



# The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## Third Sunday of Lent



Saturday 22nd March:	<b>SC 5pm</b>	The Massey Family
<b>Vigil Mass for Sunday.</b>		<b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year C. 23rd March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Alison (sick) & Paul
<i>Laetare Sunday</i>	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
Mon 24th March: Feria of Lent	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	Fiona Wess, for a successful operation
Tues 25th March: Solemnity Annunciation of the Lord	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	June & Geoff Chew & Family
Wed 26th March: Feria of Lent	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	David Loughlin
Thurs 27th March: Feria of Lent	<b>SC 11am</b>	Requiem Mass for Maureen O'Brien
Friday 28th March: Feria of Lent	<b>SM 7pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
		<b>CONFESSIONS AFTERWARDS</b>
Saturday 29th March:	<b>11am - 12noon</b>	<b>FIRST CONFESSIONS</b> St Catherine's
<b>Vigil Mass for Sunday.</b>	<b>SC 5pm</b>	For the sick & the dying
		<b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year C. 30th March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
<i>Laetare Sunday</i>	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Mary (May) Cunningham, LD

**THANK YOU** for your offerings to the parish each week.

Retiring Collection **TODAY** for CAFOD.

Retiring Collection **NEXT** week for Lenten Alms.

**St Catherine's church 100 Club: Damien Kzewinski (12)**

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

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES: St Catherine's, Elaine Carr. St Mary's, Marie Tootell.

**NEW MISSALS: MASS CAN BE FOLLOWED ON PAGE 217.**

**CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE).** CONFIRMATION PREPARATION IS RUN THROUGH ANIMATE (the diocesan youth service in conjunction with our Catholic schools). YOU CAN STILL JOIN THESE ONLINE SESSIONS EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT AT A CATHOLIC SCHOOL. If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk). **Registration is now closed.**

Join the Animate team and special guests live for the Sacrament of Confirmation Online Preparation Sessions on 1 May and 15 May from 16.30-18.00 on the Animate Youth YouTube channel. No log in required. This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation.

**SO ALL CANDIDATES MUST CONTACT FR SIMON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

Animate will also be offering a special session on Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00) for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk); you will be contacted after Monday 17 March with login details.

### **REFRESHMENTS AFER MASS AT ST MARY'S:**

**Please do join us after Mass to say hello to your fellow parishioners  
and Fr Simon.**



**CAFOD COLLECTION:** This will take place TODAY.

The **LENTEN ALMS** collection for Nugent Care will take place the NEXT Sunday 30th March. This **SINGLE** collection will replace the previous Lenten collection each Sunday of Lent, which happened in past years. Nugent Care is the "Social Services branch of the Archdiocese: their children's provisions include residential homes, a secure facility, a step-down home and SEMH School. Adult provisions include dispersed homelessness accommodation, floating support provided in the community and supported living provided at home. They also provide adult residential homes including a specialist acquired brain injury, a home for those living with dementia, and a home supporting Mental Health needs. They also offer adoption support services .



**ST CATHERINE'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Weekly preparation sessions for children and their families - this Wednesday at 6pm in the Pope John Paul Room. Let us pray for the children and their families, that God's grace will be renewed in their lives as they make this fresh commitment to Jesus and His Church. Attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a pre-requisite of being able to make First Communions.

**IF YOU ARE ATTENDING MASS AT ST Mary's, PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST THERE.**

**ST MARY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS:** Thank you to the parents & children for the renewed commitment to attend Mass each Sunday. The children's presence at Mass greatly enhances our Sunday experience and is much commented on by other parishioners. Don't forget to sign "Golden Book" at the back of church for the children to make a record of their prayers and attendance at Mass for each Sunday until their First Communion as a gift for Jesus. Attendance at Mass & the preparation sessions are a pre-requisite of being able to make First Communions. Next session is on Wednesday 9th April at 6.30pm.

The Sacrament of Baptism recalls that,

*"Parents are the first and best teachers of their children."*

**5 children have not made their First Confession, please contact Fr Simon ASAP. This is necessary to proceed to receiving First Holy Communion.**

**IF YOU ARE ATTENDING MASS AT ST CATHERINE'S, PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST THERE.**



**ST CATHERINE'S MOWING ROTA:** Thank you to those who help look after the grounds. The rota will be available next week. If you can help or if you wish to come off the rota, please contact Fr Simon this week

**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.*



**RED MISSION BOXES:** The Mission boxes at St Mary's were a casualty during COVID, however, St Catherine's is still active. Linda Durkin has done sterling work over very many years keeping this going but feels the time has now come for her to retire from this ministry. Thank you Linda! May the Patron of the Missions, St Teresa of Lisieux, pray for you always.

