



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



St Catherine’s, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174. E-mail: stcatherine@rcaol.org.uk

St. Mary’s, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. 01257 262665 . E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Third Sunday of Easter.



Saturday 3rd May:	SC 5pm	Harry & Celia Walker, RIP
3rd Sunday of Easter.		Confessions following
Third Sunday of Easter. Year C. 4th May	SM 8.30am	The Potter Family
Feast of the English Martyrs	SM 10.30am	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
Mon 5th May: Feria of Eastertide	SM 9.30am	Fr Robert Halshaw, RIP
Tuesday 6th May: Feria of Eastertide	SC 9.30am	Mary Walmsley, Anniv
Wed 7th May: Feria of Eastertide	SM 9.30am	Jim Turner, LD
Thursday 8th May: Feria of Eastertide	SC 9.30am	John & Lesley Chew & Family
Friday 9th May: Feria of Eastertide	SC 7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Confessions following		
Saturday 10th May:	SM 11am	Wedding David Barton & Grace Callan
4th Sunday of Easter. First Holy Communions	SC 5pm	Patsy Newton, RIP
		Confessions following
Third Sunday of Easter. Year C. 11th May	SM 8.30am	Fr Thomas Keeley
World Day of Prayer for Vocations	SM 10.30am	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

Vincent de Paul Society: Thank you for £205 last week.

Retiring Collection NEXT week for the Priest’s Training Fund.

St Catherine’s Church 100 Club: Andrew Nesbit (5)

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

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES: St Catherine, Elaine Carr. St Mary, Marie Tootell.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT ST MARY'S:

Return as normal this Sunday. All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Come and say hello!



ST CATHERINE'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION: Remaining preparation sessions in the Pope John Paul Room for children and their families are: **THIS Wednesday 7th May at 6pm. ESSENTIAL FOR ALL TO ATTEND**, as we will be practicing in church.

First Communions: Saturday 5pm Mass 10th May. Saturday 5pm Mass 17th May.

Let us pray for the children and their families, that God's grace will be renewed in their lives as they make this fresh commitment to Jesus and His Church. Attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a pre-requisite of being able to make First Communions. Don't forget to sign the "Golden Book".

ST MARY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Thank you to the parents & children for the renewed commitment to attend Mass each Sunday. Don't forget to sign "Golden Book" at the back of church for the children to make a record of their prayers and attendance at Mass for each Sunday until their First Communion as a gift for Jesus. Attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a pre-requisite of being able to make First Communions. Next session is **THIS Wednesday 7th May at 6.30pm. ESSENTIAL FOR ALL TO ATTEND**, as we will be practicing in church.



The Sacrament of Baptism recalls that, "*Parents are the first and best teachers of their children.*"

THE BEAUTY OF SILENCE IN CHURCH BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Then you will know that you are nothing. It is only when you realize your nothingness, your emptiness, that God can fill you with Himself. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: WE ARE DOING THIS ALONG WITH THE PARISHES OF ST AGNES & Ss PETER, ECCLESTON & PAUL, MAWDESLEY, AS PART OF OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES. THANK YOU TO THE EIGHT PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME FORWARD TO ASSIST WITH OUR WELCOME EVENING.

RED MISSION BOXES: Someone has now come forward to help organize this. Later in the year we will have someone from the Missio come & talk to us. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, DO CARRY ON COLLECTING. THERE ARE RED BOXES IN THE SACRISTY AT ST MARY'S IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE ONE. PERHAPS TWICE A YEAR WE CAN HAVE A "RED BOX DAY" WHEN THEY CAN BE BROUGHT IN TO CHURCH, AS AN EASY WAY TO COLLATE THEM. Missio is proud to be the Pope's own charity for overseas mission. Missio helps God's love to be shared by supporting local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief, and works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society.

SATURDAY 5pm MASS: Please note that - for various reasons - this Mass will be without music for the most part.

There will, however, still be music for the First Holy Communion Masses.

READERS: Proclaiming the Word of God, as a service to the liturgy and to the Lord, is both a responsibility and a blessing. Two of our readers are stepping down from that role due to health circumstances. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Flora for her 50 years of service - quite amazing! And with thanks to Jean as well.

If there is anyone who might be interested in becoming a reader, please do contact the parish.

PARISH MEETING: Friday 13th June 7.30pm at St Catherine's.

Now that we have had some months as one parish with two churches, I am requested by the Archdiocese to hold a meeting to look at the future of plans for our parish, which obviously makes good practical sense. We need to particularly look at how we make best use of our physical, financial and personnel resources in caring for pastoral need and evangelizing. This is an important meeting, so I wanted to give plenty of warning of the date to allow people to be there. Let us also pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of Our Blessed Lady and St Catherine.

Your Prayers are asked for all the sick, including: Rita Swarbrick, 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, Bill Sutton, Barbara Fow, Mary Ann Monaghan, Bernard Lawson, Mick Marshall, Carol Parkinson, Eric Nielson, Margaret Lawler, Catherine Thompson.

We pray for those who are housebound & for those who love & care for them.

O Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.



