



# The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## Third Sunday of Lent



<b>Third Sunday of Lent. Year A. 8th March</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	Joan Pedley, LD
	<b>10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mon 9th March: Feria of Lent	<b>9.30am</b>	Paul Cottam & Family
Tuesday 10th March: Feria of Lent	<b>9.30am</b>	Abbi & Family
Wednesday 11th March: Feria of Lent	<b>9.30am</b>	Thanksgiving for prayers answered
Thursday 12th March: Feria of Lent	<b>10.30am</b>	Requiem Mass for Margaret Loughran
Friday 13th March: Feria of Lent	<b>7pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> <b>CONFESSIONS</b>
Saturday 14th March: Feria of Lent	<b>9am—10am</b>	<b>CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year A. 15th March</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	Rita Carney, RIP
<i>Laetare Sunday. Mothering Sunday</i>	<b>10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

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

**Retiring Collection for CAFOD TODAY. Thank you.**

**Collection for Nugent Care NEXT week.**

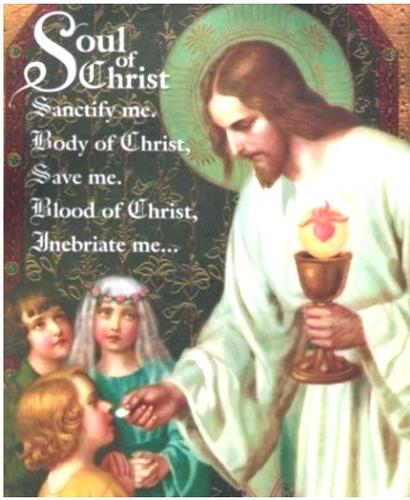
**100 Club: Roy Carney (16).**

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 164.**

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



## FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNIONS.

Our preparation sessions have now been completed, in readiness for First Communions over Sundays in Eastertide, so thank you to families who have persevered over the last months since November.

**A reminder that children must still sign the “Golden Book” at the back of church each Sunday.**

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 the children must make their first Confession as we spoke about. Either on Saturday mornings or Friday evenings.**



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

**CONFESSIONS:** During Lent there will be Confessions each Saturday morning between 9am—10am. This is to enable children and their families from the Communion preparation program 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. There are some leaflets for both adults and children to assist you at the back of church.

**CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT.** CAFOD is part of Caritas, the global Catholic aid network that brings love, hope and practical help to our neighbours experiencing poverty.

The usual six monthly collection will take place at today’s Masses. The envelopes are on a table in the porch, as you leave church. If you can, consider setting up a monthly gift to help more of our neighbours for the long-term – and if you’re a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid will add 25 per cent to your donation at no extra cost. If you prefer, you can simply put cash, or a cheque, into the collection box next week.

This Lent, let’s show love to our neighbours. Let’s eat simply and give generously – so another family can put food on the table. Thank you for reading this and for your continued support.

Mick James - CAFOD Parish Volunteer

## MOTHERING SUNDAY: NEXT WEEK.

This coincides with Laetare Sunday of Lent—a word meaning, appropriately, rejoice! We will mark the occasion as we did last year by inviting children to bring flowers for Our Blessed Lady, which they can bring up at the start of both Masses in procession to present to her at our Lady Altar. Please gather beforehand in the sacristy. Children please gather in the Sacristy before Mass, to join in the procession, present their flowers and then rejoin their families.



**FR PETER CROWTHER, RIP:** Fr Peter has been parish priest for many years at St Joseph’s in Withnal, Chorley. He has been suffering with cancer for some time but remained in the presbytery there, whilst other deanery priest as helped out. He died last weekend in St Catherine’s Hospice. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for the parishioners at St Joseph’s.

**CLOCK RESTORATION:** Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the installation of the clock and bell in the tower.

The clock face is severely weathered, the clock was last renovated in the late 1980’s. The company who service the clock and bell have given me us cost for the work - taking it away and refinishing it properly to last for many years. It is a highly specialized job, and if not done properly, the paint will not last. However, with the scaffolding that would be needed, the cost would be around £20,000. Given that, we thought it would not be possible to go ahead but one of our parishioners is kindly pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects; and there may be other help available. If anyone has any other ways of accessing funds, please do let us know!



