

The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



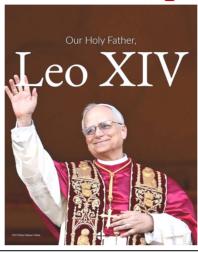
St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174. E-mail: stcatherine@rcaol.org.uk St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. 01257 262665 . E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Fourth Sunday of Easter.

Habeamus Papam







Saturday 10th May:	SM 11am	Wedding David Barton & Grace Callan
4th Sunday of Easter. First Holy Communions	SC 5pm	Patsy Newton, RIP
World Day of Prayer for Vocations		Confessions following
Third Sunday of Easter. Year C. 11th May	SM 8.30am	Fr Thomas Keeley
	SM 10.30am	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
Mon 12th May: Feria of Eastertide		(No public Mass today)
Tuesday 13th May: Dedication of the Cathedral		(No public Mass today)
Wed 14th May: St Matthias		(No public Mass today)
Thursday 15th May: Our Lady of Fatima		(No public Mass today)
Friday 16th May: Feria of Eastertide	6pm	St Catherine's School Leavers Mass
Saturday 17th May:	SC 5pm	Patsy Newton, RIP
5th Sunday of Easter. First Holy Communions		Confessions following
Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year C. 18th May	SM 8.30am	Anthony Bagot
	SM 10.30am	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY week for the Priest's Training Fund.

St Catherine's Church 100 Club:

Fr Simon's blog is at **offerimus tibi domine** (where you will also find the Mass times each week) SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES: St Catherine, Elaine Carr. St Mary, Marie Tootell.

MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED: Sunday Pg 477.

Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 153.

REFRESHMENTS AFER MASS AT ST MARY'S:

Return as normal this Sunday. All are welcome to come in for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass. Cake Sunday! Come and say hello!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:

During the Easter Season we have the suitable setting for rejoicing with the children who will be making their First Holy Communion. This is being done in small "batches", so that, though the celebration is very special, the setting is the usual Sunday Mass where they and their families will continue to experience Our Lord's great gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist in the weeks and years ahead.

St Catherine's church: Saturday 10th & 17th May at 5.45 Mass.

St Mary's church: 11th, 18th, 25th May & 1st June at the 10.30am Mass.

Children will come into the Parish Centre afterwards to receive a certificate and cut their cake!

Not forgetting the May Procession on Sunday 18th at 3pm.



MAY PROCESSION AND CROWNING:

Sunday 18th May at 3pm at St Mary's.

Together with St Mary's School we will honour our Blessed Lady in this her month of May. All are invited, so bring your family & friends. The procession will start at the school and process through the grounds to the cross in our cemetery, stopping to pray for all those buried there. Our procession will be accompanied by the Chorley Silver Band. Then proceed to the church for the crowning of the statue by one of our first Communion children.

All the First Communion children, from both our parish schools, are invited to take part dressed in their special clothes again.

BANNERS: We are hoping that we can carry some of the parish banners in the procession. Are there four volunteers to carry them? Please contact Fr Simon to asses your strength capabilities!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: We still do not have a date for the Confirmations, due to the retirement and installation of Archbishops! Should be some news soon.

INSTALLATION OF JOHN SHERRINGTON AS OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL.

This will take place on Tuesday 27th May at 12 noon.

There are two tickets available for each parish. Please see Fr Simon if you would like to go.



Do look and engage with our parish Facebook page which can find by searching for

Parish of St Mary and St Catherine Labouré, Lancashire.

And our Website at: www.stmarys-euxton.com

PARISH MEETING: Friday 13th June 7.30pm at St Catherine's.

Now that we have had some months as one parish with two churches, I am requested by the Archdiocese to hold a meeting to look at the future of plans for our parish, which obviously makes good practical sense. We need to particularly look at how we make best use of our physical, financial and personnel resources in caring for pastoral need and evangelizing. This is an important meeting, so I wanted to give plenty of warning of the of the date to allow people to be there. Let us also pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of Our Blessed Lady and St Catherine.

Your Prayers are asked for all the sick, including: Rita Swarbrick, 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, Bill Sutton, Barbara Fow, Mary Ann Monaghan, Bernard Lawson, Mick Marshall, Carol Parkinson, Eric Nielson, Margaret Lawler, Catherine Thompson.

We pray for those who are housebound & for those who love & care for them.

O Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.

LITURGY MATTERS.

Perhaps like me, you have watched some of the TV coverage of the funeral of Pope Francis and the Mass to initiate the Conclave. If you were listening carefully to the music, you will have heard the same Mass setting that we were singing during Lent at the 10.30am Mass, singing the *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*. The same sung opening of Mass and the final blessing, is also something we have used in the last couple of weeks. Likewise it was the same Marian Antiphon sung at the end of Night Prayer in every monastery and convent that we have been singing at the end of Stations of the Cross and at the end of the 10.30am Mass, which was heard at the conclusion of the Conclave Mass. Parishioners from St Catherine's church will have been familiar as well with the *Pater noster* (the Our Father), the entrance and communion antiphons.

Indeed, some parishioners who watched together were rejoicing in telling me that they were able to join in as they watched!

