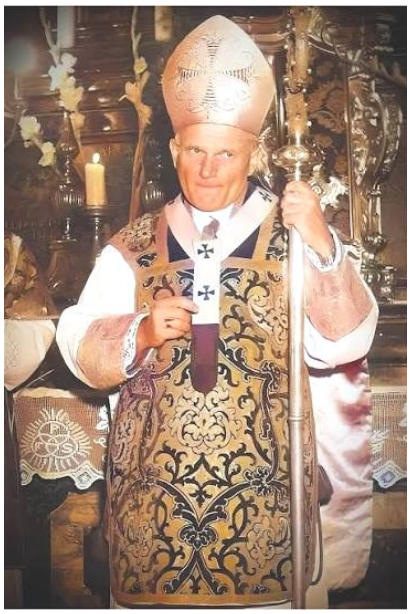
The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twenty Ninth Sunday of the Year



Pope St John Paul II. Feast on Thursday.

Twenty Ninth Sunday. Year A. 18th Oct	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Catherine Stephens
Monday 19th Oct: Feria	——	—- (No public Mass today)
Tuesday 20th Oct: Feria	9.30am	Anne Foley & Family
Wed 21st Oct: Feria	9.30am	Bernard, Hazel & Family
Thurs 22nd Oct: Pope St John Paul II	9.30am	Hannah Benfield, LD
	10am	Marriage Convalidation: Lewis Gore & Emily Fitxpatrick
Friday 23rd Oct: St John of Capistrano	7pm	Novena & Benediction *Confessions following*
Saturday 24th Oct: Feria	11.30am	Baptism of Esme Tierney
Thirtieth Ninth Sunday. Year A. 25th Oct	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mass with Bishop Tom Neylon	10.30am	Brian Leyland, RIP

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for World Mission Day. APF.

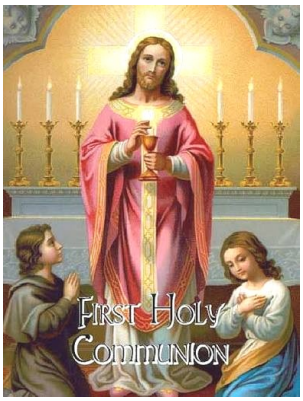
Thank you for your offerings to CAFOD of £1,363.09.

100 Club: J. Preston (59). *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 training.

MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 790.



FIRST SACRAMENTS PREPARATION.

Our next session is on Wednesday 21st October 6.30pm—7.30pm. Please email Fr Simon if you are unable to attend that evening.

Children are also expected to be attending Mass regularly. It is important that the children are familiar with the form of the Mass, so that they can enjoy the day when they make their First Holy Communion.

Each week please sign the "Golden Book" at the back of church. When we live our Faith to the full, Scripture describes us as "Those whose names are written in the book of life." (Phil 4:3.) It will be brought up to the altar on the First Communion days next Easter to represent all our prayers and Masses offered to our Heavenly Father in preparation for that great spiritual event.



Let us pray for the children and their families that it will be a grace filled time to deepen their love of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

POPE ST JOHN PAUL II. Feast on Thursday. TRAVEL: John Paul II was the first Pope in history to travel around the world at such an extensive rate. He made 104 overseas trips during his papacy and managed to visit 129 countries; this is more than all his previous predecessors combined. He had a great love for people and desired to make a connection with people from all over the world. He spoke fluently included: Polish, Latin, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, English, and German.

COMMUNISM: The term of the "Holy Alliance" was coined in Time magazine piece in 1992. Some prefer to describe it as a partnership that was formed out of sharing a common battle with communism. Both saw Soviet communism as a great source of evil in the world which was destroying human freedom and dignity. John Paul II focused more so on proclaiming the Gospel while Reagan had a mission to, "to protect freedom . . . to protect it from Communist tyranny." In order for either of their missions to succeed, it was critical for the USSR to be taken down. Thus, the two joined forces to take down the Evil Empire together and battle it from both a spiritual and political perspective. Both had a strong faith, uncanny similarities growing up, a similar charisma, and both were saved from death only 6 weeks apart.

WORK AS A LABOURER: During the Nazi occupation of Poland, all males between the ages of 14 and 60 were required to have a job in manual labor if they wished to avoid deportation. Karol Wojtyła started working at the Zakrzówek quarry where he was forced to break apart limestone and "haul wheelbarrows full of crushed limestone from inside the quarry to a rail car." Wojtyla later writes about the lessons physical labor taught him in his book Gift and Mystery, "Having worked with my hands, I knew quite well the meaning of physical labor. Every day I had been with people who did heavy work. I came to know their living situations, their families, their interest, their human worth, and their dignity." He concluded that work, even heavy physical labor, was "a participation in God's creativity" and always had a purpose. It is only when work results in exploitation and degradation to the fellow man that it becomes evil.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND: After Pope John Paul II became Pope in 1978, he decided one of his first visits was to his homeland of Poland. Unfortunately, the communists in power were greatly against his visitation and tried to do everything they could to stop him from visiting. Brezhnev even wanted Pope John Paul II to lie to the public and state he wouldn't be coming because of a sudden illness. In the end, the communist efforts failed. An estimated 10 million Poles went to see Pope John Paul II speak throughout the country during his 9-day pilgrimage. John Paul II's message of hope during the 1979 pilgrimage awakened the Poles longing for freedom and ultimately paved the way for the creation of the non-violent social movement and trade union known as Solidarity. The movement had originally started as a protest demanding higher wages and better working conditions among the Lenin shipyard workers in Gdańsk. However, once the workers recognized the power of their protests, it transformed into a revolutionary social movement that advocated for the rights of the entire country. Millions of Poles came together from every part of the country to promote universal human values and freedom from the oppression of the communist government. Solidarity went Solidarity went on to topple the communist government.

