



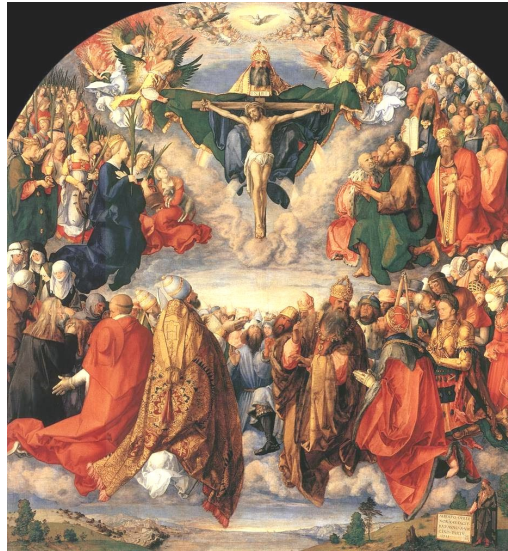
St Mary's & St Catherine's

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

Thirtieth Sunday of the Year



Vigil Mass for Sunday	SC 5pm	Ray & Mary Sullivan. 50th Wedding anniv
Thirtieth Sunday Year B. 27th October	SM 8.30am	Jack Billsborrow, RIP. Irene Rigby, BR
	SM 10.30am	Pro Pop (People of the Parish)
Monday 28th Oct: Ss Simon & Jude	SM 9.30am	Dr EJ & Mrs MM Purcell, RIP
Tuesday 29th October: Feria	SC 9.30am	Mary & Bill Lovat, RIP
Wednesday 30th October: Feria	SM 9.30am	Fr Chris Crowley, RIP
Thurs 31st October: Feria	SC 7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Friday 1 Nov: ALL SAINTS. Mass with School	SM 10am	Pro Pop (People of the Parish)
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION	SC 7pm	Geoff & June Chew & Family
Saturday 2nd November: ALL SOULS DAY.		
Mass followed by blessing of the cemetery	SM 9.30am	For the Holy Souls on our Pious List
Vigil Mass for Sunday	SC 5pm	Johnny Periera, LD & the Holy Souls
Thirty First Sunday Year B. 3rd Nov	SM 8.30am	For the Holy Souls on our Pious List
	SM 10.30am	Pro Pop (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

St Catherine's - Retiring Collection today for the parish debt. Thank you.

St Mary's - NEXT week, retiring collection for CAFOD. Thank you.

St Catherine's 100 Club: Bernadeen Leyland (54).

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

CAFOD: There will be a retiring collection for the work of CAFOD next week. To prepare for it, Mick James will address us briefly at the end of Mass today.

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS. A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION. Holy days of obligation are feast days on which we are required to attend Mass and to avoid (to the extent that we are able) servile work. The observance of Holy Days of Obligation is part of the Sunday Duty, the first of the **Precepts of the Church**, and are listed in Canon 1246 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. Holy Days of Obligation are days other than Sundays on which we are required to participate in the Mass, the primary form of worship. Any feast celebrated on a Sunday, such as Easter, falls under normal Sunday Duty and thus isn't included in a list of Holy Days of Obligation.

What Is an Obligation? A lot of people misunderstand what it means to say that Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. This isn't an arbitrary rule, but part of general moral life—the need to do good and avoid evil. That is why the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Para. 2041) describes the obligations listed in the Precepts of the Church as *"the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor."* These are things that, as Christians, Catholics should want to do anyway; the Church uses the Precepts of the Church (of which the listing of Holy Days of Obligation is one) simply as a way to remind adherents of the need to grow in holiness.

AND WHAT ARE THE PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH? They are set out in the Catechism of 2003:

The first precept: You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

The second precept: You shall confess your sins at least once a year. This ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation,

The third precept: You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.

The fourth precept: You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

The fifth precept: You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. This means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS: Once again this week there will be refreshments served in the parish centre after both Masses at St Mary's. This is an invaluable time to meet and build up relationships with our fellow parishioners and I encourage you to come along. Thanks to everyone. **Any new volunteers to help would be welcome.**

Thanks to those who volunteer to provide these as an act of service to the parish.



Fr. Simon

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: We have 22 applying for First Communion this year. Parents & children attended an initial meeting this week. Formal sessions for preparation will be once a month starting on Wednesday 6th November at 6.30pm in the church. You will notice a "Golden Book" at the back of church for the children to make a record of their prayers and attendance at Mass for each Sunday from now 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 Communion.

"Those whose names are in the book of life" Philippians 4:3



TIDY UP DAY AT ST MARY'S:

Thank you to those who came along to help yesterday

Great effort!

- and to Michael for the provision of the rations to keep us going.



NOVEMBER AND THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: We offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass— the greatest of all prayers— for our deceased loved ones. There are envelopes at the back of church in which you may place the names of any of those you would like to be remembered at Mass during November. Each Mass celebrated for the whole of the month of November is offered for them. Please also place your offering for the Masses in the envelope and return it to church. These names are then placed at the altar during November.