This is an important reminder of our Catholic Tradition and the musical riches it offers us. It unites us together with the heart of the Church in Rome on these occasions, and throughout the world, where everyone has at least a smattering of Latin sometimes heard in the liturgy.

These riches of our Catholic Faith are enjoyed by countless millions of people of all faiths and none in the great musical achievements inspired by the Mass: Palestrina, Mozart, Bach, Fauré and Andrew Llyod Webber (the father of the one who writes all those Musicals!)

Although for many, many centuries the Mass was all in Latin, this is NOT the focus today. Rather, the Church asks us to be familiar with our heritage, so that all are at ease with a sprinkling of Latin in the Mass, especially at a sung Mass.

The use of Latin dates back to the earliest centuries of the Church and to the very Masses offered in the obscurity of the Catacombs. There is an element of mystery about Latin: it conveys to our minds that something is going on upon the altar which is beyond our comprehension; that a mystery is being enacted. Something that is not of the everyday. The Mass was historically offered in Latin is because it is a sacrifice, not an instruction for the people. The celebration of Mass consists more in action than in words. The Mass is a holy sacrifice offered to God the Father by an ordained priest, in persona Christi. Though it does instruct, it's primary aim is worship, not teaching. As Pope St John XXIII observed: "The Catholic Church has a dignity far surpassing that of every merely human society, for it was founded by Christ the Lord. It is altogether fitting, therefore, that the language it uses should be noble, majestic, and non-vernacular."

The Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy- "Sacrosanctum Concilium" which deals with the liturgical reform of the Church states the following: "Use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin Rites" "Care must be taken to ensure that the faithful may be also be able to say or sing together

in Latin those parts of the Ordinary parts of the Mass which pertain to them."

Pope St John Paul II had a few words to say about it as well: *The Roman Church has special obligations towards Latin, the splendid language of ancient Rome, and she must manifest them whenever the occasion presents itself.* (Papal document, *Dominicae Cenae.*)

And this from him quoting the poet Cicero: "The well-known words of Cicero, "It is not so much excellent to know Latin, as it is a shame not to know it" in a certain sense are directed to you. We exhort you all to lift up high the torch of Latin which is even today a bond of unity among peoples of all nations."

So, as in everything, we attempt to put into practice what the Church asks of us; being human, no doubt we do it imperfectly but we do it with joy and a good heart.



ALTAR SERVERS.

I am asking that all the boys making their First Communion consider becoming an altar server. At the moment, apart from our Parish assistant, Michael, there are no servers from St Mary's. The 3 boys you see serving, all started at St Catherine's.

It gives you a special role at Mass, standing at the altar and at the side of the priest, who is there *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ).

Traditionally, it is always men or boys who serve at the altar. For parents, to explain this to you. It is only since 1994, the Vatican allowed both men and women to serve at the altar. It said that each bishop could - not must - allow females as well as males but that "it will always be very appropriate to follow the noble tradition of having boys serve at the altar". In other words, it has a permissive and not a preceptive character. Nor can any priest be forced to use female altar servers, since, as it states, "it will always be very appropriate to follow the noble tradition of having boys serve at the altar."

This reluctance to extend this ministry to women is not done in a prejudicial way but because serving at the altar is so closely connected with what the priest does. Indeed, servers wear the same vestments as the priest. As recently as Pope St John Paul: he reaffirmed infallibly, the teaching that priests will always be men.

In the secular (and therefore by definition, non-believing) world today there is a desire to amalgamate every role that might be different for men and women but the Church teaches that is not possible - biologically, for a start. There are many other roles that girls can fulfil. At the local level, in due course, by becoming readers, for example, although by the nature of the skills needed, that is usually a little later on. At a grander level, following the example of Pope Francis in recent times and appointing women to head important departments in the Vatican.

So to come back to my original request. I hope that some - or indeed all of the boys, might become altar servers -

AND ANY OTHERS FROM THE PARISH WHO MIGHT BE A LITTLE OLDER. Please speak to Fr Simon.

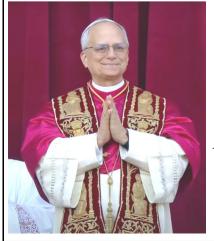
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN: We are urged once more to contact our MPs and ask them to oppose Kim Leadbeater's the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. MPs will have a final chance to propose amendments on 16th May. It is very easy online to find out who your MP is and how to contact them. Further guidance can also be found on the SPUC website.

"We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the "culture of death" and the "culture of life". We find ourselves not only faced with but necessarily in the midst of this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."

Pope St John Paul II.

AN EVENING OF SONG: with Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir - an evening of light entertainment, with songs from the shows. St Joseph's Parish Centre at 7.3-pm on Saturday 17th May. Tickets £5 each, including refreshments. Tel: Chris Jenner on 01257 278915.

WEKDAY MASSES: Apologies for the lack thereof this week. I am either away or at diocesan meetings - and on Friday we have the Leavers Mass for children from St Catherine's School.



HABEAMUS PAPAM. POPE LEO XIV.

Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of the Vatican City State, Servant of the servants of God.

Let us pray for the pope.

May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

May your hand be upon your holy servant.

And upon your son, whom you have anointed.