



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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph



The Holy Family. Year A. 28th December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Billy Strickland, Anniv
Mon 29th Dec: St Thomas Becket	9.30am	Eric Nielson, RIP
Tuesday 30th December: 6th Day of Christmas Octave	9.30am	David Loughlin, Anniv
Wednesday 31st December: 7th day of Octave	9.30am	Rev Thomas Keeley
Thursday 1st Jan: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	9.30am	Rev Thomas Keeley
Friday 2nd January: Ss Basil & Gregory	—	— No public Mass today
Saturday 3rd Jan: Holy Name of Jesus	—	— No public Mass today
2nd Sunday after the Nativity. Year A. 4th January	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Intentions of Anthony Dickinson

THANK YOU for your Christmas Offerings.

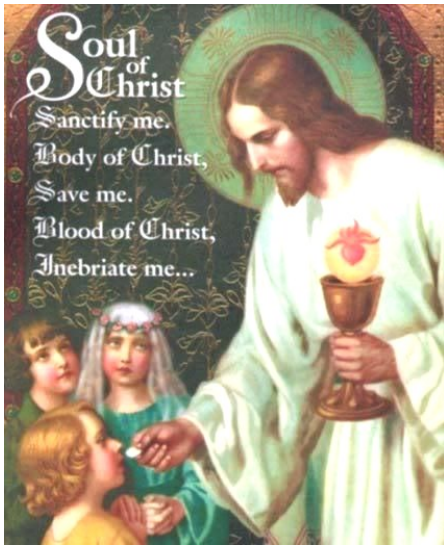
100 Club: Mr & Mrs Nesbit (24)

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: Page 99.

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



FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNIONS.

Our First Communion preparation has begun, with forty or so children taking part. The next session is in the Social Centre on **Wednesday 7th January at 6.30pm.**

Children must sign the "Golden Book" at the back of church.

This is to make a record of their prayers and attendance at Mass for each Sunday until their First Communion as a gift for Jesus. It will be carried up to the altar on the day of their First Communion.

Please note that attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a prerequisite of being able to make First Communions in Eastertide of next year. If families are not able to make this commitment, then those children can defer and join the program next time round.



"Those whose names are written in the book of life." Phil 4:3 .

BURN'S NIGHT SUPPER Saturday 31st January 2026.

A formal evening with a three course meal, including the Haggis, Neeps and Tatties with the piping in of the Haggis. to start and Cranachan as pudding.

Traditional speeches and entertainments. Traditional Scottish dress if you have it!

This will be run with any profits going to the charities of the Order of St Lazarus.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH.

Please sign up as you buy a ticket— to assist seating arrangements.

The price is £25 per person, which includes: Three course meal; Wine with the meal; Whisky for the Toasts.
£10 for young people under 16.



ST PATRICK'S NIGHT CÉILIDH Saturday 21st March 2026.

A traditional Irish celebration with Irish Stew and live music to dance to. Suitable for all the family. Further details to follow.



REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

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

PLEASE NOTE

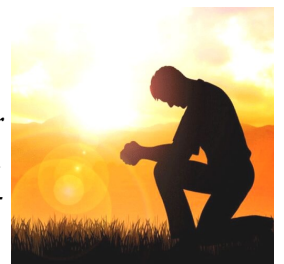
THAT AFTER MASS REFRESHMENTS WILL BEGIN AGAIN NEXT WEEK.



WE ARE STILL SHORT OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS. PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP US CONTINUE ENABLING US TO MEET ONE ANOTHER AFTER 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.





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.

MISSIO RED BOXES: A message from our Missio Rep, Peter Worthington. The recent intake from the Red Boxes brought in £307.88.

A reminder that Peter will organize the money from the Red Boxes to be brought in twice a year. I'm sure with all the new members recently signed up this already substantial sum will only increase. Thank you to everyone helping and praying for the Missionary work of the Church in this way.

CHARITY CAROL CONCERT

We raised a magnificent £700 for the work of the Order of St Lazarus.

THANK YOU! To all who came along and to all those who provided support for a wonderful evening, without whom it could not have taken place.



THANK YOU for your many good wishes and prayers as well as your kind words, cards and gifts. They have made their way back to my little household (still in Farington) where, as you can see, they joined the others around the Christmas tree.

