



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. Parish Office: 01257 262665. E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

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

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare



And a blessed Mothering Sunday to all mothers.



St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, "The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."



Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year A. 15th March	8.30am	Rita Carney, RIP
<i>Laetare Sunday. Mothering Sunday</i>	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Mon 16th March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Elaine Perks, wedding anniv.
Tuesday 17th March: St Patrick	9.30am	ROSARY
Wednesday 18th March: Feria of Lent	9.30am	Frank & Mary Manning
Thursday 19th March: St Joseph, Spouse of Mary	9.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Friday 20th March: Feria of Lent	7pm	STATIONS OF THE CROSS CONFESSIONS
Saturday 21st March: Feria of Lent	9am—10am	CONFESSIONS
Fifth Sunday of Lent. Year A. 22nd March	8.30am	Julie Benson, LD
<i>Passiontide</i>	10.30am	Martha & Henry Rimmer

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Thank you for £1,354.50 for CAFOD last week.

Collection for Nugent Care TODAY.

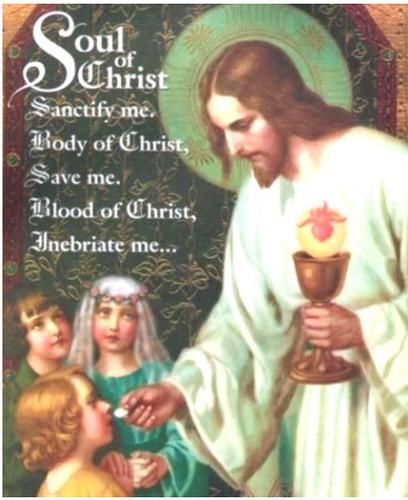
100 Club: James and Glenys Troop (14)

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 171.

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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: TODAY.

This coincides with Laetare Sunday of Lent—a word meaning, appropriately, rejoice! We will mark the occasion 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



FR PETER CROWTHER, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father Peter Crowther, who died on Sunday 1st March, aged 84 years. He was in the 55th year of the priesthood.

The funeral arrangements for Father Crowther are as follows:

Vigil Mass: Thursday 19th March at 7.00 p.m. St Joseph's Church, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, PR6 8SD.

Canons of the Cathedral Chapter will lead a celebration of Evening Prayer at 6.30 p.m.

Requiem Mass: Friday 20th March at 12 noon. St Joseph's Church, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, PR6 8SD.

Celebrant: Archbishop John Sherrington.

Refreshments will be available after the funeral at St Mary's Parish Centre, 105 Devonshire Road, Chorley, PR7 2BY.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CÉILIDH 7.30pm Saturday 21st March 2026.

SOLD OUT!

ANY UNWANTED CHRISTMAS ETC PRESENTS STILL LINGERING ABOUT, WE ARE LOOKING FOR PRIZES FOR A RAFFLE. Let us know. Thank you.



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.**

AT THE NAME OF JESUS... The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the rules laid out at it's start) says the following in No. 275:

A bow signifies reverence and honor shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them. There are two kinds of bows: a bow of the head and a bow of the body. A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated. Traditionally, the same applies to the name of the Pope.

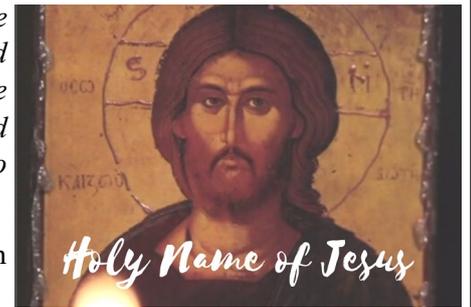
A bow of the body, that is to say a profound bow, is made by the priest to the altar; during the prayers *Munda cor meum* (Almighty God, cleanse my heart) and *In spiritu humilitatis* (Lord God, we ask you to receive); in the Creed at the words *Et incarnatus est* (by the power of the Holy Spirit . . . made man); in the Roman Canon at the words *Supplices te rogamus* (Almighty God, we pray that your angel). The same kind of bow is made by the deacon when he asks for a blessing before the proclamation of the Gospel. In addition, the priest bows as he speaks the words of the Lord at the consecration.

This would also be done when the preacher mentions Jesus by name. During the Gloria and the Creed the whole congregation and all the ministers bow at the name of Jesus and Mary as all recite it together. It is a pious custom that all make a bow of the head whenever they hear or say the names of Jesus. It both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude of the participants.

This tradition is based on St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 2:9-10: "God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

It also stems from Constitution 25 of the Second Council of Lyons, convened in 1274 by Pope Gregory X: *"Those who assemble in church should extol with an act of special reverence that name with is above every name, than which no other under heaven has been given to people, in which believers must be saved, the name, that is, of Jesus Christ, who will save his people from their sins. Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious name is recalled, especially during the sacred mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head."*

There is even a Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, celebrated on 3rd January each year.



MASS CARDS: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass can be offered for any intention but if you wish to have Mass offered for someone who has died, there are Mass cards in the sacristy at £1 each. These are signed by the priest when you ask for the Mass. Please write the Mass Intention on an envelope and enclose your offering.

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. Our High Schools of St Mary's, Leyland and Holy Cross, Chorley are also taking part: 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. Nearer the time, parishioners could also bake cakes etc for the cake stall. Of course, teh parish will now benefit from any funds raised by the Gala as well. 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.



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.