



# 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

## Fourth Sunday of Easter



"Truly, I say unto you; I am the door of the sheep."

Fourth Sunday of Easter. Year A. 26th April	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	John & William Haycock
Monday 27th April: St Mauglold	9.30am	Jean Telford
Tuesday 28th April: St Loius de Montfort	9.30am	Steven Telford
Wednesday 29th April: St Catherine of Sienna	9.30am	Catherine Haycock
Thursday 30th April: St George. Pope St Pius V	9.30am	Agnes & Stan Skyner
Friday 1st May: St Joseph the Worker	7pm	Novena & Benediction
		CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING
Saturday 2nd May: St Athanasius	—	—
Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year A. 3rd May	8.30am	Rita Ann Carney
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

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

**Retiring Collection TODAY** for the Priest's Training Fund.

**Retiring Collection NEXT week: Our parish SVP.**

**100 Club: Lyn Rogers (29).** 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 379.**

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





**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.** I am now in the final stage of being able to re-locate and move into the Presbytery at St Mary's, perhaps this week or next. The furniture is mostly there, just a small matter of putting it all in place and unpacking! I will be grateful when that time arrives, the continual commuting, sometimes three times a day, has not made for an easy life or time efficient.

We are already using the new office and the reception room of the house for meetings.

There are still quite a few loose ends to tie up at the St Catherine's site. Some of the church fittings have come to St Mary's; others will go on offer to other parishes in the diocese and beyond; some others (like the benches) will go into diocesan storage. You may have noticed the statue of Our Lady from outside the door at St Catherine's, which is now in the middle of the turning circle in front of the Presbytery

The site will be placed into the hands of the diocesan estate agents on our behalf and put on the general market, although Farington Parish Council have expressed an interest in keeping the present buildings as a community facility. As a charity, the diocese is under an obligation to get the best price for the site.

*Fr. Simon*

**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.**



**GIFT AID ENVELOPES: PLEASE COLLECT ANY REMAINING SETS OF ENVELOPES FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH.**

**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.*



**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 on Wednesday 13th May. An opportunity for the Confirmands to ask questions 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.

**POPE ST PIUS V. Feast day on Thursday.** Pope from 1566-1572 and one of the foremost leaders of the Catholic Reformation. Born Antonio Ghislieri in Bosco, Italy, to a poor family, he labored as a shepherd until the age of fourteen and then joined the Dominicans, being ordained in 1528. Called Brother Michele, he studied at Bologna and Genoa, and then taught theology and philosophy for sixteen years. Named inquisitor for Como and Bergamo, he was so capable in the fulfillment of his office that by 1551, and at the urging of the powerful Cardinal Carafa, he was named by Pope Julius III commissary general of the Inquisition. He was unanimously elected a pope in succession to Pius IV on January 7, 1566.

As pope, Pius saw his main objective as the continuation of the massive program of reform for the Church, in particular the full implementation of the decrees of the Council of Trent. He published the Roman Catechism, the revised Roman Breviary, and the Roman Missal; he also declared Thomas Aquinas a Doctor of the Church. He zealously implemented a decision of that council, by standardizing the Mass in the 1570 edition of the Roman Missal. Pius V made this Missal mandatory throughout the Latin Church, except where a Mass liturgy dating from before 1370 was in use. This form of the Mass remained essentially unchanged for 400 years until Pope Paul VI's revision of the Roman Missal in 1969–70, after which it has become widely known as the Tridentine Mass. This missal continues to be used in about 90 countries and by several religious orders and has seen a resurgence in popularity over recent years.

The decrees of Trent were published throughout all Catholic lands, including Europe, Asia, Africa, and the New World, and the pontiff insisted on their strict adherence. In 1571, Pius created the Congregation of the Index to give strength to the Church's resistance to Protestant and heretical writings, and he used the Inquisition to prevent any Protestant ideas from gaining a foothold in Italy.

In dealing with the threat of the Ottoman Turks who were advancing steadily across the Mediterranean, Pius organized a formidable alliance between Venice and Spain, culminating in the Battle of Lepanto, which was a complete and shattering triumph over the Turks. The day of the victory was declared the Feast Day of Our Lady of Victory in recognition of Our Lady's intercession in answer to the saying of the Rosary all over Catholic Europe.



Pius also spurred the reforms of the Church by example. He insisted upon wearing his coarse Dominican robes, even beneath the magnificent vestments worn by the popes, and was wholeheartedly devoted to the religious life. He also had a great care for the city of Rome and its inhabitants. Putting in place distribution of alms to the poor, importing cheap grain in times of famine and cracking down on hired killers and brigands, what the historian Mullett calls a "programme of restoring Rome as the Church's ideal city." Pope Pius ordered the construction of public works to improve the water supply and sewer system of the city—a welcome step, particularly in low-lying areas, where typhoid and malaria were inevitable summer visitors.

**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 27th April. 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.