorial Services, which we sometimes see on the news for the famous after their actual funerals or before a private family funeral.) If a Eulogy is to be given, it should include mention of the person’s life of Faith in the Church. A poem or song is not actually a Eulogy. Quirky memories and stories, along with favorite songs can take a natural pride of place at the wake after the funeral.

*It is absolutely forbidden to keep Ashes unburied after a cremation. Ashes may not be kept at home as a permanent resting place. Ashes may not be made into jewelry or any other artefact. They should be buried, not scattered, in suitably consecrated ground of a cemetery or churchyard.

*All attempts to “contact” the dead through Mediums, Spiritualism etc are considered gravely sinful and completely false. The Church considers any such “contact” as either fake or the work of the Devil.

*It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for the dead, most especially by having the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for them. This is traditionally done one month after the death (the “Month’s Mind”) and at each yearly anniversary, as well as during the month of November.

*These practices assist us in living and facing death in a truly Christian way, so as to keep us close to the heart of Jesus both now and in eternity.

FOCUS ON PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: NIGERIA, which has been in the news this week. In Africa’s most populous country, more believers are killed for their faith each year than everywhere else in the world combined. Violence remains the most dangerous and prevalent threat. Christians in Nigeria, particularly in the Muslim-majority north, continue to live under immense pressure from Islamic militants and armed “bandits.” The brutal attacks can involve destruction of properties, abductions for ransom, sexual violence and death. Believers are stripped of their livelihoods and driven from their homes, leaving a trail of grief and trauma. The government’s failure to protect Christians has only strengthened the militants’ influence. And these attacks have led to large numbers of Christians (and other Nigerians) being forced to live in camps for internally displaced people where women and children are particularly vulnerable to health issues and human trafficking. Despite these challenges, the church in Nigeria is a resilient church. They understand what it means to rely on their Savior for every breath. And they are asking the worldwide Church to pray with them.

