



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

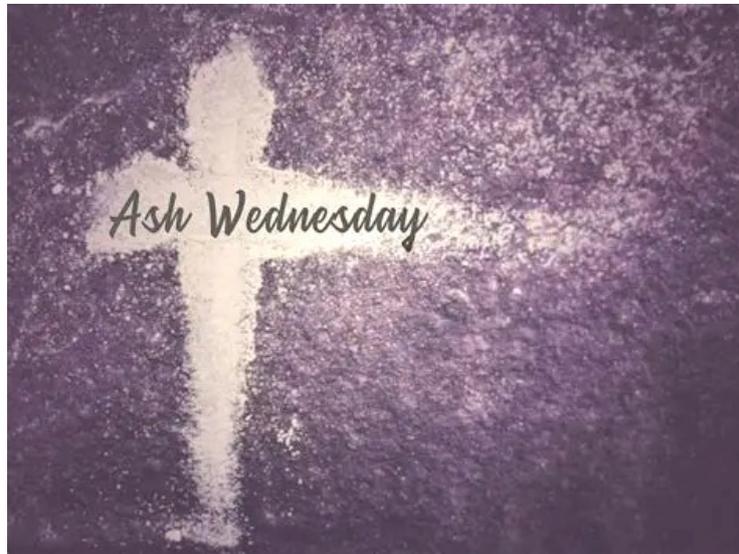


St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. Parish Office: 01257 262665. E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

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

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Sixth Sunday of the Year



ASH WEDNSDAY: A day of Fasting and Abstinence. Less food! No meat! Your spiritual diet!

Sixth Sunday in Year A. 15th February	8.30am	Ann Moran, LD
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mon 16th Feb: Feria	9.30am	Successful operation for Brian
Tuesday 17th Feb: Feria	10am	Requiem Mass for Stephen McKnight
Wednesday 18th Feb: ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am	N. Bibby
<i>Ashes imposed at each Mass</i>	7pm	Bernard & Linda Melling & Family
Thursday 19th Feb: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Ann Moran, LD
Friday 20th Feb: Feria of Lent	7pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
	7.30pm	France Pilgrim Holiday Meeting
Saturday 21st Feb: Feria of Lent	10am—11am	CONFESSIONS
Seventh Sunday in Year A. 22nd February	8.30am	Special Intention MM
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

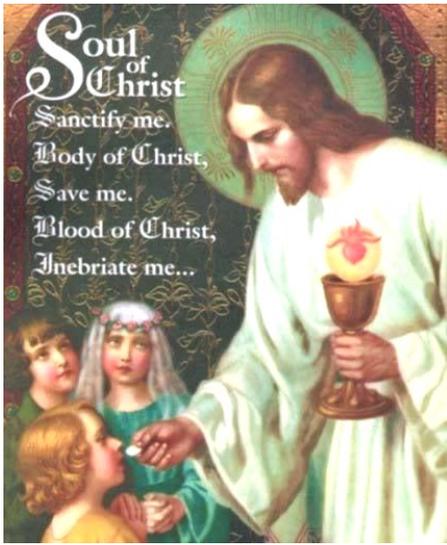
100 Club: Tracey Sullivan (27).

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 709.

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 **THIS Wednesday 4th March at 6.30pm.**



Children must sign the “Golden Book” at the back of church.

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

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. If families are not able to make this commitment, then those children can defer and join the program next time round.

CONFESSIONS: During Lent there will be Confessions each Saturday morning between 9am—10am. This is to enable children and their families to come to Confession in the normal way and thus accustomize them to coming again. These times are also open to all parishioners, to enable people to come to Confession during Lent and make their Easter Duties: this is a traditional way to refer to the Church’s teaching that all should come to Confession at least once a year. Code of Canon Law 989: *After having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully his or her grave sins at least once a year.*

Here are some further directions from the Code of Canon Law.

Can. 988: A member of the Christian faithful is obliged to confess in kind and number all grave sins committed after baptism. It is recommended to the Christian faithful that they also confess venial sins.

Can. 960 Individual confession and absolution constitute the only ordinary means by which a member of the faithful conscious of grave sin is reconciled with God and the Church.

Can. 961 §1. Absolution cannot be imparted in a general manner to many penitents at once without previous individual confession unless:

1/ danger of death is imminent and there is insufficient time for the priest or priests to hear the confessions of the individual penitents;

2/ there is grave necessity, that is, when in view of the number of penitents, there are not enough confessors available to hear the confessions of individuals properly within a suitable period of time in such a way that the penitents are forced to be deprived for a long while of sacramental grace or holy communion through no fault of their own. Sufficient necessity is not considered to exist when confessors cannot be present due only to the large number of penitents such as can occur on some great feast or pilgrimage.

Can. 962 §1. For a member of the Christian faithful validly to receive sacramental absolution given to many at one time, it is required that the person intends to confess within a suitable period of time each grave sin which at the present time cannot be so confessed.

Can. 963 A person whose grave sins are remitted by general absolution is to approach individual confession as soon as possible, given the opportunity, before receiving another general absolution.

Can. 964 §1. The proper place to hear sacramental confessions is a church or oratory.

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.

JOIN OUR PARISH 100 CLUB: Thank you to those who have signed up for our 100 Club. Please be patient as we digitalize the process and collate all our new members. You will be informed of your numbers in due course. 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. **Please take a SIGN UP FORM from the back of church for a Standing Order or scan the QR Code on the coloured leaflets.**

The Parish Centre is open during Sunday Masses, where toilets are easily accessible.