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT: On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II survived an assassination attempt by a Turkish gunman known as Mehmet Ali Agca. He was riding in his popemobile and greeting the pilgrims in St. Peter's Square when four bullets struck him. From his hospital bed, John Paul II forgave Ali Agca and sent out a recording urging others to do the same. After recovering, he decided to visit the assassin in jail and even prayed with him in his prison cell. Although the KGB's involvement was never officially proven, officials and friends close to the Pope claim they have no doubt the Soviets were behind this assassination attempt.

Last years: In the last years of his life he was very physically incapacitated and obviously suffering, offering that to God for the salvation of the world.



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.



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!



Free Baby and Kids Clothes Swap. THIS Saturday 24th of October 2026, 10:00-12:00. In the Social Centre.



Bring a bag of your baby's/kid's washed old/outgrown clothes sorted by size and leave with clothes that fit!

If you are looking for newborn clothes, please just come without any donations to take some things for your new arrival!

Tea, coffee, squash and cakes available to buy with proceeds going to hall hire.
If you have clothes that you would like to drop before the event or would be willing to help, please contact Andy at lunn.andrew@gmail.com, or see me after Mass (one of the singers in the choir loft at 10.30 Mass.)



BAPTISM: Through the washing away of Original Sin we welcome Esme Tierney into God's Church this Saturday. May the grace of the Sacrament keep them and their family always faithful to the promises they make and enfolded in the Love of God's family.

ALTAR SERVERS: In preparation for Bishop Tom's visit next Sunday, can I ask if it may be possible for our servers to attend a practice this Saturday at 10am?

Any other boys interested in becoming an Altar Server? This would be a good time to contact me and come to his training session.

Fr. Simon





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

Our next meeting is at 7pm on Monday 26th 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 5 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.

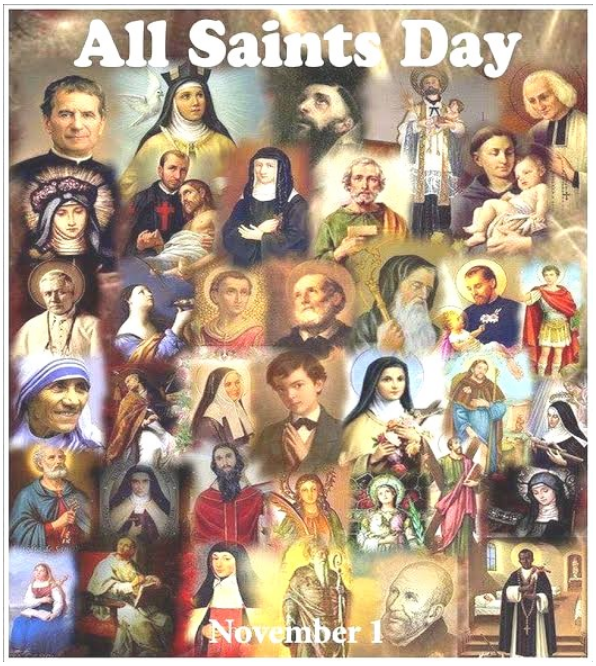
The title of the account is: **St Catherine's 100 Club**

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.

WARM SPACES COFFEE MORNINGS: These take place once a month during the winter months on Thursdays 10am—12 noon The next one is on Thursday 5th November.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS 1st NOVEMBER.



All Children are invited to attend the 10.30am Mass dressed as one of the Saints, to process into church and receive a prayer card afterwards in the Social Centre. Children from St Mary's Primary School will be assisting in the celebration of the Mass too.

It is a great way to allow the children to dress up instead of opting for Halloween costumes. Although All Hallow's Eve is a significant feast in the Church, the common celebration of this in the world around us is now so debased, as to bear no relation to the sacred meaning the Church teaches: that of praying for those who have died who may be in Purgatory and celebrating our eternal life with the Saints. Indeed the specter of ghouls and ghosts, cobwebs and spiders seems to direct attention away from heavenly things to hellish things. Not very wholesome for our children.

We had a great response last year with some very thoughtful costumes: from soldiers to Popes, from Nuns to kings. Plenty to choose from!

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (Latin for "For Church and Pope") is a medal of the Holy See awarded by the Pope to clergy and laypeople for distinguished service to the Catholic Church. Established by Pope Leo XIII and honors individuals who show deep commitment to the Catholic faith and render long or exceptional service to the Church and the papacy.

Next Sunday 25th October Bishop Tom Neylon will bestow the medal on our own Michael Thompson at the 10.30am Mass. Michael moved into the parish 50 years ago this year and has since taken on many roles in the parish and in the local community, so this award recognizes that long service and devotion.

We will also welcome as our guests, our local M.P. The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle and his wife Catherine Swindley , Lady Hoyle. Also, the Mayor of Chorley, Councilor Debra Platt, as well as members of the Euxton Parish Council.

There will be a Reception following in the Social Centre with a buffet Lunch for all who want to come along.

To help facilitate that, please note that there will be no tea & coffee after the 8.30am Mass on that day.

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.

RECORD PLAYER: Does anyone have a deck they are not using that will play 78's? Request via one of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from one of our parishioners in a local nursing home. Please see Fr Simon or Margaret Hill.