



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 Fourth Sunday of the Year



FEAST DAY ON TUESDAY

Twenty Fourth Sunday. Year A. 13th Sept	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	For the people of Nepal
Monday 14th Sept: Exultation of the Holy Cross	—	— (No public Mass today)
Tuesday 15th Sept: Our Lady of Sorrows	9.30am	Lawrence Allen, Anniv & Marie Donahue, RIP
Wed 16th Sept: Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	9.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Thurs 17th Sept: St Hildegard of Bingen	9.30am	Paul Taylor, RIP
Friday 18th Sept: Feria	7pm	Novena & Benediction.
		Confessions following
Saturday 19th Sept: St Theodore of Canterbury	—	—
Twenty Fifth Sunday. Year A. 20th Sept	8.30am	Ray Watkinson, RIP
	10.30am	Brian Leyland, sick

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for the Catholic Education Service.

Retiring Collection NEXT week for the Home Missions.

100 Club: Peter Gornall (58). *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 774.

RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH.

Once again, our prayers and congratulations to those received into full communion with the Church at the 8.30am Mass last week. We continue to thank God for His grace at work in our lives and in our parish.

The Monday inquiry sessions for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of the Faith continue NEXT Monday, 21st September.



CONFESSIONAL ROOM: The room used for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is in dire need of re-decorating (although, sadly, a very small number of parishioners will be aware of this!!!) This week, work started to repair the damp damage and repaint what was known as the “Anderton Porch”. I’m hoping a new look might encourage people to actually use it a little more frequently!

Fr. Swain

BAPTISM:

Through the washing away of Original Sin we welcome Marnie, Henry & Oscar Gornall 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.



VISIT OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO TO THE DEANERY.

His Excellency, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía visited Leyland for a Mass celebrating Catholic Education in the Lancashire Deanery. I concelebrated Mass with the Papal Nuncio and Archbishop John at a Mass in Leyland St Mary's. Some familiar faces there from our parish.

It struck me that we have a lot of involvement in our local schools. I’m Chaplain to our parish Primary Schools of St Catherine's and Euxton St Marys; But I also go in to St Mary’s High School in Leyland as well as Holy Cross, Chorley, and All Hallows. St Mary’s, Leyland and All Hallows are the feeder schools for our Primary Schools but we have parishioners in all three. I will be at Holy Cross on Monday celebrating Mass for the start of the new school year on the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. (NB Therefore there is no morning Mass in church on Monday.)

Fr. Swain



CATENIANS:

There is a poster at the back of church highlighting the work of the Catenians. There is a QR Code to scan or you can look the up online. There will be a different one each month, encouraging you to join or find out more about their work.

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.

THE EUXTON CROSS:

This cross is shared between the 3 Christian communities in Euxton, each holding it for 4 months (this practice fell out of use during the pandemic but is now re-introduced). Recognizing our common Baptism, it stands in our Baptistry, prompting us to pray & work for the goal of becoming one Church once again: following Our Lord’s command, “That they may all be one.”



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.



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, Brian Leyland.

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.



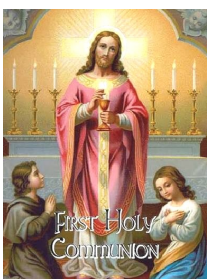
We have a new Facebook page. Search Parish of St Mary & St Catherine.

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?

No meeting this week. Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 21st September.

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 8 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.

CHURCH CLEANING: Thank you to all those who help maintain our beautiful church—and to some new volunteers. There will be a brief meeting for all volunteers after the 10.30am Mass NEXT Sunday, in the Social Centre. Would anyone who can't attend please let Margaret know.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME: Just a reminder for those who receive Holy Communion at home, please do your best to prepare a suitable place for the Blessed Sacrament. If you have a crucifix, statue or holy picture then this can be placed on a cloth with a candle (it need be no more than tea light). The arrival of the Blessed Sacrament is a great grace, so if you can't do all of that, at least a decent cleared space would be helpful. Thank you.

St. Hildegard von Bingen. Her Feast Day is on Thursday. You may have come across her music, as the beautiful chant she wrote has become popular over recent years... you know, that old-fashioned medieval stuff!

St. Hildegard's feminine strength and authority, combined with her intellectual talents and mystical gifts, allowed her to be a courageous and outspoken presence to the Church leaders and political figures of her time. Hildegard was born in the year 1098. She was gifted at a young age with visions. As a child, Hildegard was sent to be educated at a Benedictine monastery, where she was put under the care of a woman named Jutta. The reputation for holiness that Jutta and Hildegard received spread and attracted other young women to them. As a result, they formed their own Benedictine convent and Hildegard received the religious habit at the age of fifteen. After Jutta's death, Hildegard was appointed as the superior of the convent. The visions that Hildegard experienced as a child continued, and she confided them to a monk named Volmar, who encouraged her to record her mystical experiences. The content of Hildegard's mystical visions were primarily theological and referred to the events of salvation history, communicated to her in poetic and symbolic language.

Hildegard wrote extensively, and her interests were varied and expansive. Her writings include the subjects of botany, cosmology, natural science, language, medicine, theology, music, poetry, and history. Her musical talent led her to compose hymns, antiphons, and songs that were joyfully performed in the monasteries. Hildegard had a great love for God's creation, the pinnacle of which is the human person. She wrote, *"A human being is a vessel that God has built for himself and filled with his inspiration so that his works are perfected in it."*

Hildegard was unafraid to confront the political and Church leaders of her time, and had a wide correspondence with many of them. When the Emperor Frederic Barbarossa caused a schism in the Church through, Hildegard was inspired by her visions to write him these words spoken by God: *"You will be sorry for this wicked conduct of the godless who despise me! Listen, O King, if you wish to live! Otherwise my sword will pierce you!"* In the later years of her life, despite her advanced age and difficult traveling conditions, Hildegard journeyed throughout Europe to speak and share her spiritual insights. She especially addressed monastic communities and the clergy, calling them to a life of repentance and conversion and reprimanding them when necessary.

Hildegard was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI who said, *"Let us always invoke the Holy Spirit, so that he may inspire in the Church holy and courageous women like St. Hildegard of Bingen, who, developing the gifts they have received from God, make their own special and valuable contribution to the spiritual development of our communities and of the Church in our time."*