They are very much appreciated and I feel blest to have such good-hearted affirmation, just over a year since we ventured into the new world of conjoined — and now united — parish life!

Thanks also to everyone who helped to make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful, often behind the scenes. I should make special thanks to Michael Thompson, our Parish Assistant, for all his hard work and help to me personally.

And to all who provided such beautiful & high quality music to make our celebrations truly fitting.

I pray that the Christmas Season may bring you all many blessings and fill our hearts with the hope of new life, the sign at the heart of the Nativity.

May God bless us, one and all!

Fr. Simon



LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

CRIB OFFERINGS: Do come to the Lady Altar and say a prayer at the Crib. Especially, bring your children to make a little pilgrimage to the Crib and light a candle.

At the direction of Archbishop John, our Crib Offerings will go to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the diocese that covers the Holy Land. There is a basket for your offerings at the Crib.

VOTIVE CANDLES: PLEASE, ONLY PUT THE VOTIVE LIGHTS IN THE HOLDERS AND NOT ALONG THE LEDGES THE HOLDERS SIT ON. Otherwise, they might easily fall off the stand is knocked slightly or produce too much heat, which then puts us in danger of them setting themselves on fire.



Fully accessible toilets are available in the social Centre.



THANK YOU
to St Mary's Primary School for their kind gift of a Christmas Jumper.

I couldn't resist sharing it with you all. And it was worn on Christmas day!

It is the most Christmassy of Christmas jumpers I've ever seen!

Fr. Simon

JOIN OUR PARISH 100 CLUB

Thank you to those who have signed up for our 100 Club. We are waiting for all the new applicants to come in and you will then see your Standing Orders coming out of your accounts in the New Year. Please be patient as we digitalize the process and collate all our new members. You will be informed of your numbers in due course.

Please take a SIGN UP FORM from the back of church for a Standing Order or scan the QR Code on the coloured leaflets.

Thanks to David and Grace Barton, who have volunteered to revamp and streamline how the 100 Club functions and help our parish in this way.

The feast of the Holy Family this Sunday remembers the family unit of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This special day highlights the importance of family life and encourages reflection on the virtues exemplified by the Holy Family: love, respect, obedience, and faith. The feast day was formally instituted in 1921 under Pope Benedict XV.

A Prayer to The Holy Family, for your Children.



O Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, well-beloved Son of the Blessed Virgin and foster Child of St. Joseph, we implore You, through Mary Your ever-blessed Mother and St. Joseph Your foster father, take our children under Your special charge and enclose them in the love of Your Sacred Heart. They are the children of Your Father in Heaven, created after His own image; they are Your possession, for You have purchased them with Your Precious Blood; they are temples of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified them in Baptism and implanted in their hearts the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

O most loving Jesus, rule and guide them, that they may live according to the holy Catholic Faith, that they may not waver in their confidence in You and that they may ever remain faithful to Your love.

O Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus, grant to our children a place in your pure maternal heart! Spread over them thy protecting mantle when danger threatens their innocence; keep them firm when they are about to stray from the path of virtue; and should they have the misfortune of falling into mortal sin, then raise them up again, reconcile them with your Divine Son and restore them to Sanctifying Grace.

O holy foster father St. Joseph, do not abandon our children! Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body.

O dear parents of the holy Child Jesus! Intercede for us parents also, that we may bring up our children in the love and fear of God and one day attain with them the Beatific Vision. Amen.

NOVENA & BENEDICTION: We have taken a break from our Friday evening Devotions over the Christmas period. As I will be away for two Friday in early January (assisting with a Pilgrimage to Rome for an American group) and after that on a short post-Christmas break, Devotions will resume later in January. *Fr Simon.*

Requiescat in pace: As Many of you will know, my step-father, Eric Neilson, died in the early hours of Christmas morning. He has been in a care home on the Wirral for the last six years since the death of my mother, Veronica. Obviously his funeral & other family matters will take up some of my time in the next weeks.

SANCTUARY LAMP: Some of you have noticed the sanctuary lamp is missing! Unfortunately it fell down just before Christmas. It is part of the original fittings of the church, so it is 160 years old. One of the fitting seems to have failed, perhaps following its cleaning and restoration last year. We will have it back as soon as possible.