



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

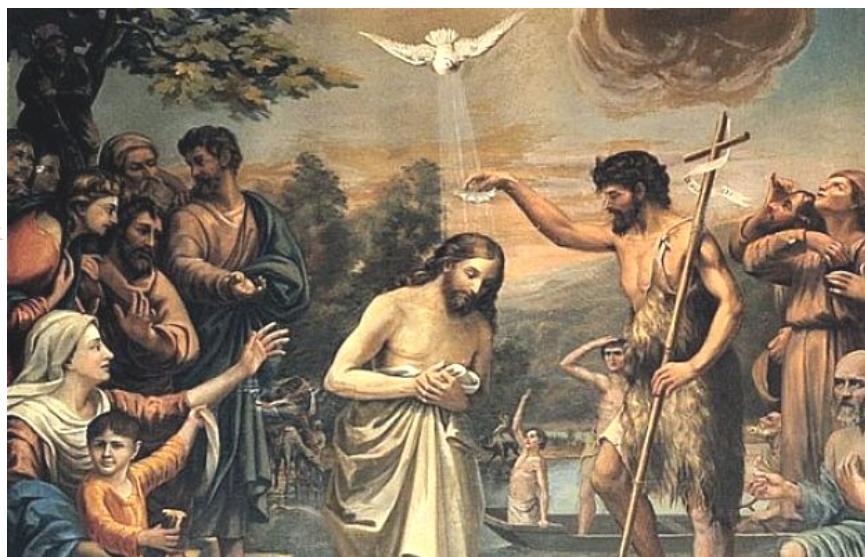


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Presbytery: St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Baptism of the Lord



Baptism of the Lord. Year A. 11th January	8.30am	Ray Watkinson
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mon 12th January: Feria Week 1 Ordinary Time	9.30am	Rosary
Tuesday 13th Jan: Feria	9.30am	Rosary
Wednesday 14th January: St Kentigern	9.30am	Rosary
Thursday 15th Jan: Feria	9.30am	Rosary
Friday 16th January: St Anthony	—	— No public Mass today
Saturday 17th Jan: Feria	—	— No public Mass today
Second Sunday in Year A. 18th January	8.30am	Peter Worthington, speedy recovery
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	3pm	Songs of Praise for Unity Week

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

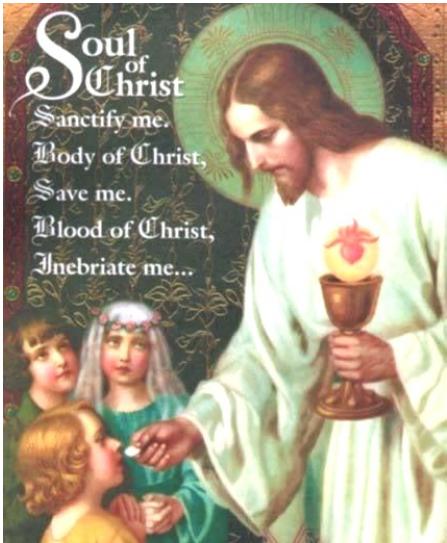
100 Club: Nick Berry (3).

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 129.

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 21st January at 6.30pm**.



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

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.

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!

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.

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.*

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.



ECUMENICAL SONGS OF PRAISE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK.

NEXT Sunday 3pm St Mary's Church.

We are hosting an ecumenical Songs of Praise to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Each of the three Christian communities in Euxton have chosen three hymns for us to sing.

Pope Leo:

"Our communion is realised to the extent that we meet in the Lord Jesus. The more faithful and obedient we are to him, the more united we are among ourselves. We Christians, then, are all called to pray and work together to reach this goal, step by step, which is and remains the work of the Holy Spirit."

NEXT SUNDAY: I will be away next Sunday, assisting with a Pilgrimage to Rome for a group of Americans from the parish of a priest friend of mine in Michigan. Fr Neil Ritchie will be with you to celebrate the Sunday Masses; I know that you will make him welcome. Fr Neil is the Chaplain to Liverpool University.

During the week, instead of daily Mass, the Holy Rosary will be prayed in church. This is *ad experimentum*, to see if enough people come along to make it worthwhile. But it does mean that the church will be open at some point most days and provide an opportunity to gather and to pray. Even though you may not be in church each day, the Mass or other Devotions simply taking place represent the making real of God's presence in our midst and call down His grace on all of us. I'm reminded of the custom of people making the sign of the cross whenever they pass a Catholic Church: you may not be physically going in but you honour the Real Presence of Our Lord in the midst of the world.

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.



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 if 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.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.



In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners'

(Joseph Ratzinger's book, *Jesus of Nazareth*).

PRAYING THE ROSARY:

As I am away this coming week, there will be no daily Masses. As an experiment, the Rosary will be prayed on those days when we would normally celebrate Mass. This allows for the church to be open and prayer offered during the week, as well as a time when people meet one another. We will see if enough people are interested to make this a regular feature when there is no Mass during the week.



It has sometimes been the custom in recent years for a Service of Holy Communion to be held on such occasions, led by Deacon or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. However, some time ago, Archbishop Malcolm made it clear that such services were envisaged only for Sundays when there was the absence of a priest. These services were really aimed at missionary territories where communities might find themselves without a priest for long periods of time.