



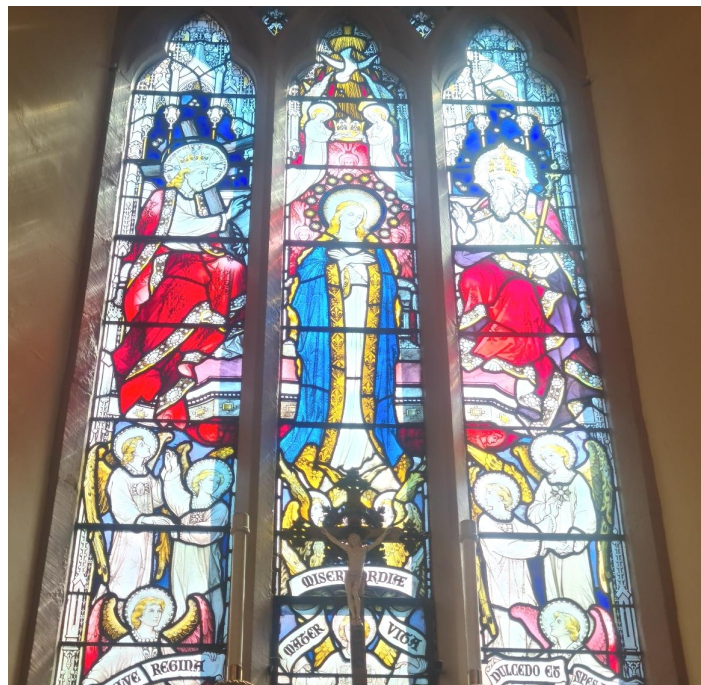
The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven



Salve Regina, Mater Misericordiae, vita dulcedo et spes nostra salve.

Hail Mary, Holy Queen Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.

Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady. 16th August	8.30am	Benefactors of the Lancs Infirm Clergy Fund
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Monday 17th Aug: Feria	9.30am	— (No public Mass today)
Tuesday 18th Aug: St Helen	9.30am	— (No public Mass today)
Wed 19th Aug: St John Eudes	9.30am	— (No public Mass today)
Thurs 20th Aug: St Bernard	—	— (No public Mass today)
Friday 21st Aug: Pope St Pius X	7pm	Novena & Benediction.
		Confessions following
Saturday 22nd August: Queenship of BVM	—	—
Twenty first Sunday. Year A. 23rd August	8.30am	Benefactors of the Lancs Infirm Clergy Fund
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

100 Club: Thomas Ford (33). *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 1170.

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

1	Elaine Carr
2	Russell Carr
3	Nick Berry
4	Ken Smith
5	Anne Stephens
6	Maureen Shorrock
7	Peter Worthington
8	Peter Gormall
9	Thomas Ford
10	James and Glenys Troop
11	Beryl Smith
12	Phillip Ikin
13	Damien Kzewinski
14	James and Glenys Troop
15	Colin Perks
16	Roy Carney
17	Joan Lewis
18	Veronica Ellen Gilman
19	Brian Monk
20	Miss Anne Hunter
21	Ros Stuart
22	Paul Costello
23	Brian Beardsworth
24	Reg and Eileen Nisbit
25	Monica Bibby
26	Andrea Mederos
27	Tracey Sullivan
28	Thomas Ford
29	Lyn Rogers
30	Angela Cambra
31	Lewis Gore
32	Judy Nix
33	Thomas Ford
34	Michael Thompson
35	Bernadeen Leyland
36	Joanne Paddison
37	Pauline Sutton
38	Liz Cottam
39	Thomas Ford
40	Joe Smith
41	Greg Smith
42	Thomas Ford
43	Laura Jackson
44	Liz Cottam
45	James Long
46	Mark Duncan
47	Patricia Burns
48	Moirra Walker
49	Colin Perks
50	Linda McDonald

51	Ken Duncan
52	Maria Long
53	Ken Duncan
54	Bernadeen Leyland
55	Ann Murphy
56	Linzi Smith
57	Linda McDonald
58	Peter Gornall
59	J Preston
60	B Telford
61	Maureen Shorrock
62	James Troop
63	Joe Dickinson
64	Anthony Dickinson
65	Marc Ponde
66	B Leyland
67	John and Anne Stephens
68	Elaine Mannix
69	Mary & Adrian Earnshaw
70	Mary & Adrian Earnshaw
71	Michael Hale
72	Peter Worthington
73	Elaine Mannix
74	Barbara Duncan
75	Jeanie Brown
76	Arran Peake
77	Richard Houghton
78	Bernadette Houghton
79	Rosaleen Wood
80	Anthony Dickinson
81	
82	B Hibbert
83	
84	F Duckworth
85	Tara Ponde
86	Janet Gore
87	Margeret Watkinson
88	
89	Margaret Watkinson
90	
91	
92	Andrea Handyside
93	David Bamber
94	
95	Shannon Sullivan
96	
97	
98	
99	John and Anne Stephens
100	Shona Jones

100 CLUB.

Thank you to those who have joined or continue with the 100 Club.

Following some new contributors, there are now just 9 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.



Catholic Pictorial Magazine.

Free copies of the diocesan magazine (and others) are available at the back of church. This month, an article features our own Susan Noblet, Head at St Mary's School, preparing to go with a diocesan group to Kenya, visiting projects the school has been supporting through the work of CAFOD.

