



# The Parish of **St Mary** & **St Catherine**

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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## **Second Sunday of Easter. Divine Mercy.**



Saturday 26th April:	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Frank Shaw, RIP
2nd Sunday of Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday		<b>Confessions following</b>
<b>Second Sunday of Easter. Year C. 27th April</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	For the sick & the dying
<i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
Mon 28th April: Feria of Eastertide	---	--- (no public Mass today)
Tuesday 29th April: Novem Diales Mass for Pope Francis	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	Pope Francis, RIP
Wed 30th April: Novem Diales Mass	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	Pope Francis RIP
Thursday 1st May: Novem Diales Mass	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	Pope Francis RIP
Friday 2nd May: St Athanasius	<b>SC 7pm</b>	<b>NOVENA &amp; BENEDICTION</b>
<b>Confessions following</b>		
Saturday 3rd May:	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Harry & Celia Walker, RIP
3rd Sunday of Easter.		<b>Confessions following</b>
<b>Third Sunday of Easter. Year C. 4th May</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	The Potter Family
<i>Feast of the English Martyrs</i>	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)

**THANK YOU** for your offerings to the parish each week.

**Retiring Collection TODAY** for our St Vincent de Paul Society.

**Retiring Collection NEXT** week for the Priest's Training Fund.

**St Catherine's Church 100 Club: Watkinson (69)**

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.

**MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED: Sunday Pg 467. Ordinary of Mass Pink Pages.**

## 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: **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 on **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.

**AN EVENING OF SONG:** with Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir - an evening of light entertainment, with songs from the shows. St Joseph's Parish Centre at 7.3pm on Saturday 17th May. Tickets £5 each, including refreshments. Tel: Chris Jenner on 01257 278915.



**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:** Thank you to all involved in preparing and celebrating Holy Week and Easter. Much goes on behind the scenes to enable us to offer fitting worship to the Lord: music, cleaning, flowers and much more. It was lovely to take part in a church full of people - a great attendance made it feel like a real celebration, particularly at the Easter Vigil. A vibrant and truly prayerful experience at Mass goes a long way to bearing witness to our Faith by lived experiences different from what the world has to offer. Just as important to evangelizing as pastoral outreach is the quality and beauty of our worship. Psalm 96 says, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." This world is a mere shadow of the brightness and glory of heaven. We can only experience God in a partial and imperfect way in this life (1 Corinthians 13:12), but we will gaze upon His splendor when we stand before Him renewed. For now, psalms like this as a glimpse into the beauty we will one day behold in fullness. We can put on that garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3) and tell others about the holiness and beauty of God as faithful witnesses to His salvation (Matthew 28:19-20).

**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.*



**JUBILEE YEAR:** As part of the celebrations at our nearest Holy Year Door Church, there are two talks at St Mary's Parish Centre, Chorley both given by Mike Pietrzyk, a well-known speaker from Michigan, USA,

**Monday 28th April at 6.30pm: Eucharistic Miracles.** This will be a day after the Canonisation of Bl. Carlo Acutis in Rome.

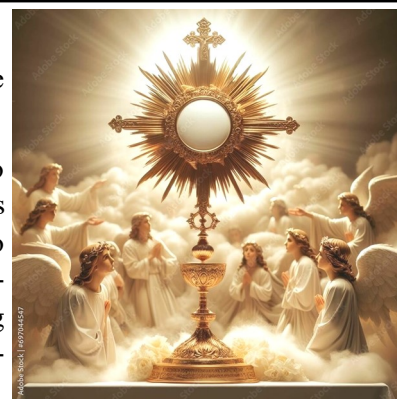
**Saturday 3rd May at 3pm: The Shroud of Turin** and the secrets that the forensic evidence tells us with the new technology we have available to scientists.

Please book the dates in your diary and come and hear the amazing evidence that will astound you about the Passion of Christ and the true existence of Jesus in Holy Communion.

### DEVOTIONS.

What a great turn out we had for Stations of the Cross during Lent! I hope that it bore spiritual fruit for everyone.

Now that Lent is over, we will return to Novena & Benediction. As the Novena is to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, this will suitably continue at St Catherine's church **BUT** we will keep Devotions for a Friday. This enables me to visit our two Primary Schools in turn, as they both have assemblies with parents on Friday mornings, giving an opportunity to meet parents and pray with the children. Also, keeping the same day for Devotions throughout the year seems to make more sense for regularity of attendance.



*"Your faith will help you realize that it is Jesus Himself Who is present in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for you and calling you to spend one special time with Him each week."* Pope John Paul II



### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY.

Next meeting is this Monday, 28th April, at 2pm in the Pope John Paul Room at ST Catherine's.

### 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. The cost will be £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-euxton.com](http://www.stmarys-euxton.com)**



**A BLESSED EASTER TO EVERYONE.** Many thanks for your kind gifts, cards and prayers. They are much appreciated. *On this glorious Easter, we give thanks for the gift of resurrection and new life.*

*May God's blessings shower upon you, filling your hearts with hope, joy, and love. And strengthen your faith and guide you in His ways. Amen.*

*Fr. Swin*



## POPE FRANCIS: REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

Pope Francis' Requiem Mass took place yesterday in St. Peter's Square. Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, presided at the Mass, which concluded with the *Ultima commendatio* and the *Valedictio*, marking the beginning of the *Novem diales*, or nine days of mourning and Masses for the repose of Pope Francis' soul.

The *novem diales* refers to a period of nine days of mourning following the death of the Supreme Pontiff. On the last day of the holy novena, all the cardinals then begin the conclave, where they will elect the next pope. Until then the Holy See is vacant: *Apostolica sedes vacans* (literally: the apostolic chair is vacant). Represented by the closed *umbraculum*, instead of the Papal coat of arms. The *umbraculum* is the symbol of apostolic authority, from when one was carried over the Pope (or the bishop).

We will take our own small part in the *novem diales* by offering Requiem Mass each day this coming week. Whilst the colour of vestments for Requiem Mass is usually black or violet, for a Pope, the vestments are traditionally red, as you may have noticed, if you watched yesterday. The Pope is buried wearing a red chasuble. Red is used as it recalls the blood shed by the martyrs and which, in the liturgy, also expresses the living presence of the Holy Spirit.

The *novem diales* traces its history back to the Roman Empire and has been an official part of the interregnum - the Sede Vacantes - since at least the time of Pope Gregory VII in 1073, established as a constitutive moment of a peaceful succession in the apostolic continuity of the Holy See.

## LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts both sorrowful and grateful. We mourn the passing of Your servant Pope Francis, who shepherded Your Church with humility and compassion.

We thank You for his witness to the Gospel, for his care for the poor and marginalized, for his call to protect Your creation, and for his tireless work for peace and unity among all peoples.

Receive him now into the light of Your presence, where sorrows end and joy begins eternal. May he rest in Your peace and rise in glory.

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.



## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS:

These will take place this afternoon at 3pm

at Sacred Heart Church, Brooke Street, Chorley PR6 ONG.

3.00pm with the Chaplet of Mercy.

Confessions are available with individual absolution.

Rosary will follow and Fr Ball will celebrate Holy Mass approx 3.45pm. I'm sure you could go just for the devotions, if you've already been to Mass.

