



# The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

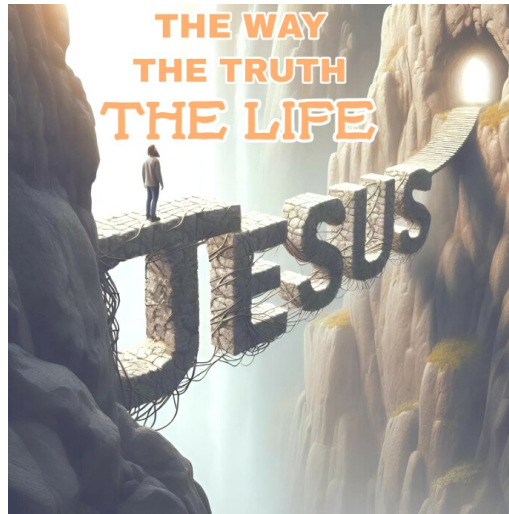


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Presbytery: St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## Fifth Sunday of Easter



Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year A. 3rd May	8.30am	Rita Ann Carney
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Monday 4th May: The English Martyrs	9.30am	Jean Telford
Tuesday 5th May: Feria of Easter	9.30am	Steven Telford
Wednesday 6th May: Feria of Easter	9.30am	Anthony Bagot
Thursday 7th May: Feria of Easter	9.30am	Robert Bell, RIP
Friday 8th May:	10.30am	Requiem Mass for Julie Mansley
Feria of Easter	7pm	Novena & Benediction
		CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING
Saturday 9th May: Feria of Easter	—	—
Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year A. 10th May	8.30am	Julie Massey, LD
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	3pm	<b>MAY PROCESSION &amp; CROWNING</b>



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

**Retiring Collection TODAY** for our parish SVP.

**Retiring Collection NEXT** week for World Communications Day.

**100 Club: James and Glenys Troop (14)** 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)

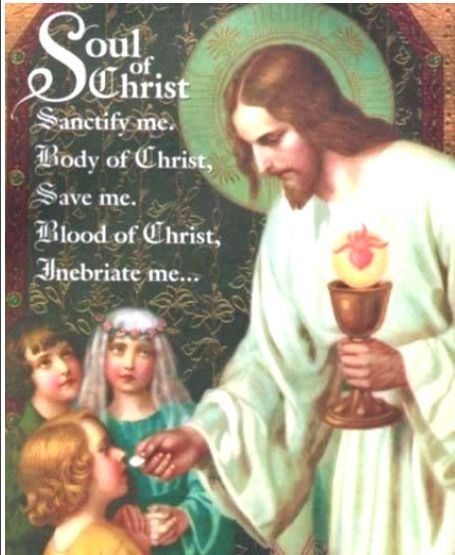
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

**MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 383.**

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

**HOLY COMMUNIONS. We have our final week of First Holy Communions today.**

**Children, please join Fr Simon in the sacristy before Mass to process in & straight afterwards in the Social Centre to cut a cake and receive your Certificate.**



Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the precious gift of the Eucharist, and for the joy our children experience in receiving Jesus for the first time.

Lord, as they grow in years, help them to grow also in faith, hope, and love. Place in their hearts a deep longing to meet You each week at the Holy Mass, to listen to Your Word, and to be nourished by Your Body and Blood.

When distractions, busyness, or doubts arise, give them the strength to choose You above all else. Surround them with family, friends, and a parish community who will encourage and inspire them to keep You at the centre of their lives.

May the memory of their First Holy Communion be a light that guides them, and may their love for the Mass burn brightly all their days.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**NOW THE FIRST COMMUNIONS ARE COMPLETED THE CHILDREN WILL TAKE PART IN THE MAY PROCESSION, STARTING AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL AND PROCEEDING THROUGH THE CHURCH GROUNDS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE ECCLESTON BRASS BAND AT 3pm ON SUNDAY 10th MAY.**

**ALSO, ON SUNDAY 7th JUNE, TAKING PART IN A SHORT COPRUS CHRISTI PROCESSION, FOLLOWING THE 10.30am MASS, FINISHING WITH BENEDICTION IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

Another opportunity for them to wear their special clothes and celebrate their First Holy Communion.



**FOR THE PROCESION & CROWNING 3pm NEXT SUNDAY.**

Please gather in St Mary's School grounds, from where we will process to the Lourdes Shrine with prayers for the sick: on to the Cemetery with prayers for those who have died; to the grass in front of the Social Centre to pray for our parish and the world & into church for the crowning of the Statue. We will be accompanied by the Eccleston Brass Band walking with us. It was a splendid occasion last year, so come along and bring your family and friends. First Communion children will walk together and young people from our High Schools will assist in carrying the statue and our banners and torches.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027.**

Thank you to those who came to the meeting and others unable to attend who have expressed an interest. We have a group of around 20 interested for a date to be confirmed late September/early October 2027. Watch this space!



**CLOCK RESTORATION:**

THIS 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.



One of our parishioners is kindly pursuing a grant from a charity that supports civic projects and our local Euxton Parish Council is offering a very generous grant of £7,000. **We have also had a donation of £5,000 from a parishioner! Thank you!** If anyone has any other ways of accessing funds or if you would like to donate, please do let us know!



**The feast of the English Martyrs** is celebrated on 4 May 1535 because this is the date when the first martyrs of the Protestant Reformation were hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn, London, for opposing the Act of Succession that recognised the progeny of the adulterous relationship of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn as the legitimate heirs to the throne and the Act of Supremacy, through which the King asserted himself as “the only Supreme Head on earth of the Church of England”. The five who were dragged across London on hurdles that day – watched from the Bell Tower as they left the Tower of London by St Thomas More, “cheerfully going to their deaths as bridegrooms to their marriage” – were Carthusian priors St John Houghton of London, St Robert Lawrence of Beauvale and St Augustine Webster of Axholme, and St Richard Reynolds, a Bridgettine of Syon Abbey, and Blessed John Haile, a secular priest. Significantly, they were wearing their priestly vestments. St John Houghton was the first to die and was conscious throughout an ordeal that included partial hanging, castration and disembowelment. The point of death came when his heart was torn from his chest and held before his face. His final words were reportedly: “Good Jesu, what wilt Thou do with my heart?” One of St John’s quarters was later nailed to the main gate of the London Charterhouse to signify the seriousness of the King’s intent. The resolve of Henry VIII was further emphasised by the beheadings on Tower Hill, London, of St John Fisher, the Bishop of Rochester, and of St Thomas More, the former Lord Chancellor of England, after both men refused in good conscience to take the oath attached to the Act of Succession.

The storm had truly broken and in the final years of Henry’s rule dozens of other Catholics either were executed or died in prison for their faith. The schism created by Henry also set in motion more than a century of religious turmoil during which Catholics struggled with Protestants over the direction and identity of the English Church. This was a time when the price of conscience was reckoned in human lives: Catholics could be hanged, drawn and quartered for high treason. The Protestant reforms of Queen Elizabeth I ushered in a new and unprecedented era of persecution for Catholics, however, which intensified markedly in the latter half of her reign following the arrival of the Jesuits on the English Mission coupled with the threat of invasion by Spain. About 300 were martyred, including many from our native Lancashire, but many more died in prison.



### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

A reminder that the next meeting is this Thursday 7pm in the Social Centre.

### PILGRIM HOLIDAY TOP FRANCE. 13th—20th AUGUST 2026. 7 nights in Saint Pierre de Maillé in France.

An historic area in the heart of France, exploring history and Catholicism, staying in the Villa St Pierre, next to the River Gartempe. Following the meeting we had, there are about 20 people interested in going.

Cost to be £700 per person. Younger children at a discount, travelling at £300 each.

Including transport, flights and most meals (with wine for the meals) and en-suite accommodation, entrance costs to attractions & daily Mass.

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE PLEASE TAKE A FORM FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH & RETURN IT TO FR SIMON, with a non-returnable deposit of £150, to enable the flights to be booked. Cheques made payable to “St Mary’s Parish”

**CAN THOSE WHO HAVE SIGNED UP TO COME PLEASE RETURN THEIR FORMS AND DPOSITS BY SUNDAY 17th MAY PLEASE.**

Outward: Departing Manchester Airport Thursday 13th August. Return: from Limoges Airport 20th August.



## Catholic Faith



**THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC OR RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH?**

**Our meetings for prospective Converts have broadened to include those recently returning to practice of the Faith, who want to learn a little more.**

Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 4th May. Even if you did not come to the initial meetings, anyone interested is still welcome. The meeting will be held in the Presbytery (behind the church on the Lourdes Shrine side). Please contact Fr Simon.