



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

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twenty Second Sunday of the Year



Twenty Second Sunday. Year A. 30th August	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
<i>St Margaret Clitherow</i>	10.30am	Sheila & Terrence McDermott
Monday 31st Aug: St Aidan	9.30am	Margaret Tully, Anniv
Tuesday 1st Sept: Feria	9.30am	Kathleen & Colin Grime
Wed 2nd Sept: Feria	9.30am	Private Intention
Thurs 3rd Sept: Pope St Gregory the Great	9.30am	Private Intention
Friday 4th Sept: St Cuthbert	7pm	Novena & Benediction. Confessions following
Saturday 5th Sept: St Teresa of Calcutta	—	—
Twenty Third Sunday. Year A. 6th Sept	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Private Intention

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection NEXT week for our parish SVP.

100 Club: Elaine Mannix (73). *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 767.

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



CHURCH HISTORY:

These two photos have been framed up and are now at the back of the church. There are surprisingly few photos of the church from the past, so it seemed sensible to preserve these two by framing them.

The Priest is Fr Thomas Keeley. Photograph taken in 1910. Rector from 1895 and then from 18th November 1918, Parish Priest until 1939.

“Parishes” did not exist in England until a change in Canon Law in the 1916 no longer designated England as a missionary territory.

Photograph possibly dated to 1910. Certainly pre-1925 as the stained glass windows are not in evidence. The High Altar reredos seen here was installed in 1887/8 and removed presumably in the post WWII renovations.

The wall stenciling seen here remained until 1942, when it was replaced by the paintings of the Marriage Feast at Canaan and the multiplication of the loaves.

The ceiling seen here was lowered in Fr Ames' time, so after 1959.

The altar rails were replaced after WWII (donated by USA servicemen, based in Euxton during the war (we have the remains of them today as the kneelers). Those seen here went to St Catherine's. Sadly they disappeared at the big re-ordering there.



GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE? The Alpha Course could change your life! It's an opportunity to explore the meaning of life through the lens of the Christian faith, in a relaxed environment. Alpha is for anyone who is curious to find out more about faith, those who are exploring and questioning; cynics, sceptics and the open-minded. This Alpha Course will be run in the Catholic tradition. It starts Thursday **3rd September 2026** at 7.00pm, at St Bedes, Clayton Green for 10 weeks. Please pass on this information to family members and friends who you think might be interested in coming along. For further information or to register your interest please contact: Sr. Dorothy - 07530 238222 dorothyhindle234@gmail.com or Julie Brown - 07943 874257. Julie-st-bedes@hotmail.com In addition to the evening Alpha Course, we are now offering a Course on a Wednesday afternoon beginning 2nd September at 12.45pm till 2.30pm. If anyone would like to join this course, please contact: Sr. Dorothy or Julie Brown.

CHORLEY GARDENING SOCIETY:

Annual Flower Show
Saturday 5th September
2pm—4.30p. Free admission
Euxton Parish Community Centre
(across the road!)
Refreshments available.

CARELINE: This service is run by Churches Together in Euxton: volunteer drivers taking people to hospital appointments etc. There is now a severe shortage of drivers, so we need some new volunteers to help. A commitment of just one day a month would help. Please give this some thought. Drivers have found it a rewarding experience, giving practical help people in our community and meeting people, with whom they perhaps build up a regular rapport.

Contact our Coordinator Michael Thompson for more information on 07766 066094.



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.



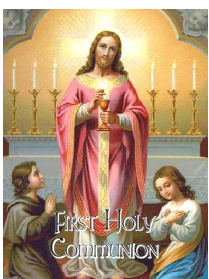
We have a new Facebook page. Search Parish of St Mary & St Catherine.

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. Our children will be returning to school this week. Let us pray for a fruitful year for them. I will be going into our Primary Schools very shortly to invite children in Year 4 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 on Wednesday 30th September 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.

We now have a card / contactless facility here in church! You will see it at the rear of the church. If you've forgotten your collection money or simply wish to make a donation, you can now easily use this.

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.

It might take a little practice to get used to but hopefully, will assist the parish by allowing anyone to give more easily and conveniently.



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

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 31st August .

100 CLUB.

Thank you to those who have joined or continue with the 100 Club. There is an updated list on the noticeboard, which we hope is now completely up to date.

We still have 12 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.

ST MONICA: Last week was the Feast of St Monica. She is the patron of abused wives & of those praying for their children to return to the Faith. There are some leaflets about her at the back of church.

Saint Monica was born in 331 A.D. in Tagaste, which is present-day Algeria. Her wayward son (who had a brother & sister) was to become St Augustine, a great saint and theologian, whose writings are still important today. Her husband had a violent temper—not helped by drink, a characteristic inherited from his own mother, it seems. Augustine led a lazy & dissolute life. For years Monica prayed for her husband and mother-in-law, until finally, one year before Patricius' death, she successfully converted them.

Augustine became a Manichean, a sect that allowed some very strange behaviors in its adherents. Monica drove him from her table. Though it is not recorded how much time passed, Monica had a vision that convinced her to reconcile with her wayward son. Monica went to a bishop, who told her, "the child of those tears shall never perish."

Augustine fled to Italy by ship to avoid his mother, Monica followed him the next week! Monica tracked him to Milan. Where, with the help of St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, converted Augustine to the Faith. It had taken 17 years! After a period of six months, Augustine was baptized at Milan. The pair were led to believe they should spread the Word of God to Africa, but on the return journey, Monica died in the arms of St Augustine at the port of Ostia. He wrote movingly about it in his biography, called "Confessions". Augustine recorded the words she imparted upon him when she realized death was near. *"Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be."*

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine,
we give thanks to our Father in Heaven
Who looked with mercy upon your tears
over your wayward son.
His conversion and heroic sanctification
were the fruit of your prayers.
Dear St. Monica,
we now ask you to pray with us
for all those sons and daughters
that have wandered away from God,
and to add your prayers to those of all mothers
who are worried over their children.
Pray also for us that,
following your example, we may,
in the company of our children,
one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in Heaven.
Amen.

The most famous painting depicting St. Monica and St. Augustine at Ostia is (1854) by the French-Dutch artist Ary Scheffer. It illustrates a scene from Saint Augustine's Confessions. Mother and son together at the port city of Ostia in 387AD.

