



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Fifth Sunday of Lent. Year A. 22nd March	8.30am	Julie Benson, LD
<i>Passiontide</i>	10.30am	Martha & Henry Rimmer
Mon 23rd March: Feria of Lent	11am	Requiem Mass for Eileen Speak
Tues 24th March: Annunciation of Our Lord	9.30am	Eileen & Bob Hurnby & Family
Wednesday 25th March:	10am	Requiem Mass for Patricia Callender
Thursday 26th March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Fr Thomas Keeley
Friday 27th March: Feria of Lent	7pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
		CONFESSIONS
Saturday 28th March: Feria of Lent	9am—10am	CONFESSIONS
Palm Sunday. Year A. 29th March	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
<i>Start of Holy Week</i>	10.30am	Sheila & Terrence McDermott

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

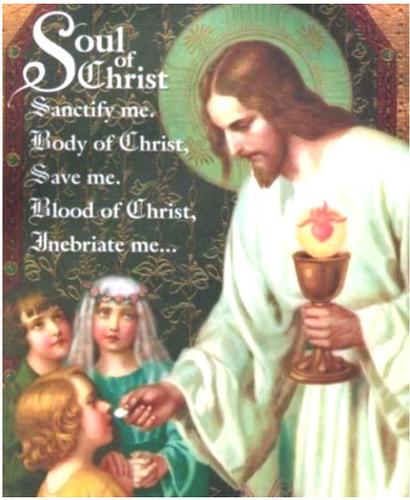
100 Club: Veronica Gilman (18) Please collect your winnings from the sacristy.

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 177.

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.



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

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.

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. You will recall Archbishop John in his pastoral letter asking for Confession to be made more available in Lent.

PALM SUNDAY NEXT WEEK:

Please note that we will start outside the church for the Blessing of Palms and procession into church.

IF IT IS RAINING: At the 8.30am Mass we will gather at the back of church. At the 10.30am Mass we will gather in the Social Centre.

At the 10.30am Mass all children (and particularly our First Holy Communion children) are encouraged to join in by processing in with the priest and altar servers to present their palms at the altar before rejoining their families.



HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES



MAUNDY THURSDAY:

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7.30PM

WATCHING AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE (DURING WHICH THERE WILL BE CONFESSIONS) CONCLUDING WITH NIGHT PRAYER AT 9PM.

GOOD FRIDAY:

LITURGY OF THE PASSION AT 3PM
CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING

HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL & MASS
AT 7.30PM

EASTER SUNDAY:

MASS AT 8.30AM & MASS AT 10.30AM

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 an estimate 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: Please take a SIGN UP FORM from the back of church. Numbers still available.



GROUNDWORK DAY:

Saturday 28th March 9am –12 noon, to clear and level the remaining tarmac in the courtyard behind the presbytery. All those strong fellows who’ve been offering their help for the house, this is your opportunity. Please speak to Fr Simon or Nick Fish. Thank you!

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.

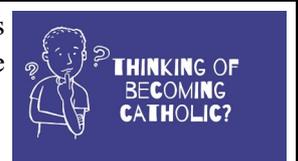
A SIMILAR MEETING AS WE HAD FOR FRANCE WILL BE HELD FOR A TRIP TO ROME IN 2027 IN DUE COURSE.

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: An initial meeting will be held this Monday at 7pm in the Social Centre, 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! HIS IS THE FINAL ONE, SO YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO DO ONE LAST THING 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.

VEILING OF STATUES DURING PASSIONTIDE.

Catholics should be attentive to what attracts outsiders to the Faith. The little traditions - many of which have been lost - teach and inspire others to enter more fully into the mysteries of faith. Thankfully the beloved custom of veiling statues for Passiontide (the final two weeks of Lent) is being rediscovered in many parishes (after having been hastily discarded in the sixties, the casualty of a frenzy for modernization).

Why are images veiled or hidden on the eve of Passiontide? This custom arose in order to help Catholics mystically enter into the final days of Christ's life on earth. The covering of sacred images has the effect of focusing attention on Christ's Passion, and the manner in which He veiled His divinity to suffer in His humanity for the redemption of the world. For Passiontide, the Church's ritual becomes extra penitential.

