



St Mary's & St Catherine's

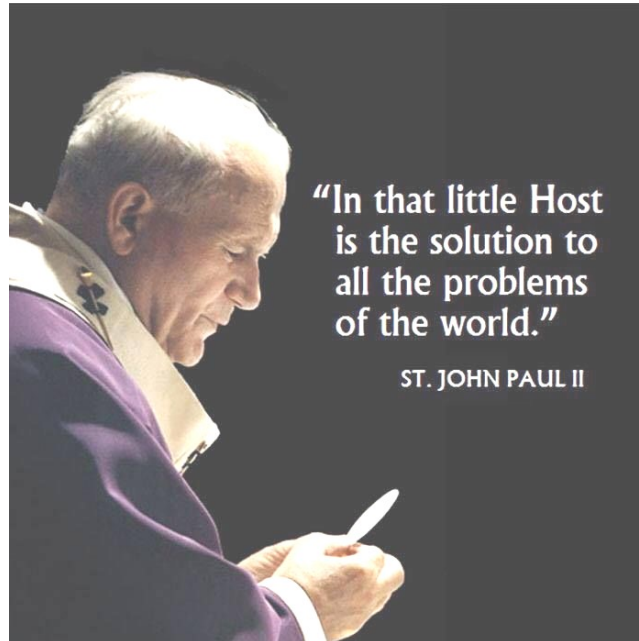


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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Twenty Ninth Sunday of the Year



Vigil Mass for Sunday	SC 5pm	Peter McNiff, LD
Twenty-Ninth Sunday Year B. 20th October	SM 8.30am	David Thompson, RIP
	SM 10.30am	Pro Pop (People of the Parish)
Monday 21st Oct: Feria	SC 9.30am	Catherine Allan, BR
Tuesday 22nd October: Pope St John Paul II	SC 9.30am	Theodorica Gerald, 10th anniv
	SM 11am	Requiem Mass for Angela Bolton
Wednesday 23rd October: Feria	SM 9.30am	Fr Walter Sheehan, RIP
Thurs 24th October: St Ignatius of Antioch	SC 7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Friday 25th Oct: Feria	SM 2pm	Requiem Mass for Margaret Evans
Saturday 26th October		
Vigil Mass for Sunday	SC 5pm	Ray & Mary Sullivan. 50th Wedding Anniv
Thirtieth Sunday Year B. 27th October	SM 8.30am	Jack Billsborrow,, RIP
	SM 10.30am	Pro Pop (People of the Parish)

THANK YOU for your offerings at St Catherine's.

Retiring Collection today for the parish debt.

Thank you.

THANK YOU for your offerings at St Mary's.

St Catherine's 100 Club: Joan Maher (17)

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

WELCOME - Today 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.

Fr. Swain

SINGING THE MASS: St Augustine recounts in his autobiography, *Confessions*, an experience he had during the singing of the Mass: *“How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face — tears that did me good”*. How can we explain this overwhelming and transforming experience that led one of our greatest saints to the Church? Clearly, this was much more than a man simply being moved by a well-performed song. His entire being was penetrated and transformed through music. How can this be?

At Mass, Christ Sings to the Father: The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1157) makes a direct reference to St Augustine’s experience when it teaches that the music and chant of the liturgy *“participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful.”* The Mass itself is a song; it is meant to be sung. For the vast majority of the past 2,000 years, the various parts of the Mass have been sung by priests and lay faithful. In the 1960s, the Second Vatican Council strongly encouraged a rediscovery of the ancient concept of singing and chanting the Mass: *“The musical tradition of the universal Church forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy”* (Sacrosanctum Concilium 112). The Mass is most itself when it is sung.

This recent rediscovery of singing and chanting the Mass did not begin with the Second Vatican Council. Following a movement that stretches back at least to Pope Saint Pius X in 1903, Pope Pius XII wrote in 1955, *“The dignity and lofty purpose of sacred music consists in the fact that its lovely melodies and splendor beautify and embellish the voices of the priest who offers Mass and of the Christian people who praise the Sovereign God”* (Musicae Sacrae Disciplina 31).

Pope Benedict XVI said: *“An authentic renewal of sacred music can only happen in the wake of the great tradition of the past, of Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony.”*

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.

THIS Saturday 26th October. 9am - 12 noon. Bacon Butties for the worker about half way through.



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.

November is an opportune time to recall the Church's teaching on things connected to the funeral rites.

*It is most desirable that those approaching death make a final Confession and are offered the Last Rites IN PLENTY OF TIME to allow them to prepare.

*Requiem Mass on their funeral day is the best way to pray for those who have died. A Service in Church or the Crematorium or at the graveside without Mass is also a possibility.

*The immediate family should make it clear to wider relations and friends that if Mass is celebrated only practicing Catholics may receive Holy Communion. Those who are lapsed from the Faith or who are aware of serious sin should go to Confession before the Requiem Mass if they wish to receive Holy Communion.

*Secular "pop" music during Requiem Mass is forbidden (despite what you might see in many places). Organ music (religious or suitable classical) may be played by the organ instead of hymns. Any song must be in conformity with the Catholic Faith. We have a rich history of 2,000 years of Christian music to choose from.

* A "Eulogy" is by no means essential at a funeral, indeed such were not historically envisaged (rather they took place at Memorial Services, which we sometimes see on the news for the famous after their actual funerals or before a private family funeral.) If a Eulogy is to be given, it should include mention of the person's life of Faith in the Church. A poem or song is not actually a Eulogy. Quirky and embarrassing memories, along with favorite songs can take a natural pride of place at the wake after the funeral.

*It is absolutely forbidden to keep Ashes unburied after a cremation. Ashes may not be kept at home as a permanent resting place. Ashes may not be made into jewelry or any other artefact. They should be buried, not scattered, in suitably consecrated ground of a cemetery or churchyard.

*All attempts to "contact" the dead through Mediums, Spiritualism etc are considered gravely sinful and completely false. The Church considers any such "contact" as either fake or the work of the Devil.

*It is a spiritual work of mercy to pray for the dead, most especially by having the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for them. This is traditionally done one month after the death (the "Month's Mind") and at each yearly anniversary, as well as during the month of November.

*These practices assist us in living and facing death in a truly Christian way, so as to keep us close to the heart of Jesus both now and in eternity.

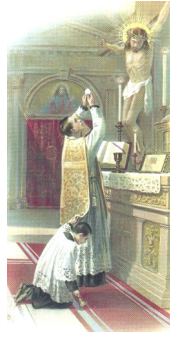


MASS INTENTIONS

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, Catherine Thompson.

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

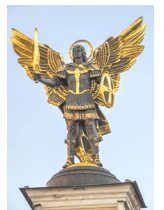
O Mary conceived without sin - Pray for us who have recourse to thee.

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.



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