



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

First Sunday of Advent



First Sunday in Advent. Year A. 30th November	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Eileen Peake
Mon 1st December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Grace Billington, LD
Tuesday 2nd December: Feria of Advent	10am	Funeral Service Norah O'Donoghue
Wed 3rd December: St Francis Xavier	9.30am	Eileen Wareing, LD
Thur 4th December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Margaret Dickinson BR
Friday 5th December: St John Almond, English Martyr	7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Saturday 6th December: St Nicholas	—	— (No public Mass today)
Second Sunday in Advent. Year A. 7th December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Philip Mitchell and Family

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

Youth Sunday. Animate: diocesan youth service. Thank you for £115.00.

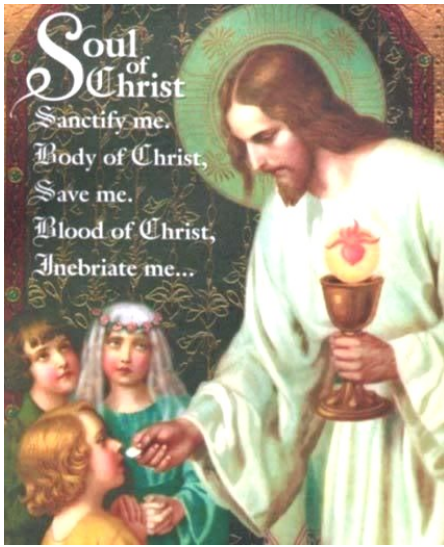
100 Club: T. Ford (33)

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

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: Pending appointment.

MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED: Sunday Pg. 29.

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 3rd December 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 .

SOME PARISH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT YEAR!

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 and 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. Further details to follow.



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. Again, 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!

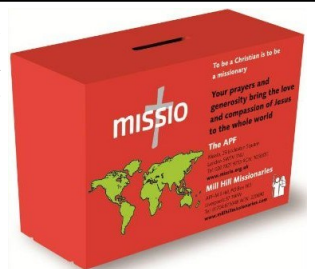


Especially all our First Communion families, now that their preparation has begun. A great chance to get to know folks.

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.

MISSIO: Red Boxes for the Missions: Our Missio Rep will be handing out Missio brown plastic envelopes shortly to red box holders for you to place the money into them from the red boxes and them to bring them to church on the following weekends:- **Sunday 30th November and Sunday 7th December.**

Some people who only acquired them recently may not have enough to bring the money in this time but others will. This same process will happen twice a year. Thanks again to all who give to Missio in this way, which is the Holy Father’s charity for World Mission.



A REMINDER that there are toilets in the Social Centre, which is open before, during and after Sunday Masses, should they be needed. As we seem to have managed perfectly well with the Social Centre facilities—and indeed, many have preferred to slip out to use them rather than face the walk down to the front of church and past the altar—it seems that we could utilize this space in a much better way. The extension there was originally built to provide further sacristy and storage space. This is something that is certainly needed, as despite the size of the church, the sacristy space is not well laid out nor very plenteous. The toilet was a much more recent innovation but is it not well-placed and given that it has been attached to the Presbytery plumbing, is not ideal. This has been discussed in the Parish Pastoral Council, so we will continue with the present arrangement, as it seems to be working well.





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.



APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO THE UKRAINIAN HUB: Winter is approaching fast, and we have seen a change in the weather, as we remember the long hot summer and dry autumn. The people of Ukraine are facing another bitterly cold, snowy winter. Electricity distribution centres are being targeted and destroyed purposely. Please look in your cupboards for candles, warm socks, gloves and hats (adult and children's), thermal clothing, coats and jumpers you don't need anymore, female hygiene items, plasters, bandages, paracetamols, cough mixtures (adult and children's). It will all be very much appreciated and a good way to help these desperate poor people who are suffering so much.

Please take your donations to the Ukrainian Hub, which was the White Hart pub near Chorley police station. Wednesdays 2-4pm and Saturdays 10.00-12.00 noon.

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



FEAST OF ST CATHERINE LABOURÉ. St Catherine's Feastday was on Friday. There are some prayer cards & information sheets at the back of church. There are also Miraculous Medals always available in the sacristy. There are blessed individually. If you ever want one, please come to the sacristy before or after Mass. The Medal has always had the reputation as a powerful means of prayer—hence it became known as “Miraculous”. Only months into her novitiate, Catherine experienced extraordinary visions of Our Lady. In 1830, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine in the convent chapel. Sitting in a chair with St. Catherine kneeling beside her, the Blessed Virgin told St. Catherine that God wished to entrust her with a mission. Later that same year, Mary appeared again, standing on a globe. Rays of light streamed from her hands. Around her were the words: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” Our Lady instructed St. Catherine to have a medal struck with this image.



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.

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!

FOCUS ON PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS: PAKISTAN. Christians in Pakistan are considered second-class citizens and face discrimination in every aspect of life. Occupations that are deemed low, dirty and degrading—such as working as a sewer cleaner or in a brick kiln—are reserved for Christians. Many are referred to as chura, a derogatory term meaning “filthy.” “We are a lower class because we are Christians,” says one of the 600,000 Pakistani women working in factories. “It is an insult to Muslims to eat with us off the same plate. If we touch their plate, it becomes defiled. We have no right to any privileges, and have no right to dignity. When I had my son, I was put on a dirty bed that still had blood from the woman who had given birth before me. Other women were given a clean bed, but for me, the Isai (the Urdu word for “Christian”), there was only the option of a dirty one.” The August 2023 devastating mob violence against the Christian community in the city of Jaranwala was a sobering reminder of the hostile environment facing many believers in Pakistan. The attack on more than 20 churches and almost 100 homes came in response to allegations that two believers had desecrated the Quran—another distorted use of Pakistan’s notorious blasphemy laws. The laws are often used to target minority groups, but Christians are disproportionately affected. Roughly a quarter of all blasphemy accusations target Christians, who only make up 1.8% of the population.

Pray that Pakistan's blasphemy laws will be changed so that Christians will be safe from false accusations and pray for strength for Christians who must live as second-class citizens every day.