SOME THOUGHTS FOR PARISH PILGRIMAGES:

I had a busy but lovely time the other week helping to lead a Pilgrimage to Rome. Knowledge of that has prompted some parishioners here to ask if we might make a similar parish pilgrimage. St Catherine's people will remember we went in 2019.

With that in mind over the next weeks we will ascertain whether there might be enough interest to arrange two possible trips.

This year, **early August or early September 2026 a 5 day Pilgrimage holiday to Saint Pierre de Maillé in France**, where St Catherine's parishioners have visited several times over the years. The dates can be flexible until we see which would suit people best. An historic area in the heart of France, exploring history and Catholicism, staying in the Villa St Pierre. Suitable for families as well, with particular activities like canoeing possible to be built in to

the timetable. Cost to be around £600 per person. Including transport, flights and most meals (with wine for the meals) and en-suite accommodation & daily Mass.

Pilgrimage next year 2027 in Rome, again, in the late summer/Autumn. Staying in a 3* hotel in the heart of the *Centro Storico*, the ancient heart of Rome, visiting the famous sites but also some less well-known ones, giving a fascinating glimpse into *La Bella Roma!*

Please note that both of these involve walking the routes, which requires anyone with mobility issues to think carefully about their ability to take part.

A MEETING TO SEE WHAT INTEREST THERE MIGHT BE IN THE FRANCE TRIP ON FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY AT 8pm IN THE SOCIAL CENTRE.

A SIMILAR MEETING FOR ROME NEXT YEAR WILL BE HELD IN DUE COURSE.



LENT: From our bishops: In accordance with the mind of the universal Church, the Bishops of England and Wales remind their people of the obligation of Friday penance, and instruct them that it may be fulfilled in one or more of the following ways: a) by abstaining from meat or some other food; b) by abstaining from alcoholic drink, smoking or some form of amusement; c) by making the special effort involved in family prayer, taking part in the Mass, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or praying the Stations of the Cross; d) by fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved in this way to the needy) by making a special effort to help somebody who is poor, sick,

old or lonely. 6. The form of penance we adopt each Friday is a matter of personal choice and does not have to take the same form every Friday. Failure to undertake this penance on a particular Friday would not constitute a sin. However, penance is part of the life of every Christian and the intention to do penance on Friday is of obligation. We are confident that the faithful of England and Wales will take this obligation to heart in memory of the passion and death of Our Lord.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARE PRAYED EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 7pm.

THE MILITARY AND HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM.

Following on from our Burns Night Supper raising funds for the Order of St Lazarus, a number of people have asked about the Order, so here is just a little about it.

In common with other Orders of chivalry founded during the Crusades, such as the Hospitaller Knights of Saint John and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, the Order of Saint Lazarus still aims to defend Christianity while expecting its members to practice the Christian tenets of protecting the weak, helping the sick, and promoting justice. A solemn undertaking to maintain this code of conduct through personal spirituality and observance of the Constitutional Charter is made publicly before God and the assembled congregation on formal admission to the Order.

Members of the Order of Saint Lazarus form a spiritual fraternity. The ceremonies of the Vigil and Investiture, the wearing of the mantle and the green Maltese cross are more than a ritualistic maintenance of an ancient tradition; they remain outward symbols of fraternity and dedication to Christianity. It is the sole Catholic Order of Chivalry to allow as members people from other Ecclesial Communities, each member living as faithfully as possible in their own tradition, whilst working and praying together for true unity.

All are asked to participate actively, according to their ability and means, in the spiritual and charitable work of the Order and some will take on committee work or ceremonial duties. The financial obligations are not onerous. It is, however, expected that every member of the Grand Priory of Great Britain will endeavor to support and attend events. These are open to guests, some of whom later apply to join the Order. Funds are raised by Dinners, sponsored events, donations, and many more activities. The Carol Concert held annually at St Catherine's and last year at St Mary's church is an example of this. There is also a "junior branch" which encourages young people to take part in the spirituality and life of the Order.

The Order exists throughout Europe and in the USA and historically was linked to the Royal House of France. The green cross of the Order harks back to ancient times, when as an Order that is both military and hospitaller, the green cross was a sign of medical care. We have the Order to thank for the fact that there is a probably a green cross outside your local pharmacy!



In Great Britain, we are a small group and struggled to get back to normal following COVID. We are now trying to build up our numbers again and looking to recruit new members. So speak to me or Our Prior, Anthony Dickinson, who is a member of our parish and plays the organ each Sunday. You can find more information online as well. Although be careful to find our own sites, as there are many other similar Green Cross" organizations, but we are the only one with a Cardinal as our Spiritual Protector, the Archbishop in Rwanda, Cardinal Kambanda, whom we hope might be able to come to invest new members in due course. We are supporting his educational project in Rwanda, raising funds to train special needs teachers there, where the Church is increasingly being asked to look after the education of children.

www.oslj.org.uk

orderofsaintlazarus.com



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

A traditional Irish celebration with Irish Stew and live music to dance to.

Suitable for all the family.

Bring your own drinks but the ticket includes the price of the Irish stew.

£10 per person. Children £3. Raising money for our parish funds.

Please sign up on the list at the back of church. "Dia dhuit"



REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

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

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.