



# The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Presbytery: St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy



"My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28.

Second Sunday of Easter. Year A. 12th April	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
<i>Divine mercy Sunday</i>	10.30am	Robert & Edith Duckworth
Monday of the Easter Octave: 13th April	9.30am	Rev. Thomas Keeley
Tuesday of the Easter Octave: 4th April	9.30am	William Thomas Taylor
Wednesday of the Easter Octave: 15th April	9.30am	Frank Shaw, Anniv
Thursday of the Easter Octave: 16th April	9.30am	Les Westhead
Friday of the Easter Octave: 17th April	7pm	Novena & Benediction
		CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING
Saturday 18th April:	11am	Baptism of Matilda McCourt
Third Sunday of Easter. Year A. 19th April	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Wesley Holmes, RIP

**THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.**

**100 Club: Judy Nix (32)** . Please collect your winnings from the sacristy.

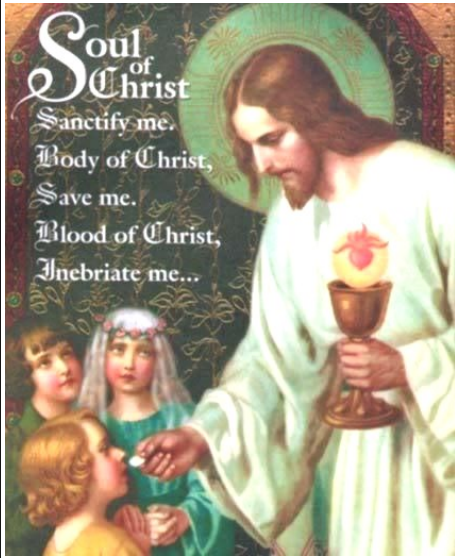
Fr Simon's blog is at **offerimus tibi domine** (where you will also find the Mass times each week)

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

**MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 369.**

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 673.

**FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNIONS.** We begin four weeks of First Holy Communions today.



**Children, please join Fr Simon in the sacristy before Mass to process in & afterwards in the Social Centre to cut a cake and receive your Certificate.**

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the precious gift of the Eucharist, and for the joy our children experience in receiving Jesus for the first time.

Lord, as they grow in years, help them to grow also in faith, hope, and love. Place in their hearts a deep longing to meet You each week at the Holy Mass, to listen to Your Word, and to be nourished by Your Body and Blood.

When distractions, busyness, or doubts arise, give them the strength to choose You above all else. Surround them with family, friends, and a parish community who will encourage and inspire them to keep You at the centre of their lives.

May the memory of their First Holy Communion be a light that guides them, and may their love for the Mass burn brightly all their days.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **BAPTISM**

Through the washing away of Original Sin we welcome Matilda McCourt into God's Church this Saturday. May the grace of the Sacrament keep her and her family always faithful to the promises they make and enfolded in the Love of God's family.



**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.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** The envelope sets for the new tax year are now ready for collection at the back of church. Thank you to all who Gift Aid and to those who use the envelopes for Gift Aid or to plan their giving. If you would like a set of envelopes or to start giving with Gift Aid, please email the parish address to ask. Anyone who pays tax can sign up for Gift Aid and the parish can then claim back 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give, increasing your gift to the parish by a quarter!

### **REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.**

**All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Come and say hello!**

**IT WOULD BE A GREAT A GREAT ACT OF CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY IF SOME OF THE FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS COULD VOLUNTEER ON THE FIRST FOUR SUNDAYS OF EASTERTIDE AT THE 10.30AM MASS.**

**NOT NECESSARILY ON THE DAY OF YOUR OWN CHILD'S COMMUNION BUT ON ONE OF THE OTHER SUNDAYS.**



**CLOCK RESTORATION:** THIS year marks the 150th anniversary of the installation of the clock and bell in the tower.

The clock face is severely weathered, the clock was last renovated in the late 1980's. The company who service the clock and bell have given me us cost for the work - taking it away and refinishing it properly to last for many years. It is a highly specialized job, and if not done properly, the paint will not last. However, with the scaffolding that would be needed, the cost would be around £20,000. Given that, we thought it would not be possible to go ahead but one of our parishioners is kindly pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects and our local Parish Council is also considering providing a grant. We are also fortunate in having offers of donations to help pay for it. Thank you! If anyone has any other ways of accessing funds, please do let us know!





