



The Parish of St Mary & St Catherine

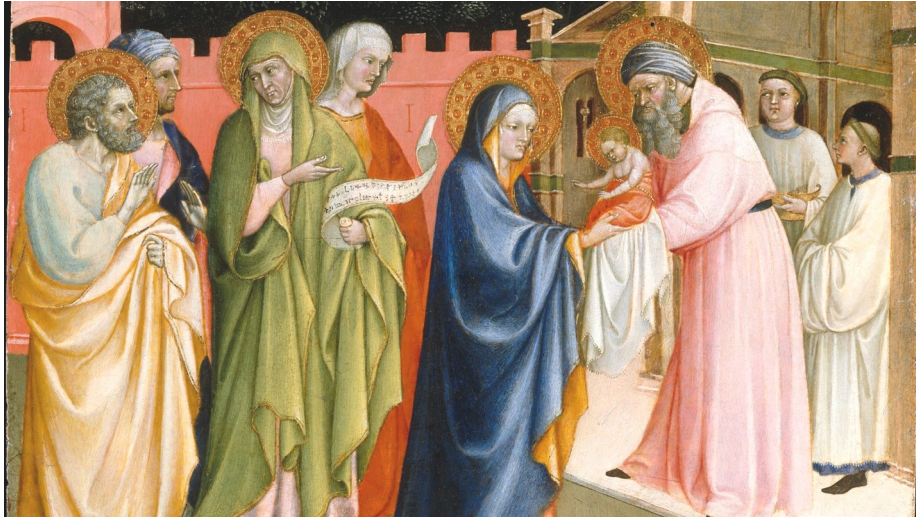


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St. Mary's, Wigan Road, Euxton. PR7 6JW. 01257 262665 . E-mail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Fr Simon Henry ECLJ GOMLJ BA(Hons) MA

Presentation of the Lord: Candlemass



Saturday 1st February: Vigil Mass for Sunday.	SC 5pm	Frank & Mary Manning CONFESSIONS after Mass
Presentation of the Lord. Year C. 2nd February	SM 8.30am	Special Intention
	SM 10.30am	David Loughlin, Anniv
Mon 3rd Feb Jan: Feria	SM 9.30am	Sick: ML
Tues 4th Feb: Feria	SC 9.30am	Pro Populo - people of the parish
Wed 5th Feb: St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr	SM 9.30am	Pro Populo - people of the parish
Thurs 6th Feb: St Paul Miki & Companions	SC 7pm	NOVENA & BENEDICTION
Friday 7th Feb: Feria	SM 7pm	Tom & Lois Riley CONFESSIONS after Mass
Saturday 8th February: Vigil Mass for Sunday.	SC 5pm	Patsy Newton CONFESSIONS after Mass
5th Sunday. Year C. 9th February	SM 8.30am	Ray Watkinson
	SM 10.30am	The Bolton Family

THANK YOU for your offerings to the parish each week.

Retiring Collection TODAY for our SVP Group.

St Catherine's church 100 Club: Thomas Ford (33)

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 1114.

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

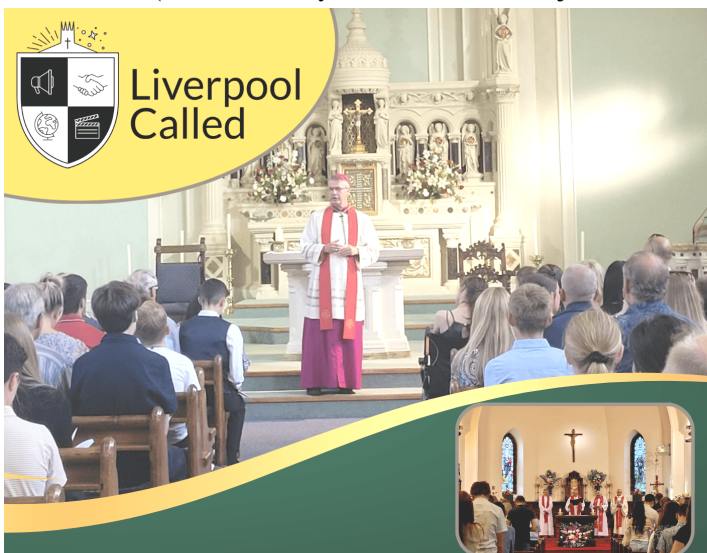
CONFIRMATION 2025 (ANIMATE)

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. **BUT CAN ALL WHO WISH TO BE CONFIRMED ALSO MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN TO ME, PLEASE.**

If your child is in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation, please register at 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.

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; you will be contacted after Monday 17 March with login details. Please save the date!



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2025

If you are in year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

Registration is open:

13th January 2025-17th March 2025



Register at:
liverpoolcalled.co.uk

An Act of Spiritual Communion for those not receiving Holy Communion: Not everyone is able to receive Holy Communion, for various reasons, perhaps just that it has been a long time since their last Confession. But we can always make a Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: As the newly formed parish of St Mary & St Catherine, under Canon Law the former Parish Pastoral Council needs to be reformed as a new entity. Thank you to those who have worked on the Council for St Mary's for all their work, which is obvious from the active life of the parish.

It is also important that the new Council also has members from the now enlarged parish from the Farington end of the parish. Thank you to those who have spoken to me & responded to invitations. We have four prospective new members from the Farington end of the parish and two people who have only recently started attending Mass at St Mary's and are new to the parish, just like me! So that seems like a good mix.

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th February at 7pm in St Mary's Social Centre.

