



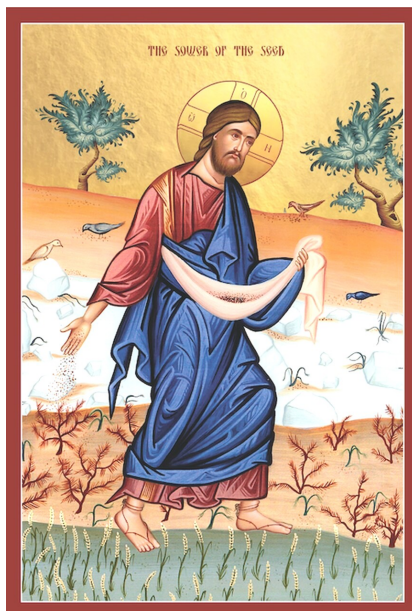
The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year



Fifteenth Sunday of Year A. 12th July	8.30am	Vincent McDonald
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Monday 13th July: St Henry	9.30am	ROSARY
Tuesday 14th July: St Camillus of Lellis	9.30am	Penelope de Bonval. Speedy recovery
Wed 15th July: St Swithin	9.30am	Filoteo Geralde, LD
Thurs 16th July: Our Lady of Mount Carmel	9.30am	Successful operation, Matthew
	6pm	St Mary's School Leaver's Mass
Friday 17th July: Feria	7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
		Confessions following
Saturday 18th July: St Benedict	—	—
Sixteenth Sunday of Year A. 19th July	8.30am	Mre Morpew & family
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection NEXT WEEK for our Priests in Retirement.

100 Club: Elaine Carr (1). *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 741.

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

SCHOOL LEAVER'S THIS MONTH:

Both our Primary Schools are holding celebrations this week to mark those who will be moving on from the top year. High schools too are marking the movement of their top year to pastures new.

Let us pray for them and their families in what is a joyful and yet perhaps slightly nerve wracking moment in their young lives.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of our Catholic education to teach our children in a spirit of faith. Especially for those who are moving on, Lord: as they step into the future, fill them with the Holy Spirit. Guide their paths, grant them wisdom in their choices, and give them courage in the face of new challenges. When they encounter doubts, remind them of their worth in your eyes. When they face obstacles, strengthen their faith.

May the knowledge they have gained be used to serve others and bring glory to your name. Protect them, bless them, and keep them always close to your heart. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL: At the base of Mount Carmel, on the northwest coast of Israel, lies a Carmelite monastery named Stella Maris, Latin for “Star of the Sea.” This monastery is built over a cave believed to have been where the prophet Elijah, inspired by God, challenged 450 prophets of Baal in a contest to the death. Elijah triumphed. Shortly after, Elijah prophesied the end of a three-year drought when, in the passage above, his servant reported to him that he saw a “cloud as small as a man’s hand rising from the sea.” That small cloud quickly transformed into a heavy rainfall over the parched earth. Later Carmelites interpreted Elijah’s vision as a prefiguration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was seen as the small cloud rising from the sea, a true “Star of the Sea,” and the rain that would emerge from her to end the three-year drought was perceived as the grace and mercy poured out by her Son, Jesus.

It is believed that following the time of Elijah, other hermits emulated Elijah and his successor, Elisha, by becoming hermits in the caves of Mount Carmel. There is a tradition that these holy hermits embraced Christ and lived on this sacred mountain from the time of Christ. In 1209, a group of hermits asked Bishop Albert, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to provide them with a rule of life. Bishop Albert did so, and the Order of Brothers of The Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, later known as the Carmelites, was formed. One of their first acts was to erect a chapel dedicated to Mary, Star of the Sea, Stella Maris. In 1226, their rule was approved by Pope Honorius.

Shortly after the order’s founding on Mount Carmel, Muslim invaders conquered nearby territories, leading some of the hermits to flee from the Holy Land to other parts of Europe, including Aylesford, England. Though One of the first men to join the Carmelite hermits in England was a man named Simon Stock. The Carmelites were a new form of religious life, living as hermits rather than as a more ordered community like the Benedictines, Cistercians, and Augustinians. As a result, they found it challenging to gain wide acceptance. In 1247, Simon Stock was elected Superior General of the Carmelites at the age of eighty-two. In an attempt to help the new order gain wider acceptance within the Church, Simon and his fellow hermits sought out the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She responded and, in 1251, appeared to Simon while holding the Christ Child in one arm and a brown scapular in the other. She said to him, “*Receive, my beloved son, this habit of thy order: this shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire...It shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace.*”

As we honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we honor not only our Blessed Mother but also her central role in the Carmelite orders and the devotions to her that they have promoted, especially the devotion of the scapular. Reflect on your own devotion to our Blessed Mother. If you wear the scapular, renew your faith in her motherly intercession that is obtained through this holy devotion. If you do not wear the scapular, consider doing so as an outward sign of your interior devotion to her and your trust in her intercession.

Let also pray for Vocations to the Carmelite Order, in both it’s male and female branches.

St Simon Stock receives the Brown Scapula from Our Blessed Lady.





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. Thank you to a couple of people who have offered to help with sacristy work and one new recruit to the cleaning team! Any other volunteers still welcome!

ST SWITHIN.

*St Swithin's day, if thou dost rain,
For forty days it will remain.
St Swithin's day, if thou be fair,
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.*

St. Swithin was an Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester in the 9th century. Before his death in 862 AD, he humbly requested to be buried outside in the churchyard where the sweet rain of heaven and the footsteps of the poor could fall upon his grave. Over a century later, on July 15th, 971 AD, ambitious monks exhumed his remains to move them inside a lavish, ornamental shrine within Winchester Cathedral. Legend says the saint deeply disapproved of being moved from his humble resting place and cursed the land from beyond the grave, causing a massive, torrential rainstorm that lasted for 40 days.



NOVENA & BENEDICTION: When was the last time you were in church for something other than Mass?

Although the Mass is at the very heart of our lived Faith, Devotions of all sorts are a wonderful way to allow the lord to come to us. Every Friday at 7pm. Confessions following at 7.30pm.



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 THIS MONDAY. Payable to "St Mary's Parish."

**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.

Fr. Simon



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

ALTAR BOYS DAY OUT: To thank our Servers, we are planning a day out on Wednesday 22nd July to go Ten-Pin-Bowling. We will celebrate Mass together at 9.30am and go on directly from there.

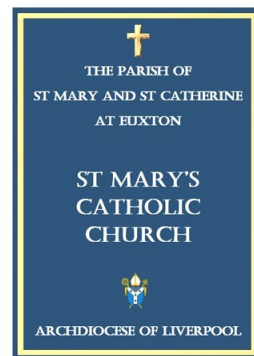
Anyone interested in joining our Servers Team, please speak to Fr Simon.



CHURCH SIGNAGE:

Thanks to a parishioner who is renovating the woodwork, we will be able to save the wooden framework of the sign that proclaims our presence facing Wigan Road.

A new sign has been commissioned and will be attached to it



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

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 13th July .