The tradition is explained thus:

"On Passion Sunday (the fifth Sunday of Lent) the more solemn part of the penitential season begins. The images in our churches are veiled in purple wrappings, remaining thus until the end of the services on Holy Saturday." Source: The Church Visible by Rt. Rev. John F. Sullivan, p. 186.

The norms of this custom were laid out by the Sacred Congregation of Rites:

"According to the rubrics of the Roman Missal, Breviary, and Ceremonial Episcoporum, all crosses, statues, and pictures of our Lord and of the saints on the altars and elsewhere in a church to which cultus is given with the sole exception of the crosses and images of the Stations of the Cross, must be covered with purple veils, not transparent or ornamented in any way, from Passion Sunday until after the Gloria in the Mass on Holy Saturday, no matter what feast may occur." Source: S.R.C. 3638, ad 11.

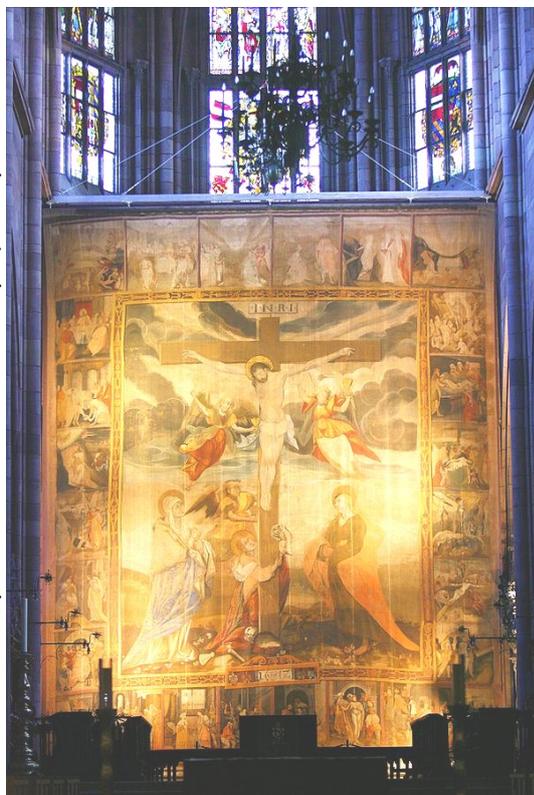
A few historical notes:

"The origin of the custom of veiling statues and pictures during Passiontide can be found in the once almost universal practice of veiling, not only images, but also the altar during the whole of Lent as a sign of mourning and penitence. The color for Lenten veils was usually white - not purple, and in some parts of Spain, in southern Italy and the Cathedral of Freiburg (Baden, Germany), it is still the custom to hang an enormous veil in front of the sanctuary, which is a relic of the primitive practice of concealing the altar with curtains during the more solemn parts of the Mass. Mediaeval church inventories make frequent references to white linen veils for Lent, although blue was sometimes used." Source: Churches Their Plan and Furnishing by Peter F. Anson, p. 128.

The Gospel reading for Passion Sunday in the Classical Rite (i.e. the Fifth Sunday of Lent, the start of Passiontide) tells us how Jesus "hid" Himself from the Hebrews when they attempted to stone him (cf. John 8:59). According to St. Augustine, at this moment when Jesus hid Himself from the angry crowd, Christ in fact became invisible to them by virtue of His Divine nature. To help signify this mystery, holy images in church are veiled the evening before Passion Sunday. This includes images of the saints, as it is befitting that if the glory of the Master is hidden, then His servants should also not appear.

Indeed, in the Latin Church, we "hide" His images for two weeks out of the year in a spirit of penance and mourning. An acute sadness is felt in the human heart. We long to be reunited with Him. The veil suggests the discomfort of being separated from Him. We prepare for the agony and triumph of the Easter Triduum. Outsiders are intrigued by these little customs. Children remember them. The Faith is passed on. Let us preserve the inheritance that has been handed on to us by the wisdom of our forefathers in the Faith.

Veiling of the whole sanctuary at Freiburg Cathedral. >



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.