



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

Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete



Third Sunday of Advent. Year A. 14th December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
<i>Gaudete & Bambinello Sunday</i>	10.30am	Philip Mark Jepson, Anniv
Mon 15th Dec: Feria of Advent	9.30am	William & Ellen Haydock
Tuesday 16th December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Catherine Haydock
	11am	Funeral Service for Dennis Beamish
Wed 17th December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Michael & Ellen Mullaney
	6pm	St Mary's School Carol Service
Thur 18th December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Mary Manning, BR
Friday 19th December: Feria of Advent	—	— No public Mass today
Saturday 20th December: Feria of Advent	7.30pm	CHARITY CAROL CONCERT
Fourth Sunday of Advent. Year A. 21st December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Philip Mark Jepson

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

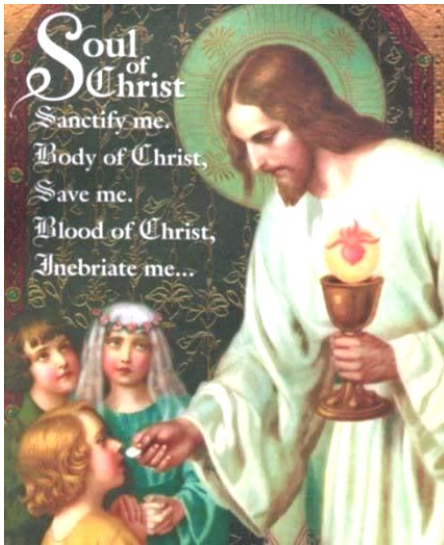
100 Club: Patricia Burns (47)

Fr Simon's blog is at **offerimus tibi domine** (where you will also find the Mass times each week)

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED: Sunday Pg. 38.

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 SUPPPER 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.



CAKE SUNDAY! REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.



All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Come and say hello! Especially all our First Communion families, now that their preparation has begun. A great chance to get to know folks.

WE ARE 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.

Devotions are suspended over the Christmas period but will begin again in the New Year,

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 their longing for His presence, especially during times when they 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, Eric Nielson, Margaret Lawler, Catherine Thompson, Pat Fishwick.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

CAROLS FROM 6.30PM MASS AT 7PM

*FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES IN
THE SOCIAL CENTRE.*

CHRISTMAS DAY

MASSSES AT 8.30AM & 10.30AM.

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHARITY CAROL CONCERT

SATURDAY 20th DECEMBER 7.30pm

Glass of mulled wine & Mince Pies in the Social Centre to follow.

The Octavius Singers will give us a splendid introduction to Christmas with Carols, popular Christmas songs, Classics and Readings. It is a concert rather than a service to enable you to invite along people of all faiths and none. It was lovely last year and this year promises to be even better, with great effort going into it's preparation. The Octavius Singers give their time and talent for free and usually perform religious works, particularly in their original religious context. For example, singing settings of the Mass during the celebration of Catholic Mass or Evensong in Anglican churches.

Performed under the auspices of the Order of St Lazarus, raising funds for charity. In recent years the Order has supported a variety of causes, including those affected by Hanson's disease (leprosy) in Sri Lanka. They do this through a local charity (SUROL) with it's patron, the Archbishop of Colombo, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith. SUROL stands for the "Society for the Upliftment and Rehabilitation of Leprosy Affected Persons" and was founded in 1971 by Fr. Realino Chiriatti. SUROL's purpose is mainly to rehabilitate those affected and disabled by leprosy, help their return to communities and rebuild their lives with dignity and self-respect. The founding members adopted a non-religious, non-sectarian and non-partisan strategy for the Society which opened doors for everyone. Public education to remove the stigma attached to leprosy was one arm of SUROL's two-way plan, the other being the important task of rehabilitation of disabled leprosy affected persons.

There is no charge for entry or the reception afterwards but a collection will be taken up in church. We are blessed that we have raised many thousands of pounds for this charity over the years.



This year our guests will include James Carter DL, the High Sheriff of Lancashire, the Mayor of Chorley, Councilor Alistair Morwood and Mayoress Jane Morwood and Katrina Reed, Council Chairman of the Exton Parish Council.

**So mark it in your diary and invite
your family and friends.**

Fr Simon meeting Cardinal Ranjith.

Two children helped by SUROL



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: The tradition of families bring their “baby Jesus” figure from their Cribs at home to be blest in church has long been a part of life in some European countries. Pope St John Paul II took it up as a practice at the Vatican and it has since become popular in many other places around the world. It takes place next week on Gaudete Sunday and we will join in with this tradition as a way of bringing prayer and a sign of the Faith into our homes. When he first blest figures at St Peter’s, Pope St John Paul said this to the children:



Take home, with great care, the little statue of the Infant Jesus, also as a sign of God’s love for you and your families. Put it in your Crib with intense faith, with that faith wherewith the Blessed Virgin, the Mother of God, laid the new-born Jesus in the manger. Invite your father, your mother, your brothers and sisters, the whole of your family, to gather round the Crib and pray there together with your family.

So today families have been asked to bring in the figure of Jesus to church to be blest at Mass. Children (and anyone else too!) can bring them forward for the blessing but children can also receive a little Bambino for their own personal devotion and bring these up to be blest. Perhaps they can set them up at home as a reminder of the focus of Christmas amid all our practical preparations.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: We have recently joined together two separate parish lists into one for you to receive the Newsletter by email each week. It is possible that it may go into your junk folder, as it goes out to so many people, so do check. If you do not receive it, please email the parish address to ask.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

A Service with individual Confession with our Deanery Priests at St Gregory’s Church, Weldbank at

3pm TODAY Sunday 14th December (Gaudete Sunday).

There are also Reconciliation Services on Friday, 19th December 7.00pma at Our Lady’s, Tarleton.

Saturday, 20th December 10.30am, St Oswalds, Longton

JOIN OUR PARISH 100 CLUB

For many years St Catherine’s Church has run a 100 Club to assist with parish funds. It seems sensible to keep this going under our new circumstances.

There are, in fact, several free numbers for new people to be able to join. In fact, if we can get enough people to sign up, it could be extended in scope to become larger.

It’s a very simple idea. Of the money that comes in each week, half goes out as a prize and half goes to the parish. Considering that there are 52 weeks in the year, you have a good chance of winning sometime in that year!

Pay £1 each week with a chance to win £50 each week. This can be set up by direct debit or paid by cheque - monthly, quarterly or annually. It is hoped that we can move the payments to be done through the bank for the most part, to avoid the need for physical collection.

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 re-vamp and streamline how the 100 Club functions and help our parish in this way.

JOIN OUR PARISH 100 CLUB!

SUPPORT THE CHURCH - WIN MONTHLY CASH PRIZES!

WHAT IS THE 100 CLUB?

A fun, simple way to support our parish. Buy a number (or more!) and you'll be entered into a monthly prize draw. The more people who join, the bigger the prizes – and the more funds raised for our church.

WHY JOIN?

- ✓ SUPPORT PARISH PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE
- ✓ HELP STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY
- ✓ CHANCE TO WIN A MONTHLY CASH PRIZE
- ✓ EASY, AFFORDABLE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE

£ HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

A small monthly contribution per number – and every entry helps!

HOW DO I TAKE PART?

Simply fill in the short Interest Form to let us know you'd like to join.

SCAN THE QR CODE / VISIT THE LINK TO SIGN UP TODAY!



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE. THANK YOU!