



# The Parish of **St Mary & St Catherine**



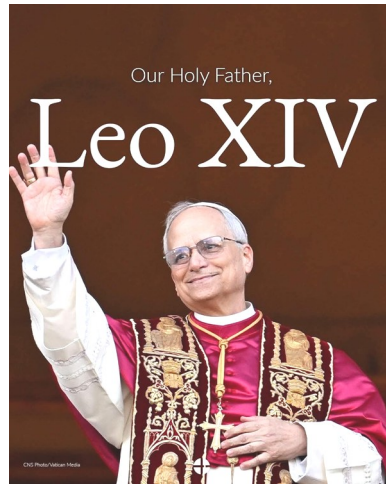
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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter.**

### **Habeamus Papam**



Saturday 10th May:	<b>SM 11am</b>	Wedding David Barton & Grace Callan
4th Sunday of Easter. <i>First Holy Communions</i>	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Patsy Newton, RIP
<i>World Day of Prayer for Vocations</i>		<b>Confessions following</b>
<b>Third Sunday of Easter. Year C. 11th May</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Fr Thomas Keeley
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	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	<b>6pm</b>	<b>St Catherine's School Leavers Mass</b>
Saturday 17th May:	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Patsy Newton, RIP
5th Sunday of Easter. <i>First Holy Communions</i>		<b>Confessions following</b>
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter. Year C. 18th May</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Anthony Bagot
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	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 AFTER 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 assess 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](http://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 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.

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

[illegible]

## 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 pre-ceptive 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.*