The Council exists to work with and support the Parish Priest in all aspects of the running of the Parish in order that the Parish Priest may more effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the Parish. Membership of the Council is open to all persons aged 16 and over who participate in the liturgical life of the Parish.

EUXTON COFFEE AND CHAT MORNINGS: First Thursday of the month over winter.

THIS WEEK, 6th Feb.

6th March. In St Mary's Social Centre. 10am - 12 noon.

PARISHIONER SKILLS REQUESTS:

Is there any parishioner with a skill in calligraphy, who might write the dedications in the Lectionary for those in whose memory a donation has been made?

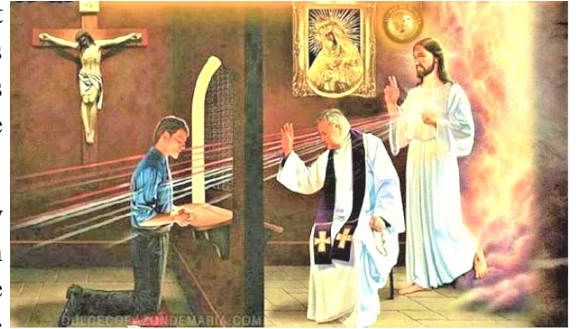
Are there any photographers in the parish who would be willing to record the Archbishop's visit for our social media & for parish records?

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.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: These are now taking place over 4 Saturday mornings in church, so the children can experience the Sacrament in its normal place, to hopefully encourage them to come again in the ordinary course of their spiritual lives. There are 4 slots on each of the mornings for you to sign up for, the times allotted will also give enough space for parents and siblings to come to Confession as well, to set the best example for the children. As it is said in the Sacrament of Baptism, "*Parents are the first and best teachers of their children.*"

Please use the sheet at the back of church to choose your time between 10 and 11am on these four Saturdays:

8th February; 15th February. You will also find there some little booklets to assist you in preparing the children, which will also be available on the day they come to Confession.



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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

St Catherine's parish had a St Vincent DePaul Society, which is now *de facto* a part of our new parish of St Mary & St Catherine. It is run in conjunction with St Mary's parish, Leyland. At Some point one of the members will address us at Mass to explain their work and invite new members to join and extend their work into the Euxton area of the parish. On the first Sunday of the month St Catherine's has had a retiring collection to support their work, which includes a Furniture Scheme for those in need and providing practical assistance to those in financial or other difficulties, assisting those who are sick, lonely or disabled, as well as the Leyland Foodbank.

You can also donate items to the Leyland Furniture Scheme, which is always in great need of white goods: fridges, freezers, cookers and washing machines. Also Wardrobes and chests of drawers. Please be aware if donating that items need to be in good condition and, importantly, not too large, so they can fit through the doors of small flats, for example.

We will extend this collection to all the Masses and, as today is the first Sunday of the month, there will be a retiring collection to support our par-



St Vincent DePaul, Founder of the Vincentians and a Sister of Charity, the women's Order he founded



There is a parish Facebook page which can find by searching for

Parish of St Mary and St Catherine Labouré, Lancashire.

PLEASE NOTE: the best phone number to reach me personally is the Farington number on the front of the Newsletter.

R. Swain

INSALLATION MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM: Sunday 16th February at the 10.30am Mass. Archbishop Malcolm will celebrate Mass to formally install Fr Simon as the Parish Priest of our newly re-formed parish. Obviously, it would be good for as many parishioners as possible to attend the Mass that weekend, even if you usually attend at the 8.30am Mass at St Mary's or at St Catherine's church, as it is an event for the whole parish.

Are there any photographers in the parish who would be willing to record the Archbishop's visit for our social media & for parish records?

CANDLEMASS: We welcome children from our parish school at the 10am Mass this Sunday, who will form a little choir to sing during the procession for Candlemass in the hope that their active involvement will help them grow in the Faith, as well as rejoicing our hearts to see them!

This Feast recalls both the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and also the Purification of Mary. In fact, according to Luke's Gospel, the presentation of Jesus and the purification of the Blessed Mother took place in the Temple on the same day. In many countries, Candlemas is simultaneously celebrated on this day and involves a candlelight procession that was popularized in the Middle Ages. As early as the fourth century Christians commemorated the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, but, at the time, there was no feast name attached. In seventh-century Rome, the Church named the celebration the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother Mary, and it remained that way for nearly 1,300 years. In the reforms after Vatican II, the feast was given a stronger focus on Jesus (by stressing the Presentation of Jesus), but clearly the events of purification and presentation that took place when Jesus was 40 days old (see Lk 2:22-39) are tied together and thus commemorated together.

Under Mosaic law found in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, the mother of a newborn could not routinely go out into public and had to avoid all things sacred, including the Temple. At the end of that time, the woman presented herself at the Temple to be purified. If the baby was her firstborn male child, the infant was brought along to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord. The law in Exodus specifies that the first male child belongs to God (see Ex 13:2-16). This law is a tribute to God for His sparing the firstborn Israelite males during the time of the Exodus from Egypt. The firstborn Egyptian male children, of course, were not spared. Mary, the ever spotless Mother of God, certainly did not have to comply with this ritual, but did so to honor God and observe all the rules handed down by Moses. She was the holiest of all women, but she still submitted to the humbling requirements of the law. She remained at home for 40 days, denied herself all association with sacred things and on the day required walked the five miles from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem. Arriving at the Temple, Mary likely stood in line and waited her turn to see the priest.



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.

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.

