



# The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## Eighth Sunday of the Year



Saturday 1st March: Vigil Mass for Sunday.	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)
St Catherine's School 1st Communion Enrolment		<b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>8th Sunday. Year C. 2nd March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Austin Proctor, RIP
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Denis McGrath, LD
Mon 3rd March: Feria	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	Prayers answered
Tues 4th Feb: The Holy Face of Jesus	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	Denis McGrath. LD
<b>Wed 5th March: ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	<i>Service, including school, imposition of Ashes</i>
	1.30pm	<i>Service imposition of Ashes at St Catherine's School</i>
	<b>SC 7pm</b>	Brian Morley, LD <i>Mass with imposition of Ashes</i>
Thurs 6th March: Feria	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	
Friday 7th March: Feria	<b>SM 7pm</b>	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday 8th March: Vigil Mass for Sunday.	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Pauline Lucas, Anniv <b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>9th Sunday. Year C. 9th March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Cuthbert Culshaw, RIP
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Norah & Fred Wilkinson

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

Retiring Collection TODAY for our parish SVP. Thank you.

**St Catherine's church 100 Club: Elaine Carr (1)**

Fr Simon's blog is at [offerimus tibi domine](http://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 995.**

**Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 673.**

## 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 open from **Monday 13 January to Monday 17 March 2025**.

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 session will offer a reminder of some of the work done in schools on Gifts of the Spirit, Saints, Rite of Confirmation. You will also hear how Confirmation has affected different people in the Archdiocese. This is to run alongside your Local Parish/Deanery preparation.

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

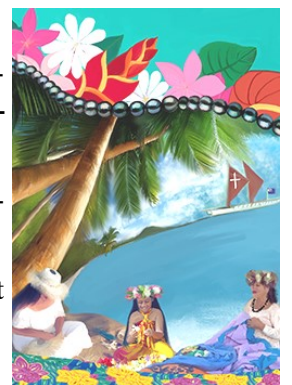
Animate will also be offering a special session on Monday 31 March (16.30-18.00) for those who attend non-Catholic schools or schools outside the Archdiocese on YouTube. Please register as normal at [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk); you will be contacted after Monday 17 March with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

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: The annual World Day of Prayer

is this Friday 7th March. An ecumenical initiative run in Euxton each year by the three Christian churches in Euxton. The prayer service will take place this year at St Mary's but in the **Social Centre at 7.30pm**. All are welcome.

The theme has been produced by the women of the Cook Islands: with the vision about composition based on Psalm 139:14: 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'.

Unfortunately, it coincides with the Stations of the Cross being held in church that evening at 7pm, so you are spoilt for choice this first Friday of Lent!



## ST CATHERINE'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ENROLMENT:



This will take place **this Saturday 1st March at the 5pm Mass** at St Catherine's. All children are expected to attend this Mass to begin their preparation. Weekly preparation sessions for children and their families will then take place on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in the Pope John Paul Room, starting on **Wednesday 12th March**. 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. Anyone else who did not attend the initial meeting last week should contact Fr Simon as soon as possible.

**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.

The Sacrament of Baptism recalls that,

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

**If there is anyone who has not made their First Confession, please contact Fr Simon.**

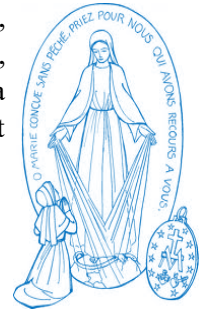


**READERS:** for those who did not receive the new protocol instruction sheet, they are available in the sacristy, so as streamline and unify our proclamation of the Word more effectively. Thank you.

**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.*



**HOLY WATER:** is now available in our beautiful new dispenser in the Baptistry. There are bottles there for you to use (50p each) Please note: for external use only. As Catholics, we are invited to embrace this sacred gift, using it to cleanse our souls, protect ourselves from evil, and renew our baptismal grace. Holy water is not a superstitious practice but a sacramental that points us toward the profound truths of our faith. For use at home in blessing ourselves with it, our homes or workplaces, and especially those who are sick.



**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 (the venue is in the process of changing from having been an active Catholic School to now functioning as a pilgrimage/conference/retreat centre/ holiday venue.

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).

This includes flights and transfer to and from airports.

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. Lunch included on days when we are not out for the whole day, for example, in Poitiers (Cathedral & historic town). 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.



There will be an information evening next month to give a more detailed picture of the what is on offer and to answer your questions.



## Introducing the Devotion in honour of the Holy Face of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mass on Shrove Tuesday at 9.30am.