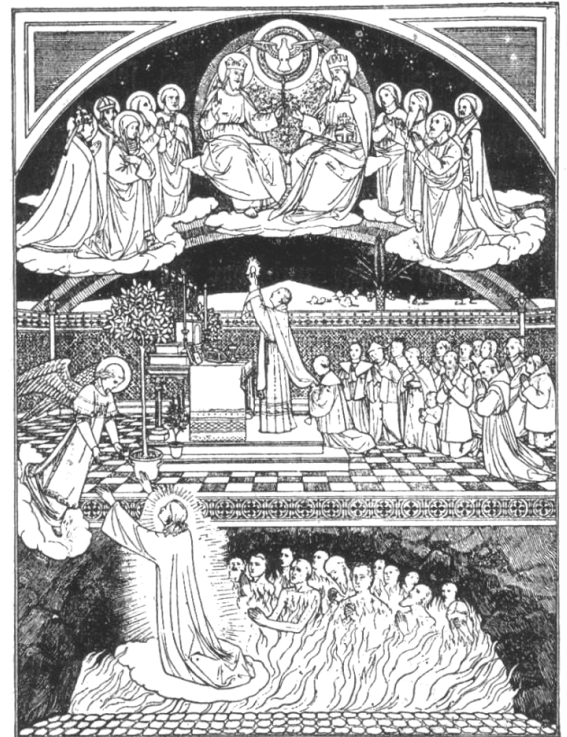
ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN

In recent years, perhaps no Catholic doctrine has been more misunderstood by Catholics themselves than the doctrine of Purgatory. Consequently, we tend to downplay it, even seem a little embarrassed by it, and it is the Holy Souls who suffer because of our discomfort with the doctrine.

Purgatory is not, as many people think, one last trial; all of those who make it to Purgatory will one day be in Heaven. Purgatory is where those who have died in grace, but who have not fully atoned for the temporal punishments resulting from their sins, go to finish their atonement before entering Heaven. A soul in Purgatory may suffer, but he has the assurance that he will ultimately enter Heaven when his atonement is complete. Catholics believe Purgatory is an expression of God's love, His desire to cleanse our souls of all that might keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy in Heaven.

As Christians, we don't travel through this world alone. Our salvation is wrapped up with the salvation of others, and charity requires us to come to their aid. The same is true of the Holy Souls. In their time in Purgatory, they can pray for us, and we should pray for the faithful departed that they may be freed from the punishment for their sins and enter into Heaven.

We should pray for the dead throughout the year, especially on the anniversary of their death, but in this Month of the Holy Souls, we should devote some time every day to prayer for the dead. We should start with those closest to us—our mother and father, for instance—but we should also offer prayers for all the souls, and especially for those most forsaken. We believe that those Holy Souls for whom we pray will continue to pray for us after they have been released from Purgatory. If we live Christian lives, we too will likely find ourselves in Purgatory someday, and our acts of charity toward the Holy Souls there now will ensure that they remember us before the throne of God when we are most in need of prayers. It's a comforting thought, and one that should encourage us, especially in this month of November, to offer our prayers for the Holy Souls.



MASS ON ALL SOULS DAY

**Saturday 2nd NOVEMBER at 9.30am in St Mary's
Followed by the blessing of the cemetery.**

This is an opportunity to pray for all those who are buried there.

The need and duty of prayer for the dead has been acknowledged by the Church. It is recommended in the Scriptures of the Old Testament: "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Macc. 12: 46). This duty is expressed in public and private prayers but especially in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the repose of souls.

The prayers are particularly directed for the souls who are being purified in Purgatory, waiting for the day when they will join the saints in heaven. The celebration of Mass is the highest means the Church can provide for charity for the dead, but we can also relieve their sufferings through our prayers, sufferings and penances. We can particularly help the Poor Souls by doing acts and prayers that have indulgences attached to them.

Pope Francis wrote recently in *Miserecordiae Vultus*:
**"To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the Church,
who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ's redemption."**

RESTORATION: Having found some altar candlesticks that have obviously had a long history in the parish, these have now been refurbished and can adorn the altar once again, as no doubt, their donors hoped they would be, for the glory of God and the fitting celebration of the Holy Mass. There are further such items, which in due course will be refurbished and repaired and can then be used again in their proper setting of our beautiful church.

PARISH MERGER: The proposal to merge the parishes of St Catherine and St Mary's has now gone through the next stage of the Canon Law process. The proposal was set before the Council of Priests, who recommended it to the Archbishop.

Journey of Faith: Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? Would you like to know more about the Catholic Faith? Would you like to support your child's faith journey? We are offering a course of meetings at St Teresa's Church (Queensway in Penwortham PR1 0DS) starting on Wednesday 6th November at 7pm and continuing until Easter 2025. The meetings will last an hour. Please feel free to bring a friend. For more information contact your local parish priest or email penwortham@rcaol.org.uk for more information. There are leaflets at the back of church with further information.



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, Maureen O'Brien, 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.

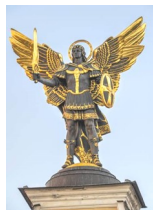
O Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.

I've been in the habit of saying this prayer at the end of Masses where there is no music. Perhaps it would be good to continue it, given the sad situation in both countries still shows no signs of resolution: For God's justice and peace to triumph!

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God cast down into hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Let us pray for the people of Ukraine to their great patron St Michael for peace & justice. This statue stands in Independence Square in Kyiv. Not from ancient times but erected in 2002. He has been the Patron of Kyiv since 1108.



Last week while I was away with the Order of St Lazarus I joined the members of the Order at Mass in Monaco Cathedral with His Eminence, Cardinal Antoine Kambanda, Archbishop of Kilgali in Rwanda. He is the Spiritual Protector of the Order. We were able to discuss various projects in which we might assist people in his country. I invited him to come & visit us in our parish!

Fr. Swain

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR MOBILE PHONES, INCLUDING MESSAGE NOTIFICATIONS, ARE TURNED OFF.

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:

St Catherine's, Elaine Carr.

St Mary's, Marie Tootell.

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU.