



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twelfth Sunday of the Year



Nativity of St John the Baptist by Rogier van der Weyden, c. 1455. Feast on Wednesday.

Twelfth Sunday of Year A. 21st June	8.30am	Ann Coles, RIP
<i>Day for Life</i>	10.30am	Frank Manning, Anniv
Monday 22nd June: Ss John Fisher & Thomas More	9.30am	Barbara Rutledge, RIP
Tuesday 23rd June: St Etheldreda (Audrey)	9.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Wed 24th June: Nativity of St John the Baptist	9.30am	Benefactors of the Lancs Infirm Clergy Fund
Thurs 25th June: Feria	9.30am	For a successful operation. DJF
	1pm	Burial of Ashes for Roy Hitchen
Friday 26th June: Feria	7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
		Confessions following
Saturday 27th June: St Cyril of Alexandria	—	—
Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul. 28th June	8.30am	Jack Hoole,, RIP
	10.30am	Mary Sherrington, Aniv

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring collection TODAY Sunday: Day for Life.

Retiring Collection NEXT week for Peter's Pence.

100 Club: Brian Monk (19). 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 731.

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

ST ETHELDREDA (AUDREY)

The 23rd June marks the feast day of St Etheldreda (translated from old English as Audrey), another great English female Saint of Catholic England, who was once hugely popular but who fell away from much public attention since the Reformation. St Audrey's remains were housed for many centuries in a great shrine at Ely Cathedral. Despoiled at the Reformation, her relics (one hand) are now honoured in the Catholic Church in Ely.

St. Audrey, was an Anglo-Saxon princess, abbess, and saint who was born around 636AD in Exning, Suffolk and was one of the four saintly daughters of Anna of East Anglia, including Wendreda and Seaxburh of Ely, all of whom eventually retired from secular life and founded abbeys. St Audrey was married twice, first in 652AD to Tondberht, a noble of the South Gyrwe. Tondberht was happy to honour her vow of perpetual virginity – made some years before their marriage – but his death three years later made her once more available and she was remarried for political reasons to the 15 year old heir to the kingdom of Northumbria, Ecgrith, in 660AD. Ecgrith was less enamoured by Audrey's piety and resolute commitment to her vow and when he became king in 670AD, the subsequent tensions gave way to him eventually allowing her to become a nun at Coldingham nunnery. This was not the end of matters however for Ecgrith soon changed his mind and Etheldreda and two of the Coldingham nuns fled to the Isle of Ely to avoid being "carried off" (a euphemism for being forcibly taken) by the king.

She founded the double monastery (both men & women, though living separately) of Ely in 673, on the site of what is now Ely Cathedral and as abbess led a life of austerity and devotion, becoming a revered figure for her spiritual leadership and piety. Her monastery became a centre of learning and spirituality.

According to the English historian St Bede, she died on June 23, 679 of a neck tumour, something which she interpreted as sent by God in his goodness to relieve her of guilt for her youthful vanity and love of necklaces. She was buried in a common grave at Ely initially but her sister Seaxburh disinterred her bones and moved them into the new church there in 695AD. According to tradition, her body was found incorrupt 16 years after her death, which was considered a sign of her sainthood. This discovery contributed to her growing veneration.

The English word tawdry is derived from the common version of her name – Saint Audrey – and the fact that her admirers bought modestly concealing lace goods at an annual fair held in her name in Ely. By the 17th century, this lacework had become seen as old-fashioned, vain, or cheap and of poor quality, at a time when the Puritans of eastern England disdained ornamental dress. Another example of how the Catholic Faith is woven into the life and language of our land.

St. Audrey's contributions to the Catholic Faith in England, particularly through her establishment of Ely as a center of religious life and learning, ensure her continued commemoration in the liturgical calendar. Her story of piety, dedication to a religious life, and the founding of the double monastery at Ely resonate with many in the Church and her feast day provides an opportunity for the faithful to reflect on her example of spiritual dedication and leadership of this great woman.



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.



One of our parishioners is kindly pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects and our local Euxton Parish Council is offering a very generous grant of £7,000. **We now have a donation of £5,000 from a parishioner! Thank you!** If anyone has any other ways of accessing funds or if you would like to donate, 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.



ALTAR SERVERS.



I am hoping that some of the boys from our First Communion group this year will join our Servers Team. I have mentioned this to the children and to parents over the course of the preparation. Can I ask parents to encourage and support children in taking up this great service. I appreciate that some cannot commit to every Sunday for various reasons but this should not prevent them from joining. Having received the Lord in the Holy Eucharist, it is a way of giving thanks for such a great gift. There would be some training to prepare them and they would be part of what I hope will become an annual event of a day out during the summer.

Thank you to all those who came along to help at our Grounds Tidy Up Day yesterday!

LAWN MOWER.



We have a spare ride-on lawn mower, if anyone is looking for one. Mountfield T38M-SD ride on mower with towing bracket missing it's blade deck. Ideal for towing a trailer or for spare parts. A donation to the parish is it's price!



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.



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.



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.

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. 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.

Outward: Departing Manchester Airport Thursday 13th August. Return: from Limoges Airport 20th August.

OUTSTANDING BALANCES, INCLUDING LUGGAGE COSTS, PLEASE PAY THESE BY 13th JULY. Payable to "St Mary's Parish."

CLEANING TEAMS FOR CHURCH AND SACRISTANS. A dedicated band of parishioners clean the church each week—a holy service that is of benefit to us all! However, some time back there were two teams and now there is just one, so a greater burden falls on the few. If there is anyone who could lend a hand, you would be much welcomed. There is a sheet at the back of church to put down your contact details to be contacted by Margaret Hill, who can tell you more.



ALSO: a helping hand with sacristy work would be a great help. Keeping the candles trimmed and polishing the thurible as well as a host of other little jobs in service of the liturgy is more time consuming than you might think. Please speak to Fr Simon if you would like to know more.

EUXTON GALA: Saturday 4th July. 12 noon—4pm. Our schools are taking part in various ways but we are particularly looking for **helpers for the Refreshments** and the **Tombola** which we will help to collect prizes for nearer the time): you can volunteer to do just an hour, so that no-one is working all afternoon. **If you can help, please let us know by signing up on the sheet at the back of church as soon as possible, so that a rota can be drawn up.**

Euxton Gala Day 2026
 Saturday 4 July 2026
 12 noon-4pm
 Join us for a fun family day out
 in the heart of Euxton!
 Everyone's welcome!
 Entry £2 adults/children free with an adult

Also, any general help most **especially setting up in the morning and taking everything down afterwards.** Again, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

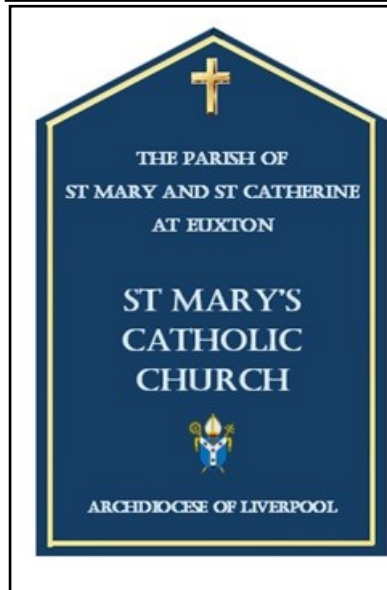
TOMBOLA PRIZES: There is a box at the back of church for any donations for Tombola Prizes.

Nearer the time, parishioners could also bake cakes etc for the cake stall. The parish will now benefit from any funds raised by the Gala. We are not just “helping out” as a parish but now a full partner in the Gala, so please do rally round and make our presence felt.



St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher were imprisoned together at the Tower of London. There are historical stories of the two Saints passing notes from one to the other. Sculptor Timothy P. Scmaltz has captured this friendship between these two Saints by depicting them communicating quietly through cracks in the cell wall. It stands in the Tower of London.

Saints Thomas More and John Fisher were English martyrs executed by King Henry VIII in 1535 for refusing to accept his annulment and acknowledge him as the Supreme Head of the Church of England. Canonized together in 1935, they remain powerful symbols of conscience and witnesses to the Catholic Faith.



CHURCH SIGNAGE: The Parish Council at their last meeting discussed renewing the main sign on the corner for our church to take into account our new parish designation. This is in hand. We would like to renew the sign but keep the lovely frame made by a parishioner, Tony Hart, who went to God some years ago but his handiwork lives on). The woodwork frame is in need of some restoration, if there is anyone with the requisite skills who would like to take that on.

Pictured, a possible version.

THANK YOU:



for your cards and gifts welcoming me (finally) into the Presbytery. I've now been “on site” for a couple of weeks and gradually settling in. Even my cats seem to have taken it in their stride!

Fr. Simon

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 22nd June. Even if you did not come to the initial meetings, 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.