



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. 01257 262665 . E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Fifth Sunday of Easter



We pray for those making their
First Holy Communion

Saturday 17th May:

SC 5pm

Margaret Tully, RIP

5th Sunday of Easter. *First Holy Communions*

Confessions following

Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year C. 18th May

SM 8.30am

Anthony Bagot

SM 10.30am

Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)

SM 3pm

MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING

Mon 19th May: Feria of Eastertide

--- (No public Mass today)

Tuesday 20th May: Feria of Eastertide

--- (No public Mass today)

Wed 21st May: Feria of Eastertide

--- (No public Mass today)

Thursday 22nd May: Feria of Eastertide

--- (No public Mass today)

Friday 23rd May: Feria of Eastertide

SC 7pm

NOVENA & BENEDICTION

Saturday 24th May:

SC 5pm

Harry & Celia Walker

5th Sunday of Easter. *First Holy Communions*

Confessions following

Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year C. 25th May

SM 8.30am

Robert Bell

SM 10.30am

Neil Bibby, 2nd Anniv RIP

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

St Catherine's Church 100 Club: Philip Ikin.

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 481.

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 153.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS AT ST MARY'S:

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



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:

During the Easter Season we have the suitable setting for rejoicing with the children who will be making their First Holy Communion. This is being done in small "batches", so that, though the celebration is very special, the setting is the usual Sunday Mass where they and their families will continue to experience Our Lord's great gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist in the weeks and years ahead.

St Catherine's church: Saturday 17th May at 5pm Mass.

St Mary's church: 18th, 25th May, 1st June & 8th June at the 10.30am Mass.

Children will come into the Parish Centre afterwards to receive a certificate and cut their cake!

Not forgetting the May Procession THIS Sunday 18th at 3pm.



MAY PROCESSION AND CROWNING TODAY

Sunday 18th May at 3pm at St Mary's.

Together with St Mary's School we will honour our Blessed Lady in this her month of May. All are invited, so bring your family & friends. The procession will start at the school and process through the grounds to the Lourdes Grotto to pray for the sick; on to the cross in our cemetery, stopping to pray for all those buried there. Our procession will be accompanied by the Chorley Silver Band. Then proceed to the church for the crowning of the statue by one of our first Communion children. **We gather & start at St Mary's School.**

All the First Communion children, from both our parish schools, are invited to take part dressed in their special clothes again.

BANNERS: We are hoping that we can carry some of the parish banners in the procession. Are there four volunteers to carry them?



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: We still do not have a date for the Confirmations, due to the retirement and installation of Archbishops! Should be some news soon.

INSTALLATION OF JOHN SHERRINGTON AS OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP

AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

This will take place on Tuesday 27th May at 12 noon.

There are tickets available for each parish. Please see Fr Simon if you would like to go.

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



THE BEAUTY OF SILENCE IN CHURCH BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

Give people space to pray.

"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**

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.



PARISH MEETING: Friday 13th June 7.30pm at St Catherine's. Now that we have had some months as one parish with two churches, I am requested by the Archdiocese to hold a meeting to look at the future of plans for our parish, which obviously makes good practical sense. We need to particularly look at how we make best use of our physical, financial and personnel resources in caring for pastoral need and evangelizing. This is an important meeting, so I wanted to give plenty of warning of the date to allow people to be there. Let us also pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of Our Blessed Lady and St Catherine.

EACH WEEK THERE WILL BE SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO HELP INFORM US AND GET US THINKING.

What goes on in our parish? Many people perhaps imagine a parish priest rolls out on a Sunday and on most weekdays to celebrate Mass and might have little else to do. I thought it would be good to map out the wider responsibilities in our particular parish as part of a refection to be had as we prepare for our Parish Meeting in June to find a way ahead for the two churches in our parish.

So, there are three Sunday Masses, two with refreshments served afterwards. This is the heart and cornerstone of our lived Faith but it is also a time when news is caught up on, when baptisms are booked and meetings arranged. Then there is daily Mass or devotions on each weekday.

I have responsibility as well for two Primary Schools, which I try to get into every week for the assembly with parents and usually speak at that assembly. Visits are also made at the invitation of teachers to talk about our Faith in their Religious Studies classes, as well as planning meetings with the Heads to plan First Sacraments and other special occasions which involve the school in the parish. The preparation for First Sacraments and for Confirmations also takes up a chunk of time each year. I also have contact with the three Catholic High Schools which children from our parish attend.

Added to this are Baptisms, funerals and weddings, as well as visits to the sick at home or in hospital.

There are at six Nursing Homes in the parish, which call on my time on particular occasions and for which Holy Communion is arranged through the parish. Though not frequent, I am also sometimes on call for Chorley Hospital, to enable Fr Peter Stanley at St Joseph's to be able to take a day off.

