



St Mary's & St Catherine's

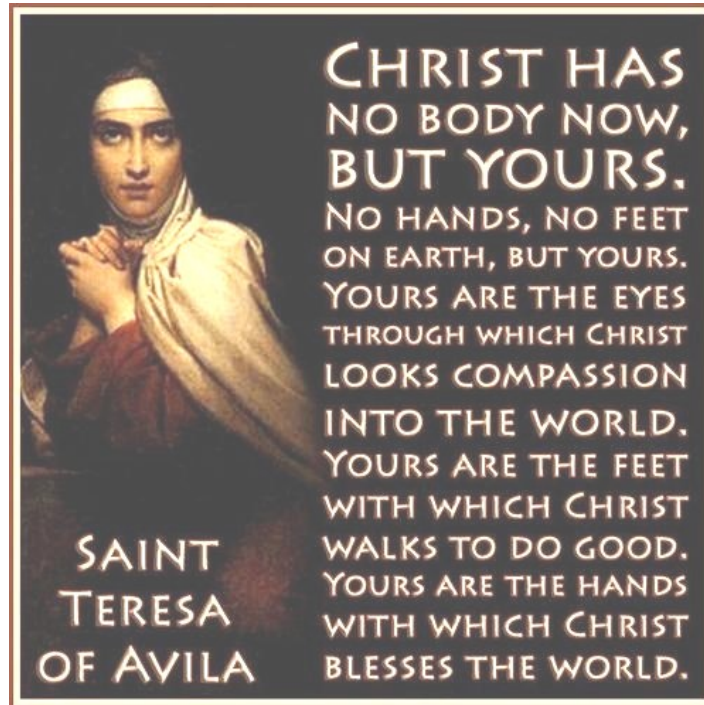


St Catherine's, Stanifield Lane, Farington. PR25 4QG. 01772 421174. E-mail: stcatherine@rcaol.org.uk

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

Twenty Eighth Sunday of the Year



Vigil Mass for Sunday

Twenty-Eighth Sunday Year B. 13th October

St C 5pm

Seamus, RIP 3rd Anniv

SM 8.30am

Fr Dan Cadogan, RIP

SM 10.30am

Pro Pop (People of the Parish)

Monday 14th Oct: Feria

---- (No public Mass today)

Tuesday 15th October: St Teresa of Avila

---- (No public Mass today)

Wednesday 16th October: Feria

---- (No public Mass today)

Thurs 17th October: St Ignatius of Antioch

---- (No public Mass today)

Friday 18th Oct: Feria

---- (No public Mass today)

Vigil Mass for Sunday

Twenty-Ninth Sunday Year B. 20th October

SC 5pm

Peter McNiff, LD

SM 8.30am

David Thompson, sick

SM 10.30am

Pro Pop (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your offerings at St Catherine's last week of £ 158.05.

THANK YOU for your offerings at St Mary's last week of £283.72.

Retiring Collection today for the parish debt. Thank you for £14.33 last week.

St Catherine's 100 Club: B. Hibbert (82)

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

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST MARY'S. When there is no server, is there someone who could volunteer to ring the bells at the consecration? This can be done by anyone from their bench. Thank you.

WELCOME - next Sunday to Fr Andrew Robinson, who will be offering the Masses. Fr Robinson is a priest of the Archdiocese and teh Professor of Scripture at Oscott College, the Seminary in Birmingham.

I will be away in France for the annual meeting for the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. A charity that works internationally for the relief of suffering among the poorest in the world, with a particular focus on the relief of leprosy. As Chaplain to it's governing body, and the national Chaplain for Great Britain, commitments to it's work will occasionally take me away from parish duties and bring some of their members to visit in support of their various efforts to bring aid to those in need. We have had a hugely popular annual Carol Concert at St Catherine's for many years, which I hope we might hold at St Mary's this year, as a larger venue to attract more people, as St Catherine's has often been full for it.



One of the many people helped in Sri Lanka, where the GB St Lazarus supports a rehabilitation program for those affected by lep- rosy, enabling them to return to work in the community.

Fr. Swain

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. Swain



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 teh 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 Fist Communions. *"Those whose names are in the book of life" Philippians 4:3*



TIDY UP DAY AT ST MARY'S: We are hoping to have another Tidy up Day in the grounds in preparation for Remembrance Sunday, when we will be outside at the end of Mass to honour the war dead of the parish. Saturday 26th October. 9am - 12 noon. Bacon Butties for the worker about half way through.

FR GERRY'S RETIREMENT: Thank you for £667.80 raised.

A small delegation will visit him in Southport to present this to him on behalf of the parish and take him out to lunch.

Let us keep him and all the previous priests of our parish in our prayers - alive or deceased - as well as all the priests that have helped us through our lives by administering God's Sacraments to us.