WELCOME TO FR SIMON GORE:

Fr Simon is the Youth Chaplain for the Archdiocese, running "Animate" from St Mary's, Lowe House in St Helens. Fr Simon has kindly agreed to come and celebrate the Sunday Masses while I am away in France with our parish group. I'm sure you will give him a warm welcome.



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.



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.

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.

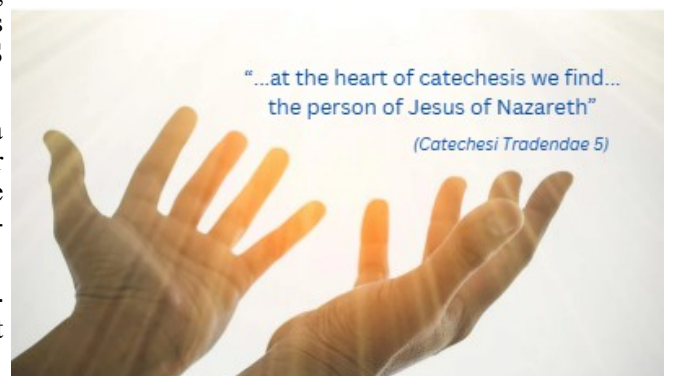


FIRST SACRAMENTS PREPARATION. Our preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion will begin again in September. Now that we have two schools, there is an increased number on the one course. Last year we had 40 children but not really enough Catechists. So an appeal for some more people to join the team, so we can prepare well in advance.

The course begins in September and meets just once a month on a Wednesday evening until Easter, so that sounds like a lot but is just seven evenings over 7 months. We will have a preparation meeting before that, as we will use a new program this year. With that in mind, if you feel you may be able to help, please email using the parish address and giving your phone number and full name. This applies to those existing catechists as well, so that we can be sure of who is available this time. New volunteers will also have to go through the DBS check.

This is an important part of our parish activities each year, and a great joy to teach our children about the Faith and deepen their knowledge of Our Lord. The program is simple, you don't have to be a teacher of trained catechist; it's more important to be enthusiastic about sharing the Faith.

A BRIEF MEETING FOR ALL CATECHISTS ON FRIDAY 28th AUGUST AT 6.30pm. Devotions are at 7pm, so it will be short.



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

No meeting this week. Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 24th August .

ST GREGORY'S ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL 21ST - 23RD AUGUST.

Weldbank, Chorley.

This year's festival will feature a selection of beers and ciders. Tickets for this event will be £5 each to include a souvenir programme & a free glass of beer. Wine and gin will also be available as well as food from our own Pit Stop café.



CONCERT IN THE GARDEN - SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST. Our ever popular family event will take place in the Parish Grounds at St Gregory's. The event will begin at 2:00pm and entry to the concert is free (i.e. no ticket required). Entry to the beer tent is free for those attending the beer festival on Fri/Sat but otherwise entry is £5 on the door. Bring along your friends and family and your own chairs and picnic blankets! There will be live music to entertain you, donkey rides and games for the children. Bring along your own picnic or enjoy food from our BBQ and refreshment stand.

TODAY'S FEAST:

The Assumption refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed — body and soul — into heaven at the end of her earthly life. "Assumption" is different than "ascension" because one is passive (i.e. one is assumed) and the other is active (i.e. one ascends). It is by the power of God Mary was assumed. As evidenced by the writings of many early Church fathers, Christians long believed that the Blessed Virgin was assumed into heaven. In 1950, Pope Pius XII issued *Munificentissimus Deus*, which officially defined the Dogma of the Assumption. This means that the Church officially recognizes this belief as a true and necessary part of our Catholic beliefs about Mary. Like all beliefs about Mary, they illuminate our most treasured beliefs about her Son. The Assumption illustrates to us the truth about Christ's promise of eternal life and the resurrection of the faithful.

The perennial battle that we face in evangelisation is persuading others that our freedom and God's will are not diametrically opposed, but it's also the battle that each believer still has to fight if we're honest with ourselves. Mary is our exemplar in showing us that true freedom consists in following God's will, not resisting it. This requires trust, and we see this trust throughout the life of Mary. It requires humility to say that my immediate desires, my immediate notion of what is good for me right now, might be mistaken. But common sense and experience show us that this is clearly the case. Pope Benedict argues that Mary's life show us that we need not fear 'that God might be a "rival" in our life, that with his greatness he might encroach on our freedom, our vital space. She knew that if God is great, we too are great.' The Assumption points to this greatness that God has bestowed upon us.



What then do we learn as we celebrate today's feast? The doctrine shows how God has exalted 'His lowly Handmaid'; it shows, in the words of Saint John Paul II, 'the saving power of Christ and His will to unite His elect intimately to Himself'. In His supreme goodness, the incarnate Son does not will to be alone, neither on earth nor in heaven, and He has elevated us to the dignity of participants in our own redemption.

Mary's bodily Assumption, then, precedes and points to the general resurrection because of her unique participation in her Son's Incarnation and thus also, as his mother, in His public ministry and Crucifixion. Having uniquely dwelt with her, her Son uniquely exalts her. The Assumption points to the goodness of the body, as well as the soul, it points to the goodness of the Incarnation and its reality. God does not remain distant from us. He is with us; he is there in our pain and our joy; our messiness and our moments of grace. The Assumption is truly good news and worth celebrating.

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.