If there is anyone from either church who might be interested in taking up this mantle, please contact Fr Simon. Bearing in mind that a team of people to assist is also a great help in carrying out this work. Training is provided.

Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries: Volunteers required for Parishes. Our Local Secretaries are the 'engine room' of the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Each parish benefits from having a dedicated volunteer to take care of the Red Boxes.



Missio is proud to be the Pope's own charity for overseas mission. Missio helps God's love to be shared by supporting local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of background or belief, and works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society.

**PARISH TRIP TO FRANCE:** Over the past three years parishioners from St Catherine's have enjoyed a parish holiday in France at St Peter's International College in Saint Pierre de Maillé. In the hope that we will be able to go again this year, the following have been identified as possible dates, to include the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, which is the village's festal day, so we can enjoy the celebrations, including a fantastic fireworks display over the River Gartempe, which flows through the village.

Monday 11th August. 13.40 Departing from Manchester. Wednesday 20th August: 15.25 Departing from Limoges.

Cost per person (no single room supplements) around £650 (excluding baggage and insurance). Staying at St Peter's College in Saint-Pierre-de-Maillé in the beautiful Poitou-Charentes region. Daily visits to local attractions, picturesque towns & villages, local Chateau & historic cities. Breakfast and Dinner (including wine) included each day. Accommodation is en-suite in twin or single rooms. There are also a limited number of family apartments. Daily Mass in the chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The building is a 200 year old convent, founded by local saints St André Hubert and St Jeanne-Elisabeth Bichier, whose shrine is in the neighboring village.

If you are interested in coming, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. This will not commit you to coming. We can then decide if there are viable numbers and initially, a £100 non-returnable deposit will secure your place. (This pays for the flights, which obviously have to be booked in advance.

**GIFT AID AND ENVELOPES FOR THE NEW TAX YEAR.** If you pay tax and do not yet Gift Aid your giving, please do think of doing so. It is done by a simple short one-off form and enables the parish to claim back 25p for every £1 recorded that you put into the collection. So even if you only put £1 in each week, the parish gets an extra £13. If you give £5 each week that means an extra £25 for the parish at the end of the year. Any donations, Mass offerings etc can also have this applied to them once you have registered. You do not reveal your salary or your own tax bill. Please see me for a form or more information. Thank you to everyone who does already Gift Aid their giving.

**SUNDAY MISSALS:** A number of people have enquired about purchasing their own personal Sunday Missals. We can make a block order: they will be £20, payable on receipt when they arrive. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** While we honor our mothers on this day, we recall that the Church is also our Mother and we honour Our Blessed Lady as Mother of the Church and the mother of each one of us, committed to her by Our Lord from the Cross. Fittingly, children are invited to bring flowers **NEXT Sunday at the 10.30am Mass**, and join Fr Simon in the procession at the start of Mass to present flowers before the statue of Our Lady. **Children, please come to the sacristy before Mass.**



**THE VEILING OF IMAGES IN CHURCH: From next week: 5th Sunday of Lent**

It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year we cover everything that is beautiful in our churches, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Church recommends this practice to heighten our senses and build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the "domestic church" to practice.

The rubrics can guide us. In the Roman Missal we find the instruction, *"The practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from the fifth Sunday of Lent may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil."*

This is the current practice of the Church, but veiling from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onward is minuscule compared to what was once practiced. For example, in Germany there was a tradition to veil the whole altar from view throughout all of Lent. This was known as a "Hunger-cloth".

Families are also encouraged to imitate this practice and veil prominent religious images in their homes. It helps us to participate in the liturgical season, especially if we are prevented from going to Mass during the week. Otherwise we only see the veiled images in church once or twice before Easter and it has a minor effect on us. It is also a beautiful tradition to pass down to our children, who will be intrigued by it and it will make this time of year truly special for them. We go through great lengths to decorate our homes for Easter, so why not prepare for the great feast by using veils?

But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

First of all, we use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

**Each Friday we have the opportunity to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and walk in the footsteps of Jesus. If you are struggling to find ways of including extra prayer for Lent, here is your answer. Stations last just half an hour and enable us to walk with Jesus - a model for every day of our lives!**

**Follow the example of Simon of Cyrene  
and come and help Our Blessed Lord carry his cross this Lent.**

