



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 Advent



"Behold, the Virgin will conceive and bear a Son and you shall call His name Jesus."

Fourth Sunday of Advent. Year A. 21st December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Philip Mark Jepson
Mon 22nd Dec: Feria of Advent	9.30am	Sam, Catherine & Anthony Worthington
Tuesday 23rd December: Feria of Advent	9.30am	John & William Haycock
Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eve	6.30pm	Carols
First Mass of Christmas	7pm	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
		<i>Mulled Wine & Mince Pies to follow</i>
Thursday 25th December:	8.30am	For Christopher, sick
Christmas Day:	10.30am	Frank Loughlin
Friday 26th December: St Stephen	—	— No public Mass today
Saturday 27th December: St John the Evangelist	—	— No public Mass today
The Holy Family. Year A. 28th December	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Billy Strickland, Anniv

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

100 Club: Ken Duncan (51)

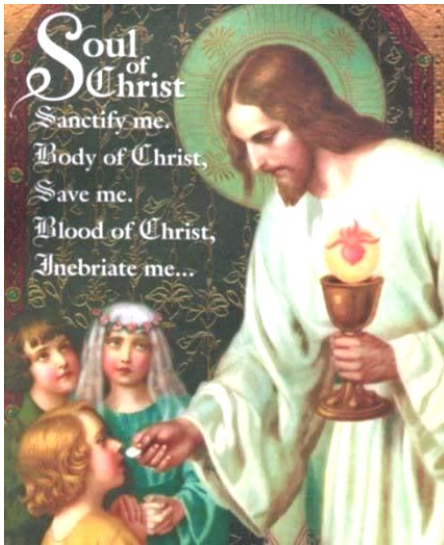
Fr Simon's blog is at **offerimus tibi domine** (where you will also find the Mass times each week)

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE: New appointment pending.

PLEASE TAKE A CHRISTMAS POSTER TO DISPLAY.

MISSAL PAGES: Sunday Pg. 42. Christmas Eve Pg 86. 8.30am Dawn Pg 91. Day Mass Pg 94.

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 on **Wednesday 7th January 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 .

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. to start and Cranachan as pudding.

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.

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH.

Please sign up as you buy a ticket— to assist seating arrangements.

The price is £25 per person, which includes: Three course meal; Wine with the meal; Whisky for the Toasts.
£10 for young people under 16.



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. 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!
PLEASE NOTE THAT AS AFTER TODAY OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD, THERE ARE NO AFTER MASS REFRESHMENTS UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS.

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.

NOVENA & BENEDICTION.

Devotions are suspended over the Christmas period but will begin again in the New Year,

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 their longing for His presence, especially during times when they 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.





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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

CAROLS FROM 6.30PM MASS AT 7PM

FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES IN THE SOCIAL CENTRE.

CHRISTMAS DAY

MASSSES AT 8.30AM & 10.30AM.

Christmas Mass Schedule

CHARITY CAROL CONCERT

Thanks to the Octavius Singers and to our helpers
in the Social Centre

And to all who came along. What a wonderful
evening.

CHRISTMASS POSTERS

provided by the
Knights of St Columba

PLEASE TAKE ONE TO
DISPLAY WHEREVER YOU
CAN.



WHY DID THE WORD BECOME FLESH? The Catechism tells us this:

With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world", and "he was revealed to take away sins."

St. Gregory of Nyssa tells us:

Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the good; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Saviour; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state? The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to him!" Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have loved you." This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.



The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God." "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

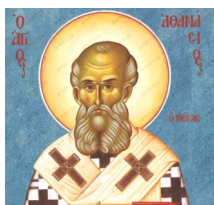


Fully accessible toilets are available in the social Centre.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Traditionally, the collection for Christmas (and Easter) was parishioners personal gift to the priests of the parish. More recently, most priests have moved over to a set stipend taken from the parish each month to support them and do not receive the Christmas Offerings personally. However, the diocese suggests that people still try to view the Christmas and Easter offerings as your contribution to that support—a bit like a special collection.

Thank you for your Offerings, this Christmas and every week, which enable us together to maintain and build up our Christian Community.

SOME CHRISTMAS QUOTES.



Athanasius of Alexandria: The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it.

St. John Chrysostom: “Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been ‘in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.”



Dorothy L. Sayers: The dogma of the Incarnation is the most dramatic thing about Christianity, and indeed, the most dramatic thing that ever entered the mind of man; but if you tell people so, they stare at you in bewilderment.

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 for a Standing Order or scan the QR Code on the coloured leaflets.

Thanks to David and Grace Barton, who have volunteered to revamp 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!