THE RITE OF SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER:

Instead of performing the Penitential Rite, a priest can choose to sprinkle his congregation at Mass with water. It is a practice that is an option a priest can choose on any Sunday of the year but in Eastertide it is especially appropriate, recalling our Baptism with the Easter water. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal 51). That it replaces the Penitential Act, reminds us of the cleansing our souls need before we dare present ourselves to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.



The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth: just as the gestation of our first birth took place in water, so the water of Baptism truly signifies that our birth into the divine life is given to us in the Holy Spirit. As "by one Spirit we were all baptized," so we are also "made to drink of one Spirit." Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified as its source and welling up in us to eternal life. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 694)

The sprinkling rite, besides recalling our baptism, could also be connected with Jesus' actions at the Last Supper. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples before celebrating the first Eucharist, performing an act of ritual cleansing before the feast. It is a beautiful option that priest's can choose at Mass and has rich symbolism that brings us deeper into the Paschal mystery.

We will start the 10.30am Mass with this each Sunday of Eastertide. It is accompanied by the chanting of particular palms, used since time immemorial. In fact, it is often called "*The Asperges*" - from the opening words of the psalm 51 that accompanies the sprinkling during the year:

Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo et mundabor, lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor. Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy great mercy.

During Eastertide, however, the *Vidi Aquam* is sung: a setting of Ezekiel 47:1.

Vidi aquam egredientem de templo, a latere dextro, Alleluia: Et omnes ad quos pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt, Et dicent: Alleluia, Alleluia. Confitemini Domino, quoniam bonus, quoniam in saeculum misericordia ejus.

I saw water flowing out of the Temple, from its right side, Alleluia: And all to whom this water came were saved, And they shall say: Alleluia, Alleluia. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his mercy is forever.

INSTALLATION OF JOHN SHERRINGTON AS OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

This will take place on Tuesday 27th May at 12 noon.

Our Dean, Fr Graeme Dunne, is arranging a coach so that we can take part in the Mass. Cost: £10 per person. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church as soon as possible, so that numbers can be judged.



Do look and engage with our parish Facebook page which can find by searching for

Parish of St Mary and St Catherine Labouré, Lancashire.

And our Website at: www.stmarys-cuxton.com

DEANERY NEWS:

St Joseph's church in Brindle, manned by the monks of Ampleforth Abbey since 1786: Fr Raphael has been asked by the Abbot to return to Ampleforth Abbey by the end of August 2025 and that the pastoral care would be handed over to the Archdiocese. In examining its own resources, both financial and those of personnel, it has become clear to the Archdiocese that it is not in a position to take on the financing and management of the buildings at St Joseph's, Brindle. This means that once Fr Raphael returns to Ampleforth Abbey the parish of St Joseph's will close, it was announced last Sunday.



The parishioners will become part of the parish of St Chad & St Bede, where Fr Mark Beattie is parish priest, giving him pastoral care of the parishioners as well as four primary schools.

The church building will remain in the ownership of Ampleforth Abbey, whose Trustees and the Abbot will have to meet to decide what it wants to do with the church and presbytery. It is a very sad time: the church is a listed building and the Benedictine mission there dates back to 1677, as well as having connections with the English Martyrs, most especially St Edmund Arrowsmith, whose chasuble is preserved there.

Both the Archdiocese and the monastic community at Ampleforth Abbey are saddened that this decision has had to be made. The hard fact is that neither Ampleforth Abbey nor the Archdiocese have any priests to put in place. Let us pray that the parish of St Chad and St Bede, with its new parishioners, will be strengthened to live and preach the Gospel by coming together as a larger and more thriving community.

LET US PRAY for the Cardinals as they elect a successor to St Peter.

Lord, as the Church enters this time of transition, we ask for the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Pour forth Your wisdom upon the College of Cardinals as they gather to discern Your will for the successor to the Chair of St. Peter.

Grant them clarity of mind, purity of heart, and courage of spirit, that they may choose a shepherd after Your own heart, one who will lead Your flock with wisdom, holiness, and love.

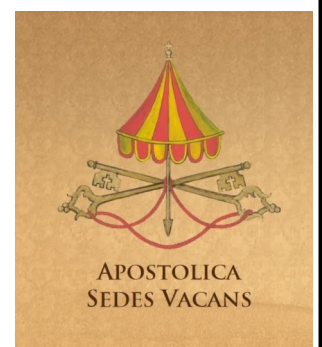
May the new pope be a faithful witness to Your truth, a compassionate minister to all in need, and a unifying presence in our divided world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

St. Peter, pray for us.

All holy men and women, pray for us.



MAY PROCESSION AND CROWNING:

Sunday 18th May at 3pm at St Mary's.

Together with St Mary's School we will honour our Blessed Lady in this her month of May. All are invited, so bring your family & friends. The procession will start at the school and process through the grounds to the cross in our cemetery, stopping to pray for all those buried there. Our procession will be accompanied by the Chorley Silver Band. Then proceed to the church for the crowning of the statue by one of our first Communion children.

All the First Communion children, from both our parish schools, are invited to take part dressed in their special clothes again.