For two years now, I have also been on a rota for celebrating Mass in Wymott and Garth prisons. When this happens, it takes up a whole morning, as two Masses have to be offered to accommodate the different categories of prisoners.

In the Archdiocese, I am on the committee for the ongoing formation and care of priests.

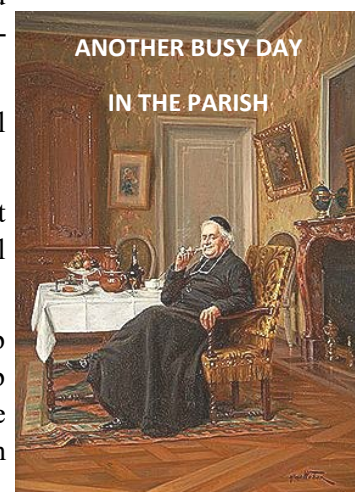
There is ongoing formation and procedures for Safeguarding that has to be engaged in.

The practical care of our buildings and grounds also takes up quite some time and energy. Every year there are inspections of electrical appliances, fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers, lightening rods and asbestos, over and above general upkeep and repair, which is a never-ending work in progress.

Unlike many parishes, I have no housekeeper or secretary (although administrative & all sorts of other assistance is taken on by various people and is a great help and blessing).

I have some duties outside the parish as well, as the national chaplain for the Order of St Lazarus and as the Director of the Petrus Trust, which manages a Catholic educational project in France.

I place this information before you not to illicit your sympathy but to give a broad sweep of what goes on and of the desirability of any streamlining that can be achieved to free up priestly time for proper priestly work. The sacramental, pastoral and teaching work are not burdens but, truly, joys. Mind you, there can be a limit to how much joy any priest can fit in!



ALTAR SERVERS.

I am asking that all the boys making their First Communion consider becoming an altar server. At the moment, apart from our Parish assistant, Michael, there are no servers from St Mary's. The 3 boys you see serving, all started at St Catherine's.

It gives you a special role at Mass, standing at the altar and at the side of the priest, who is there *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ).

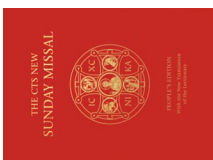
Traditionally, it is always men or boys who serve at the altar. For parents, to explain this to you. It is only since 1994, the Vatican allowed both men and women to serve at the altar. It said that each bishop could - not must - allow females as well as males but that "it will always be very appropriate to follow the noble tradition of having boys serve at the altar". In other words, it has a permissive and not a pre-ceptive character. Nor can any priest be forced to use female altar servers, since, as it states, "*it will always be very appropriate to follow the noble tradition of having boys serve at the altar.*"



This reluctance to extend this ministry to women is not done in a prejudicial way but because serving at the altar is so closely connected with what the priest does. Indeed, servers wear the same vestments as the priest. As recently as Pope St John Paul: he reaffirmed infallibly, the teaching that priests will always be men.

In the secular (and therefore by definition, non-believing) world today there is a desire to amalgamate every role that might be different for men and women but the Church teaches that is not possible - biologically, for a start. There are many other roles that girls can fulfil. At the local level, in due course, by becoming readers, for example, although by the nature of the skills needed, that is usually a little later on. At a grander level, following the example of Pope Francis in recent times and appointing women to head important departments in the Vatican.

So to come back to my original request. I hope that some - or indeed all of the boys, might become altar servers -
AND ANY OTHERS FROM THE PARISH WHO MIGHT BE A LITTLE OLDER. Please speak to Fr Simon.



NEW SUNDAY MISSALS:

For those who ordered them, these have now arrived. You can bring the £20 and collect yours from the sacristy. Please tick off your name on the sheet to indicate you have paid. Thank you.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: The "new Jerusalem" is a symbol of the Church here and now, but it is also the heavenly goal to which we travel, the Heavenly City. This Kingdom will only be completely established when Christ comes again in glory, traditionally understood that, like the rising sun, He will return from the East: (Matt. 24:27) "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be."

This is why traditionally, churches have always been built on an east to west axis. Although this is not always physically possible, nonetheless, it is still given a liturgical direction when speaking of church architecture. A "liturgical east" to focus our prayers on our direction of spiritual travel.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Apologies for the lack thereof this week. I am away in Oxford to visit friends at the Oxford Oratory and Blackfriars & also taking a couple of the parish banners for repair assessment with the Guild of Catholic Needlework, which is based there. And away with a school trip another day.

HABEAMUS PAPAM. POPE LEO XIV.

Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of the Vatican City State, Servant of the servants of God.



Let us pray for the Pope.

May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

May your hand be upon your holy servant.

And upon your son, whom you have anointed.

Amen.