**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 Grace Barton, who has 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:** Two possible parish pilgrim holidays. Thanks to those who came to the first meeting: we have enough to move forward & further details will appear soon. There is a sign up sheet at the back of church if you would like to express an interest, which does not commit you to anything.

This year, **around the 15th August 2026, a 5 day Pilgrimage holiday to Saint Pierre de Maillé in France.** 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, 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 SIMILAR MEETING AS WE HAD FOR FRANCE WILL BE HELD FOR A TRIP TO ROME IN 2027 IN DUE COURSE.**

**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.*

**LENTEN ALMS:** During Lent, traditionally a collection is taken known as Lenten Alms. There is a basket at the back of church for your offerings, which will go towards the work of the Order of St Lazarus—specifically, supporting training Special Needs teachers in Rwanda. A project of Cardinal Kambanda, the Archbishop of Kigali.

**THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC:** We now have three people who have expressed interest in becoming Catholics recently; an initial meeting will be held very soon, so if there is anyone else “hovering on the brink” this is the time to make be able to explore those thoughts. Please contact Fr Simon.



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

If you go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, one of the things you are likely to experience is to walk the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem. Down the centuries, it is obvious that not many could do this (and indeed, not many pilgrims are going to Jerusalem at the moment; let us also pray for peace there) and so the Stations of the Cross were set up in churches. **We have had a great response this year, so come along and join us!** Of course, you can also choose to come to a weekday Mass during the course of Lent as well, as another way of deepening your prayer this Lent.

**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.**

**LITURGY MATTERS:** It has come to my ears from more than once source that some of the Masses here at St Mary's are being described to others as "Latin Masses". To be clear, the "Old Rite" of Mass (sometimes called the Tridentine Mass, which has a slightly different structure to the "New" Mass) is always celebrated all in Latin. That is a different thing. Now, there is nothing wrong in celebrating the "new" Rite of Mass (the one you experience in any parish) in Latin, indeed, this is expressly permitted: "*Priests are always and everywhere permitted to celebrate Mass in Latin.*" (Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (2004), n. 112)



But this is NOT what you experience at the 10.30am Mass here. So we should be precise in the terms we use. We celebrate Mass in English, with certain sung parts conducted in Latin. The Church's rulings on this are very clear in encouraging precisely this pattern.

*"The use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites."* (Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n. 36)

*"Steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them."* (Vatican II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, n. 50)

*"Pastors of souls should take care that besides the vernacular 'the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them.'"* (Sacred Congregation of Rites, *Musicam sacram* (1967), n. 47)

*"The Roman Church has special obligations towards Latin, the splendid language of ancient Rome, and she must manifest them whenever the occasion presents itself."* (John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae* (1980), n. 10)

Using the Latin Chant, which is part of the rich heritage the Faith has bestowed on Western civilization, opens us up to some of the greatest art in that civilization: Mozart, Palestrina, Fauré and many more. Why should we in this small corner of the world, both children and adults, not have experience of this great treasure? Particularly to experience it in its proper setting, a privilege which those in concert halls or listening on CD or streaming services do not get.

**EUXTON GALA:** This year the parish will take an active part in the Euxton Gala. Although it is held on the joint playing fields of both our School and the Church of England School and our car park and hall are used, we have not been properly a part of the Gala. A separate St Mary's Summer fete was held but this seems to have lapsed some years ago. It seems only suitable that we should take an active part in an event at the heart of Euxton life each summer. We are particularly looking for helpers for the Refreshments and the Tombola which we will help to collect prizes for nearer the time). Anyone can take part if you are a local charity or want to sell your local products or crafts on a stall. Any of our schools could also take part, as a shopfront to present themselves by running some event; a junior football tournament is also being proposed, if anyone can help with that. This would mean that we share in the work and fun of the day but also in the funds it raises. Thanks to Mr Miller in St Mary's School, who is going to run a football tournament. With the finals on the day of the Gala.

Any ideas in ways which we could contribute—stalls, displays charity stands etc would be very welcome. We will also need parishioners to set up any of these ideas that come to the fore. If you would be interested in helping with this, please email Fr Simon or parish assistant Michael Thompson, via the parish email address.



### 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.**

