



# The Parish of **St Mary & St Catherine**



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Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

## **Second Sunday of Lent**



Saturday 15th March: <b>Vigil Mass for Sunday.</b>	<b>SC 5pm</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish) <b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>Second Sunday of Lent. Year C. 16th March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Cuthbert Culshaw, RIP
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Henry & Martha Rimmer
Mon 17th March: St Patrick	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	Parishioners of our 2 churches
Tues 18th March: Bl Roger Renno	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	Arshad Dadabhoy & Family
Wed 19th March: St Joseph	<b>SM 9.30am</b>	"Michael"
Thurs 20th March: Feria of Lent	<b>SC 9.30am</b>	Mary McCormick & Family
Friday 21st March: Feria of Lent	<b>SM 7pm</b>	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> <b>CONFESSIONS AFTERWARDS</b>
Saturday 22nd March: <b>Vigil Mass for Sunday.</b>	<b>SC 5pm</b>	The Massey Family <b>CONFESSIONS after Mass</b>
<b>Second Sunday of Lent. Year C. 23rd March</b>	<b>SM 8.30am</b>	Alison (sick) & Paul
	<b>SM 10.30am</b>	Pro Populorum (People of the Parish)

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

Retiring Collection **next** week for CAFOD. Please collect an envelope **today**.

**St Catherine's church 100 Club: F. Duckworth (84).**

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 213.**

**Unchanging parts of the Mass in the pink pages. Prayers before Mass, Pg 510. Prayers after Mass, Pg 153.**

**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 until **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 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:** Please note that due to some miscommunication, this will take place NEXT Sunday but do collect a Gift Aid envelope today.

The **LENTEN ALMS** collection for Nugent Care will take place the following 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.**

**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."*

**5 children have not made their First Confession, please contact Fr Simon ASAP.**



**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. Could Readers please study it carefully to refresh their minds on the practical format of proclaiming the Word of God. 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.*



**THE CHURCH BELL.** You may notice that the bell in our clocktower is working again! Until a few years ago, it had been ringing since 1877; presented as a gift to the people of Euxton by William Ince Anderton of Euxton Hall. It is a reminder of God's Presence: Bells represent the voice of God calling out to His people, reminding them of His omnipresence and inviting them to prayer and reflection. It will ring the hours from 8am - 8pm. The call to Mass on Sunday. The Angelus at 9.30am, 12 noon & 6pm. This means we can start weekday Masses with the recitation of the Angelus: there will be sheets with this prayer available at the back of church.



**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).

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.

Thank you to those who came to the meeting last week. 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.



**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.

**Maureen O'Brien.** Many St Catherine's parishioners will remember Maureen, who has been in a care home for some years; she died this week aged 99 years old. Requiem Mass at St Catherine's on Thursday 27th March at 11am.



**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** While we honor our mothers on this day, we also 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 on that Sunday 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 TRANSFIGURATION: LIFE AND LENT.**

The event of the Transfiguration recounted in today's Gospel describes the pattern of the Christian life, which is the Paschal mystery. We are always dying and rising with Christ in repeated cycles as we journey to an eternal Easter (2 Corinthians 4:10). This passage shows the pattern of the cross in the climb to the glory of the mountaintop; then it is back down the mountain again, only to climb another one (Golgotha) and through it find another glory (Easter Sunday).

*"Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray."*

We often pass over the fact that they had to climb the mountain — no easy task. Anyone who has been to Mt. Tabor knows just what a high mountain it is. The climb to the top is almost 2,000 steep feet. Here is a symbol of the cross and of struggle. The climb was up the rough side of the mountain; it was exhausting and difficult, testing their strength.

This climb relates to life. We have often had to climb, to endure, to have our strength tested. Perhaps it was the climb of earning a college degree. Maybe it was the climb of raising children or building a career. What do you have that you really value that did not come at the price of a steep climb, of effort, of struggle?

*"While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. ... Peter, James and John saw his glory. ... Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here.'"*

All the climbing was worth it: The Lord gives them a glimpse of glory. They get to see the glory that Jesus has always had with the Father. He is dazzlingly bright. What about our crosses now? If we have carried our crosses in faith, they have made us stronger and more confident. Some of us have discovered gifts, abilities and endurance we never knew we had.

*"Peter said 'Let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' But he did not know what he was saying."*

Notice that although Peter wants to stay, Jesus is clear: They must go down the mountain and then walk a very dark valley to another hill, Golgotha. For now, the pattern must repeat. The cross has led to glory, but more crosses are needed before final glory



Yes, this is the pattern of our life: There are difficult days ahead for Jesus and the apostles, but the crosses lead to a final and lasting glory. This is our life, too; the Paschal mystery is the pattern and rhythm of our life. Coming to Mass each week reminds of this and gives us - every week - a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving, if that is where or life is that week OR a time to recoup our strength if we feel embattled that particular week. Praise be to God!

### **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.**