PARISH UNIFICATION PROCESS: Following the meeting with diocesan officials two weeks ago to explain the reasons for this, the process is now going forward through the Pastoral Development committee and the Council of Priests. These forums offer an opportunity for it to be further discussed and make sure it is integrated into teh larger plans for the Deanery and Archdiocese. They are consultative procedures to give the Archbishop as much information as possible before he makes the final decision. Presuming that happens, we will look to holding some sort of celebration to mark the event, bringing together the rich histories of both parishes and praying for God's blessing for the future of continuing to establish His Kingdom in our little corner of the world with our larger and re-invigorated parish.

HOLY SMOKE: The smoke of incense is symbolic of sanctification and purification. It also symbolizes the prayers of the faithful. It is an outward sign of spiritual realities, which is why it has its place in Christian liturgy. These two purposes reveal a deeper truth: that prayer itself purifies and sanctifies us, making us worthy of worshiping God in heaven for all eternity with the angels and saints.

Many Bible commentators show how the Tabernacle in the Old Testament is a pattern of human beings as temples or dwelling places of the Holy Spirit. Before we can dwell with God in eternity, there is need for our purification and sanctification—the removal of sin. One of the ways this happens is through prayer. This spiritual meaning is evident in the wisdom books of the Old Testament, in which prayer is connected with purification, making our prayer a sweet aroma rising up to God:

Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice!
—Psalm 141:2

Listen to me, O you holy sons, and bud like a rose growing by a stream of water; send forth fragrance like frankincense, and put forth blossoms like a lily. Scatter the fragrance, and sing a hymn of praise; bless the Lord for all his works.
—Sirach 39: 13-14

Incense in the Old Testament. Incense has been used in Christian liturgy from its earliest days. In fact, it continued the Jewish tradition that came before it—a tradition that was commanded by God Himself and recorded in Sacred Scripture. For example, God commanded Moses to make an Altar of Incense for worship in the Tabernacle:

You shall make an altar to burn incense upon; of acacia wood shall you make it . . . And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps in the evening, he shall burn it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. Exodus 30:1-10

From these passages and others, we can infer that incense was part of a ritual cleansing and purification of the sacred space of the Tabernacle, making it a worthy place for the worship of God according to His divine terms. In fact, frankincense—mentioned frequently in the Bible—is now known to have antiseptic and disinfectant properties. God gave these specific instructions to Moses because the worship of God by Israel in His earthly Tabernacle was a pattern of the worship of God by the angels in His heavenly throne; that is, worship on earth was intended to be united with the worship taking place in heaven.

Incense in the New Testament. The New Testament also records the use of incense. Frankincense was one of the precious gifts brought by the Three Kings to the Baby Jesus—a sign of His role as priest in addition to His roles as prophet and king. In his apocalyptic visions of heaven, St. John the Apostle recorded that he saw incense being used at God's heavenly throne: *And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* Revelation 5:6-8

In the above passage, incense is identified with the prayers of the saints. In the passage below, incense is added to the prayers of the saints by an angel, highlighting the mediation of the angels in our worship of God: *And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God.* Revelation 8:3-4

Used in the Temple worship of the Jews, Christians continued that tradition from the earliest times.

Incense Calls Us to Prayer: When we see incense at Mass, it reminds us of heaven; indeed, it should remind us that our worship of God in the Christian liturgy is divine in origin. Incense also reminds us that our prayer rises to God like the smoke from the censer, purifying our worship of Him, and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us and make us holy. The usage of incense adds a sense of solemnity and mystery to the Mass. The visual imagery of the smoke and the smell remind us of the transcendence of the Mass which links heaven with earth, and allow us to enter into the presence of God. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass transcends space and time, while the use of incense helps the worshiper to enter into this eternal reality through the use of the external senses. That is why incense—fragrant to the senses and visually compelling for the mind and heart—is such a powerful liturgical gift.

Incense is a sacramental, used to sanctify, bless, and venerate. The smoke from the incense is symbolic of the mystery of God Himself. As it rises upward the imagery and smell convey the sweetness of Our Lord's presence and it reinforces how the Mass is linked to Heaven and Earth, ending in the very presence of God.



The Botafumeiro at Santiago de Compostella in Spain

MASS INTENTIONS

A reminder that The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass can be offered for your intentions, for both the living and the dead. This ancient practice enables the Church to apply the benefits of Our Lord's Sacrifice to be applied directly for your intentions. Often a card can be sent, especially if it's for a death or anniversary. A supply of such cards is available from the Piety stall at St Catherine's or from the sacristy at St Mary's.

The donation attached to it goes to support the work of the parish.

Please place your intention and the offering in an envelope and give it to Fr Simon.



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 pen-



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, Ryan Troop, Catherine Thompson & David Thompson.

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

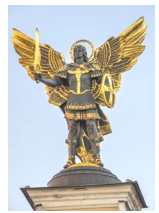
O Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.

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.



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

BONUS BALL at St Catherine's: The Bonus Ball Prize has not been won for several weeks so the pot has grown. However, in light of the fact that Mass on Saturday night is before the draw is made, it seems no longer possible to keep it going, so when this pot is won, we bring it to an end.

Thank you to all who have supported the parish through this over the years!

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

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU