



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Sixth Sunday of Easter



O Mary we crown Thee
with blossoms today!

Sixth Sunday of Easter. Year A. 10th May	8.30am	Julie Massey, LD
	10.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	3pm	MAY PROCESSION & CROWNING
Monday 11th May: Feria of Easter	9.30am	Julie Mansley, LD
Tuesday 12th May: St Pancras	9.30am	Agnes & Stan Skyner
Wed 13th May: Anniv of Dedication of the Cathedral	9.30am	Margaret Lawler, sick
Thurs 14th May: SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION	9.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	7pm	Intentions of Bill & Dalia Wendt
Friday 15th May: Feria of Easter	7pm	Novena & Benediction
		CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING
Saturday 16th May: Feria of Easter	—	—
Seventh Sunday of Easter. Year A. 17th May	8.30am	Catherine Mary Bamber, RIP
	10.30amas	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for World Communications Day.

100 Club: Lyn Rogers (29). 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 387. Ascension Thursday Pg 397.

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

CHURCH GROUNDS.

As many of you will know, there is a team of about 7 people who look after the cemetery grounds—and an excellent job they do in maintaining a beautiful space for our church and for the families of those buried there to be able to visit in a well-kept churchyard. So they deserve our thanks in recognition of their quiet work that makes such a difference to those visiting graves. Truly, a work giving quiet praise to God.

The same people also maintain the grass areas around the rest of the church grounds but it might be that there could be a few more volunteers out there who might like to give a little time to maintaining the rest of the church rounds—the areas we often concentrate on in our Grounds Tidy-up days. Weeding, hedge trimming, around the Lourdes Shrine and the Calvary Cross, etc.



If you might be interested in doing a little of this, please speak to Fr Simon or Nick Fish and/or send an email for contact purposes. This was discussed at the Parish Pastoral Council last week and agreed to make this appeal.

“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye.” Genesis, chapter 2.



FOR THE PROCESION & CROWNING 3pm TODAY.

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!



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.

The Parish Centre is open during Sunday Masses, where toilets are easily accessible.



EUXTON OPEN GARDENS: MONDAY 25th May. 1pm—4.30pm.

£4 per adult—Children free.

You will start in our Social Centre where refreshments and a Tombola are available to get your programme of various gardens in the Euxton area which you can go and make a tour of. Interesting collection of ordinary people with lovely gardens for you to get some ideas from, who will make you very welcome on your visit.

The funds raised go to support putting on the Euxton Gala, which we are involved in this year.

There is a box at the back of church for any donations you might like to contribute for the Tombola—and any cakes you can bring along on the day for the refreshments.

Thank you.

CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING TIDY DAY.

Saturday 6th June. 9am—12 noon.

Everyone welcome to come along and give a hand in whatever way you can.

Bacon butties to sustain us at about 11am.

It's the day before the Corpus Christi Procession, so a good time for a spruce up!



REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Just come into the Social Centre opposite the church and say hello!

WE STILL NEED EXTRA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 10.30am MASS.



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.



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.

Confirmations for 61 young people with Archbishop John for our Family of Parishes will take place here at St Mary's on Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm.

Apart from presumed attendance at Mass, preparations include a **PIZZA NIGHT THIS Wednesday 13th May.** An opportunity for the Confirmands to ask questions the Faith and so be better prepared to live it, as they make the commitment of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

And also, on **Sunday 17th May, 10.30am an Enrollment Mass** where Confirmands are invited to be welcomed by the Christian community of Faith.

ASCENSION THURSDAY: The Solemnity this week marks a significant celebration in the liturgical calendar for Catholics around the world. This day commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, which occurred 40 days after his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. This event is vividly described in the New Testament, where Jesus is taken up from his disciples into heaven. A reminder that we too, are called to the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

"When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven " (Acts 1:9-11).

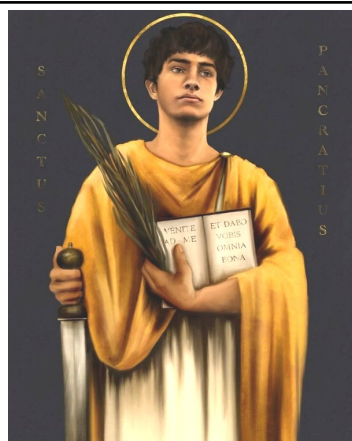
Ascension Thursday is not only a day of reflection and celebration, but also a Holy Day of Obligation. This designation means that all Catholics are required to participate in Mass, unless excused for a serious reason such as illness or substantial hardship. In the same way that the Church designates Sundays, The Ascension marks the conclusion of Jesus' earthly ministry and signifies the beginning of His sovereign rule from His heavenly throne. It is a day for renewing faith, participating in the sacraments, and reflecting on His promise to remain with humanity always, until the



"The Ascension"

by French artist Gustave Doré.

1832 – 1883



Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Pancras, Martyr. 289— 304 AD. Everyone has heard of St Pancras station in London and would recognize the famous adjoining hotel, designed by architect George Gilbert Scott, but few pause to ask about it's name. St Pancras Station was named after St. Pancras parish, whose name originates from the fourth-century Christian boy martyr, Pancras of Rome. During the persecution of Christians by Emperor Diocletian, around 303 AD, he was brought before the authorities and asked to perform a sacrifice to the Roman gods. Diocletian, impressed with the boy's determination to resist, promised him wealth and power, but Pancras refused, and finally the emperor ordered him to be beheaded on the Via Aurelia, on 12 May 303 AD.

Patron Saint of children, jobs, and health. Invoked against cramps, false witnesses, headaches, and perjury.

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 DEPOSITS BY SUNDAY 17th MAY PLEASE.

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



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 11th 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.