**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.**



**WORK ON THE PRESBYTERY:**

We are hoping that we can have another go at the Presbytery garden this coming **Saturday 18th April** from around 9am. Further clearing but we should have had some hardcore and topsoil delivered by then to put down. Doing this work ourselves cuts the cost enormously, so thank you indeed for any help you can give.

Paid in bacon butties, as usual!



**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.*

Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish

**EASTER:**

Thank you for your Easter Offerings and thank you for all the cards, gifts and prayers.

Thank you also to all those who helped with the Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

There are many jobs, great and small, that go into making our liturgies so beautiful, so that we can all lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer.



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Those in Catholic Schools are now signed up for Confirmations this year. If you are not in a Catholic school but wish to be Confirmed, please speak to Fr Simon as soon as possible.

Confirmations for 80 young people with Archbishop John for our Family of Parishes will take place here at St Mary's on Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm.



Apart from presumed attendance at Mass, preparations include a PIZZA NIGHT. An opportunity for the Confirmands to ask questions of the Faith and so be better prepared to live it, as they make the commitment of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

And also, on Sunday 17th May, 10.30am an Enrollment Mass where Confirmands are invited to be welcomed by the Christian community of Faith.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Social Centre.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** takes place each year throughout the worldwide Church on the second Sunday of Eastertide and was formally approved by Saint John Paul II.

The devotion service will be held at **Sacred Heart, Chorley 12 April starting at 3.00pm** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Private Confessions will be available during Exposition. The afternoon also includes the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Rosary and the Sunday Mass of the day. The devotions end with the blessing of the Divine Mercy image and its veneration. All are very welcome to attend



## PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027.

Exact dates to be confirmed when we know if there is enough interest to make it viable.

**MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY 15th APRIL in the Social Centre at 7.30pm.**



Pilgrimage next year 2027 in Rome in the late summer/ Autumn (probably late September). Staying in a 3\* hotel in the heart of the *Centro Storico*, the ancient heart of Rome, giving a fascinating glimpse into *La Bella Roma!* Please note that this involves walking the daily through the “Centro Storico” (historical centre) of the Eternal City, an area which is marked by cobbled streets, which requires anyone with mobility issues to think carefully about their ability to take part.

The cost is difficult to be precise at this distance (eg not possible to look up flights this far in advance) and dependent on deciding to include full or half board, which is best decided at the meeting, as to what the majority prefer. However, we are trying to bring it in for under

£1,000 per person based on 5 nights.

The price (based on sharing twin rooms) includes the hotel accommodation.

Flights and transfers at either end.

Guided tours each day.

Breakfast each day.

Please note that the price does NOT include Insurance or the cost of baggage on the flights each way (as this will vary from person to person, depending on what luggage you want to take).

A non-returnable deposit of £150 per person will be taken at the time of booking the flights.

We will visit some of the major basilicas, including St Peter's and a visit to the “Scavi” the ancient cemetery beneath St Peter's where his remains are buried. Also taking in many churches of historical and spiritual interest, housing great works of art by the likes of Caravaggio, as well as making note of little details bringing the centuries past to life.

Presuming the Holy Father is in Rome at the time, we will also attend a Papal Audience.

The great sights such as the Forum, the Trevi Fountain and the Coliseum will also be on our routes. Time for shopping and opportunity to visit the Vatican Museum (which is the only way to see the Sistine Chapel) will also be included. Eating in the outdoor cafes and restaurants, soaking up Rome's unique ambience, are an essential part of experiencing the city.

Daily Mass will form part of the schedule.



## PILGRIM HOLIDAY TOP FRANCE. 13th—20th AUGUST 2026. 7 nights in Saint Pierre de Maillé in France.

An historic area in the heart of France, exploring history and Catholicism, staying in the Villa St Pierre, next to the River Gartempe. Following the meeting we had, there are about 20 people interested in going.

Cost to be £700 per person. Younger children at a discount, travelling at £300 each.

Including transport, flights and most meals (with wine for the meals) and en-suite accommodation, entrance costs to attractions & daily Mass.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE TAKE A FORM FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH & RETURN IT TO FR SIMON, with a non-returnable deposit of £150, to enable the flights to be booked. Cheques made payable to “St Mary's Parish”

Outward: Departing Manchester Airport Thursday 13th August.

Return: from Limoges Airport 20th August.

## Catholic Faith



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

**Our meetings for prospective Converts have broadened to include those recently returning to practice of the Faith, who want to learn a little more.**

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 13th April. Even if you did not come to the initial meeting, anyone interested is still welcome. The meeting will be held in the Presbytery (behind the church on the Lourdes Shrine side). Please contact Fr Simon.