



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twenty Fifth Sunday of the Year



"When
England goes
back to
Walsingham,
Our Lady will
come back to
England"

Pope Leo XIII in 1897



"The Faith in
England will
flourish when
the Shrine of
Our Lady of
Walsingham is
flourishing"

Cardinal Griffin in 1954



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM ON THURSDAY

Twenty Fifth Sunday. Year A. 20th Sept	8.30am	Ray Watkinson, RIP
	10.30am	Brian Leyland, RIP
Monday 21st Sept: St Matthew	9.30am	Thanksgiving for prayers answered
Tuesday 22nd Sept: Feria	9.30am	Veronica Neilson, BR
Wed 23rd Sept: St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	9.30am	Private Intention
Thurs 24th Sept: Our Lady of Walsingham	9.30am	Ines de Baudry d'Asson, RIP
Friday 25th Sept: Feria	7pm	Novena & Benediction.
		Confessions following
Saturday 26th Sept: Ss Cosmas & Damian	—	—
Twenty Sixth Sunday. Year A. 27th Sept	8.30am	Pro Populorum. (People of the Parish)
	10.30am	Private Intention

THANK YOU for your Offerings each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for the Home Missions.

100 Club: Bernadette Houghton (78). *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)

Safer Recruitment and DBS Representative : New appointment pending.

MISSAL PAGES for today: Page 778.

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 731.

100 CLUB: Thank you to those who have joined or continue with the 100 Club. There is an updated list on the noticeboard. We now have just 8 numbers left, so if you would like to join with a chance of winning £50 each week, then please take a form from the back of church and return it to the parish, confirming that you have set up a Direct Debit from your account.

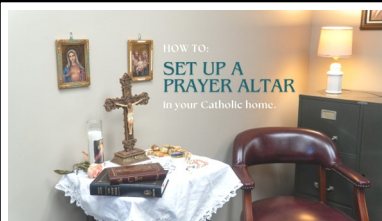
SOME HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN SETTING UP A Direct Debit ON THEIR BANK APPS. IF THAT'S HAPPENED DO TRY AGAIN. EVEN IF IT SAYS THE NAME DOESN'T MATCH THE ACCOUNT NUMBER, IF YOU CLICK GO AHEAD ANYWAY, IT SHOULD STILL GO THROUGH & IS OKAY AFTER THAT. IT'S UNKNOWN WHY THIS HAPPENS WITH SOME BANKS.

The title of the account is: **St Catherine's 100 Club**

We need to fill all the numbers if we are to maximize the potential of running the whole thing.

David Barton is the contact person for the Club.

CHURCH CLEANING: Thank you to all those who help maintain our beautiful church—and to some new volunteers. There will be a brief meeting for all volunteers after the 10.30am Mass **TODAY**, in the Social Centre. Would anyone who can't attend please let Margaret know.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME: Just a reminder for those who receive Holy Communion at home, please do your best to prepare a suitable place for the Blessed Sacrament. If you have a crucifix, statue or holy picture then this can be placed on a cloth with a candle (it need be no more than tea light). The arrival of the Blessed Sacrament is a great grace, so if you can't do all of that, at least a decent cleared space would be helpful. Thank you.

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM:

It was in 1061, that a local and devout English Christian noblewoman and widow, Richeldis de Faverches, prayed that she might undertake some special work in honour of Our Blessed Lady. In answer to her prayer, the Blessed Virgin Mary led Richeldis in spirit to Nazareth, showed her the house where the Annunciation occurred, and asked her to build a replica house here at Walsingham to serve as a perpetual memorial of the Annunciation.

Thus, the Holy House was meticulously built in Walsingham – 'England's Nazareth,' and in around 1130 a community of Augustinian Canons took charge of the foundation. Henceforth, Walsingham became one of the four most notable and beautiful Shrines in medieval Europe. All the kings of England from Henry III [1226] to Henry VIII [1511] came to Walsingham on pilgrimage. Of course, there were numerous wayside chapels along the pilgrim route to Walsingham, 'St Catherine's Chapel' [known to us today as 'the Slipper Chapel'] was the last of these. Although small, the building is an almost unparalleled example of the very best of mid-fourteenth century gothic craftsmanship.



In 1538, the so-called Protestant Reformation in England caused the Priory property to be handed over to the King's Commissioners, and the famous statue of Our Lady of Walsingham was taken away to London to be burnt. The Holy House and the original Shrine were completely destroyed. Its site is marked on the lawn in what is now called "The Abbey Grounds." After the destruction of the original Shrine, Walsingham ceased to be a place of pilgrimage. The Slipper Chapel amazingly survived, but passed largely into secular use and decay.

It was in 1896, that Charlotte Pearson Boyd, who had recently become a Roman Catholic, purchased the Slipper Chapel, and commissioned the architect Thomas Garner, to restore the building. Most of the work took place in the years immediately following. Today, over 250,000 pilgrims and visitors visit the National Shrine every year.

Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed.

