



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

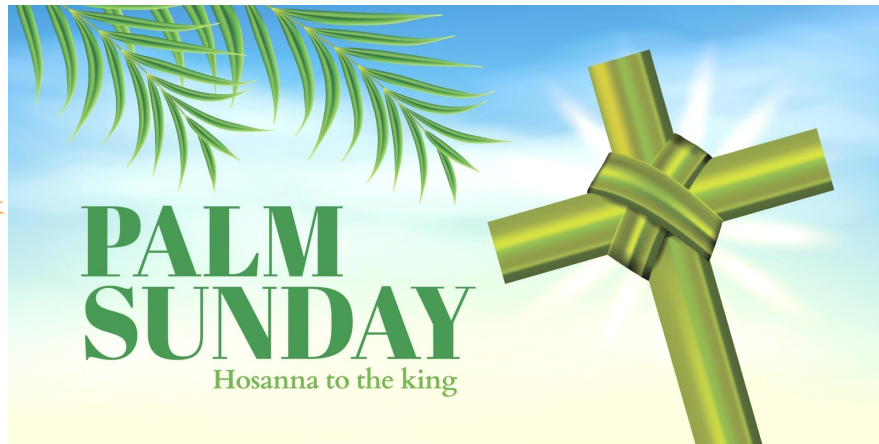


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Presbytery: St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday. Year A. 29th March	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
<i>Start of Holy Week</i>	10.30am	Sheila & Terrence McDermott
Monday of Holy Week: 30th March	9.30am	Fr Thoms Keeley
Tuesday of Holy Week: 31st March	9.30am	M & W Fishwick, J & W Parkinson
Wednesday of Holy Week: 1st April	9.30am	W I Anderton, Elizabeth Haydock
St Mary's School Easter Service	10.30am	—
Maundy Thursday 2nd April.		
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.30pm	W & A Barrow, Wilcox Family
Watching at Altar of Repose, During which, Confessions		
Night Prayer	9pm	
Good Friday 3rd April	3pm	LITURGY OF THE PASSION
		CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING
Holy Saturday 5th April: EASTER VIGIL MASS	7.30pm	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
Easter Sunday. Year A. 6th April	8.30am	Potter Family
	10.30am	Philip Mark Jepson, BR

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

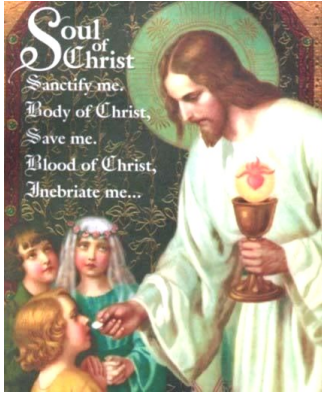
100 Club: Angela Cambra (30). Please collect your winnings from the sacristy.

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 234.

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



FIRST CONFESSION & HOLY COMMUNIONS. First Holy Communion will take place during Sunday Masses on the first four Sunday of Eastertide.



"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.

ANYONE WHO HAS NOT MADE THEIR FIRST CONFESSION BY THIS SUNDAY NEEDS TO SPEAK TO FR SIMON IMMEDIATELY.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CEILIDH: Thank you to all who came along and enjoyed themselves dancing and eating the fine Irish Stew. Thanks also to all who helped in ways great and small, including members of the band "Fit for Purpose", who donated their talents! We raised £870. Which it has been suggested we put towards the clock restoration fund.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The envelope sets for the new tax year are now ready for collection at the back of church. Thank you to all who Gift Aid and to those who use the envelopes for Gift Aid or to plan their giving. If you would like a set of envelopes or to start giving with Gift Aid, please email the parish address to ask. Anyone who pays tax can sign up for Gift Aid and the parish can then claim back 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give, increasing your gift to the parish by a quarter!

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.

All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Come and say hello!

IT WOULD BE A GREAT A GREAT ACT OF CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY IF SOME OF THE FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS COULD VOLUNTEER ON THE FIRST FOUR SUNDAYS OF EASTERTIDE AT THE 10.30AM MASS.

NOT NECESSARILY ON THE DAY OF YOUR OWN CHILD'S COMMUNION BUT ON ONE OF THE OTHER SUNDAYS.



HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES



MAUNDY THURSDAY:

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT 7.30PM

WATCHING AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE (DURING WHICH THERE WILL BE CONFESSIONS) CONCLUDING WITH NIGHT PRAYER AT 9PM.

GOOD FRIDAY:

**LITURGY OF THE PASSION AT 3PM
CONFESSIONS FOLLOWING**

**HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL & MASS
AT 7.30PM**

EASTER SUNDAY:

MASS AT 8.30AM & MASS AT 10.30AM

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: 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.



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: Our next meeting is at 7pm on Monday 13th April. Even if you did not come to the initial meeting, anyone interested is still welcome. Please contact Fr Simon.



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.

GOOD FRIDAY: A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE.

On Good Friday, Catholics are required to fast and abstain from meat as a way to honor the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and to engage in spiritual reflection.

Age Requirements: Fasting is obligatory for Catholics aged 18 to 59. Those who are ill, pregnant, nursing, or have medical conditions that would be worsened by fasting are exempt from this requirement.

What to Eat: On Good Friday, Catholics are permitted to eat one full meal and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal. This practice is intended to promote self-discipline and reflection rather than extreme hunger.

In addition to fasting, Catholics aged 14 and older are required to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday. This abstinence is also observed on all Fridays during Lent. Fish is often consumed as an alternative protein source.

Fasting on Good Friday serves as a form of penance and a way to participate in the sufferings of Christ. It is a time for Catholics to reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and to deepen their spiritual lives through prayer and self-denial. The act of fasting is not merely about food; it is a reminder of the spiritual hunger that can only be satisfied by God.

What Is Holy Week? Holy Week is the most sacred time of the liturgical year, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. Holy Week is not just a historical remembrance, but is a time when we enter into the mystery of Christ's saving work and experience His love and mercy in a profound way. The Catholic Church celebrates Holy Week with special liturgies and devotions that help us to enter into the mystery of Christ's passion and death.

Palm Sunday: The Triumphal Entry. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On this day, we remember how the crowds welcomed Jesus as the Messiah, waving palm branches and shouting 'Hosanna to the Son of David!'. The liturgy begins with the blessing of palm branches and a procession, recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. However, Palm Sunday also includes the reading of the passion narrative, reminding us that the same crowds who welcomed Jesus would later call for His crucifixion. This contrast helps us to understand the fickleness of human nature and the depth of Christ's love, which remained constant even in the face of rejection and betrayal.

Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper. Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the **Easter Triduum** and commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Mass and the priesthood, when Jesus took bread and wine and said, 'This is my body' and 'This is my blood'. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, and Holy Thursday helps us to understand its profound meaning. After the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is transferred to a place of repose, where the faithful can keep vigil with Christ. This vigil recalls Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and His invitation to His disciples to watch and pray with Him.

Good Friday: The Passion and Death of Christ. Good Friday is the most solemn day of the liturgical year. The liturgy is marked by silence, prayer, and reflection on the mystery of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. The liturgy begins with readings from the Old Testament that foreshadow Christ's passion, followed by the reading of the passion narrative from. The passion narrative helps us to enter into the mystery of Christ's suffering and death.

The centerpiece of the Good Friday liturgy is the veneration of the cross. The faithful come forward to kiss the cross, expressing their love and gratitude for Christ's sacrifice. This gesture helps us to understand that the cross is not just a symbol of suffering, but is the instrument of our salvation.

Good Friday is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated. Instead, there is a communion service using hosts that were consecrated at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. This reminds us that even in death, Christ continues to nourish us with His body and blood.

Holy Saturday: The Great Vigil. Holy Saturday is a day of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the resurrection. The Church is silent, reflecting the time when Christ's body lay in the tomb. However, the silence is not empty, but is filled with hope and expectation. The Easter Vigil, celebrated after sunset on Holy Saturday, is the most important liturgy of the entire year. It begins in darkness, symbolizing the darkness of sin and death, and then the light of the Easter candle is brought into the church, symbolizing the light of Christ that dispels all darkness. The vigil begins with the blessing of the Easter candle and the singing of the Exsultet, a beautiful hymn that proclaims the joy of the resurrection. The light of the Easter candle is then shared with all the faithful, symbolizing the light of Christ that we are called to share with the world. The Vigil includes three readings from the Old Testament that tell the story of salvation history, from creation to the promise of the Messiah. These readings help us to understand that Christ's resurrection is the fulfillment of all God's promises.

The Meaning of Holy Week: Holy Week is not just a historical remembrance, but is a time when we enter into the mystery of Christ's saving work. Through the liturgies and devotions of Holy Week, we experience in a profound way the love and mercy of God, who sent His Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our salvation. Holy Week helps us to understand that our salvation was not won easily, but was purchased at a great price. Christ's passion and death show us the depth of God's love for us and the seriousness of sin. His resurrection shows us that death is not the end, but is the beginning of new life in Christ. Holy Week is not just about what happened 2,000 years ago, but is about what is happening in our lives today. Through the liturgies and devotions of Holy Week, we are invited to examine our own lives and to ask ourselves how we are responding to Christ's love and sacrifice. Holy Week calls us to conversion, to turn away from sin and to grow closer to Christ. It calls us to service, to follow Christ's example of love and self-sacrifice. It calls us to hope, to trust in Christ's promise of eternal life. Holy Week is a special time of grace, a time when God offers us the opportunity to experience His love and mercy in a profound way. It is a time to enter into the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, and to grow in our understanding of what He has done for us. By participating in the liturgies and devotions of Holy Week, we can grow closer to Christ and experience the joy of His resurrection more fully. Holy Week is not just about remembering the past, but is about living the present and preparing for the future, when we will share in Christ's glory for all eternity.