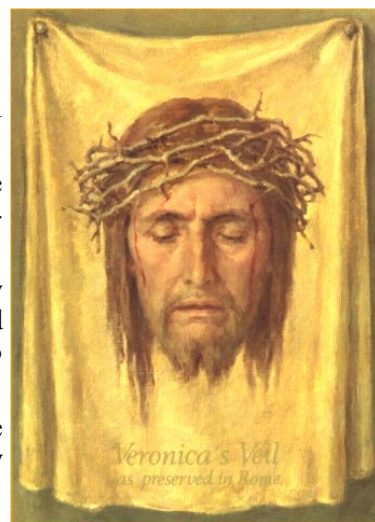
Gazing upon the face of Christ crucified unites us with all His sorrows, love and total abandonment.

“Every time My Face is contemplated I will pour out My Love into the hearts of those persons, and by means of My Holy Face the salvation of many souls will be obtained.” (*Our Lord Jesus Christ to Sister Pierina*)

Our Lord, in visions to Sister Marie of Saint Peter, requested that a devotion to His Holy Face be established. He gave her the Golden Arrow prayer as a remedy to the “poisoned arrows” of blasphemy. Later, Sister Pierina, was urged to spread the devotion, and to have a medal cast.

The Feast of the Holy Face was established by Pope Pius XII upon Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent). A beautiful novena in honour of the Holy Face may be said on the nine previous days, culminating on the feast day.

Two miraculous images are associated with the Holy Face Devotion – Veronica’s Veil, said to be the cloth used by Saint Veronica to wipe the face of Jesus during his passion; and the Holy Shroud of Turin, believed by the faithful to be burial cloth of Christ, which despite being the most scientifically studied object ever, still baffles scientists.



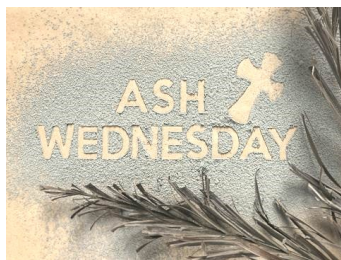
## ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT: Ash Wednesday is a day of FASTING and ABSTINENCE.

Fasting, along with prayer and helping the poor, is one of the three spiritual disciplines of Lent. These work as a three-fold **conversion** practice as we prepare for the joys of the Easter season. Fasting adds a serious edge to your prayer life. It is a prayer practice that involves denying yourself something in order to increase your spiritual awareness, strengthen a commitment, or petition God for something you or another person really needs.

Fasting is also about detachment - separating yourself from something that you have become overly attached to. There are many things in our lives that we have become overly dependent on or even addicted to in ways that we might like to change. It's a way of reclaiming your spiritual strength and regaining some balance in your life. Practicing some denial of our wants and needs in small ways can help us grow in self-discipline and the ability to put off momentary comfort for a larger, more important goal.

Fasting should not be misused to gain praise or sympathy, to manipulate, or to harmfully affect the body. Done correctly, it can be a spiritual practice that can take your prayer to a new and different level!

**Fasting Rules.** Catholics age 14 and older do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics age 18 to 59 also limit the amount of food they eat (those older & who feel able may, of course, continue these practices). Only one full meal, and two smaller meals that together do not equal a full meal, are eaten. The best rule of thumb is to make sure your meals are smaller than what you would eat on a normal day - and to avoid snacks. Exemption is allowed for pregnant women and those who need regular meals for medical reasons.



You may have heard the words "fasting" and "abstinence" used when talking about Lent. "Fasting" is the word used when the amount of food eaten is limited. "Abstinence" is when you completely give something up, like meat, for a set period of time. Both "fasting" and "abstinence" play a role during Lent.

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER SUNDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S: APPEAL FOR MORE HELPERS.** These have become such a success that it's felt the burden of work needs to be spread a little more widely if we are to sustain it. So if there is anyone who could help out at either of the Masses? The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load! I know that a number of people who formerly helped with the at St Catherine's now regularly attend St Mary's - perhaps you might think of reviving your former ministry? But anyone can volunteer, for as often as you feel you might be able to manage. Please speak to Fr Simon or to Michael Thompson if you are interested.

**Thank you so much to those who have sprung into action over the last months since we introduced this. Your service is much appreciated.**

This is more than just a cuppa! It is an important ministry of bring people together and enabling us to get to know one another and build bonds - as the folk from St Catherine's know, who have done this over many years. It also enables a space for new members of the parish to introduce themselves and make friends. The fre-