O Blessed Mary,

Mother of God, Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us. Amen.

Home Mission Sunday is an annual day dedicated to supporting and praying for the work of local evangelization. It invites us to celebrate our Catholic Faith and focus on witnessing to Christ in our daily lives, local communities, and parishes across. There is a retiring collection for this work today.



As it is the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on Thursday, it is a suitable reminder that the Catholic Faith is deeply rooted in our country, the very foundation of our civilization. The further society drifts away from that knowledge, the more debased and divided it seems to become. Let us pray and work for all people to share our joy in the good news of salvation and the beauty of living the Gospel in our lives.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Thanks to the members of the Parish Council who met last week.

We talked about finding ways that our **Catholic schools** might be more involved in parish life. Fr Simon has interaction with both our Primary Schools, as their Chaplain, and involvement with three local High Schools. Links with our Primary Schools are very strong and growing but developing initiatives to involve High School children in the weekly life of the parish would benefit both schools and the parish. We agreed to pursue ideas to accomplish this.

Fr Simon also invites any of our parishioners who are Governors in our schools—whom he may not know yet—to make contact with him, with a view to facilitating that process.

We have also been discussing the **role of the Parish Pastoral Council**.

It was noted that it provides a body of people who are in place to help Fr Simon and the parish as any need arises.

Also, to help convey ideas and information to the parish priest from the wider parish. To that end, those on the Parish Council need to be able to be identified by everyone, so we will work towards that, with a small display at the back of church, letting people know who they are. They are also listed on the parish website.

Sunday Morning Refreshments were also discussed. For a long time, when the refreshments were only served at on Sunday Mass once a month, the donations went to CAFOD. Now that refreshments are served after both Masses each Sunday, it seems only equitable that this eight-fold increase be shared out a little, as CAFOD is already well supported in the parish with your usual generosity. It is proposed that we have a 4-week rota with 4 different Charities being supported, still including CAFOD one of the weeks.

With that in mind, suggestions are invited from parishioners for the other 3 Sundays. These need not be specifically Catholic but they must be in harmony with the Faith and Catholic Social teaching. They can be local or international but not those already supported by the parish in other collections.

Speak to Fr Simon, one of the Council members or email the parish address with your suggestions.

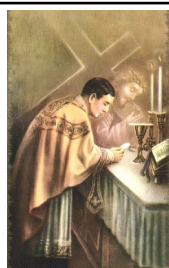
Liverpool Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2027: Applications are now open for young people in Year 10 and up to the age of 22 to travel to Lourdes to work with our assisted pilgrims. Coach 5 takes young people from the Lancashire areas of Orrell, Chorley, Leyland and Penwortham. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience of service, faith, joy, and learning new skills. There is a £50 reduction for anyone applying before 18th October. There is a further £100 reduction for any young person who achieved the Gold level of the Faith in Action Award at the end of the last school year. Apply at www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk

For more information, please email Ben McMullen, Coach Leader at coach5@rcao.org.uk



CATENIANS:

There is a poster at the back of church highlighting the work of the Catenians. There is a QR Code to scan or you can look the up online. There will be a different one each month, encouraging you to join or find out more about their work.



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.



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Open Evening

Thursday 8 October 2026

4.30 pm - 7 pm

LAST ENTRY AT 6.30 PM



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.

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



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 2027. We have a group of around 20 interested for a date to be confirmed late September/early October 2027. As soon as flights can be booked, we will move forward with this.

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.



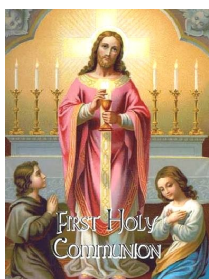
We have a new Facebook page. Search Parish of St Mary & St Catherine.

Like & share our posts to get the word out on our great parish & parishioners!

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.



FIRST SACRAMENTS PREPARATION. I have now met with parents of Year 4 children in both of our Primary Schools to invite children to participate in preparing to make their First Confession & First Holy Communion. This will involve a firm commitment to attend the sessions and to attend Mass each week.

The sessions will begin on Wednesday 30th September 6.30pm—7.30pm and be held once a month until Easter.

If you have a child in Year 4 who is not at one of our Primary Schools, then please contact Fr Simon to enroll your child.

CARD PAYMENT IN CHURCH.

We now have a card / contactless facility here in church! You will see it at the rear of the church. If you've forgotten your collection money or simply wish to make a donation, you can now easily use this.

If you intend to use it regularly and have signed up to Gift Aid, you can set it up to recognize your payment and the parish will still be able to receive your Gift Aid. You only need to do this once and it will recognize you after that by following the on-screen instructions.

It also has the facility to give to particular causes. So, for example, if there is a special collection or for the 100 Club, you will be able to use it for that as well.

It might take a little practice to get used to but hopefully, will assist the parish by allowing anyone to give more easily and conveniently.



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC, RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH OR JUST LEARNING MORE?

No meeting this week. Our next meeting is at 7pm this Monday 21st September.