

Catholic Parishes of Garstang & Scorton

St Mary & St Michael : Bonds Lane : Garstang PR3 1ZB

St Mary & St James : Snowhill Lane : Scorton PR3 1AY

Revd Geoffrey Steel : 15 Bonds Lane : Garstang PR3 1ZB : 01995-602164

Revd D'Arcy Ryan : retired deacon

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Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 August 2021

Liturgies this week

Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Diane Pattinson <i>RIP-birthday</i>
Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Wilfrid & Agnes Garstang <i>RIP</i>
Mon.....				ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (Edith Stein) <i>virgin, martyr, a patron of Europe</i>
	S	10.00am	Mass	Harold & Kathleen Smith <i>RIP</i>
Tue.....				ST LAWRENCE <i>deacon, martyr</i>
			--- Mass	
Wed.....				St Clare <i>virgin, religious founder</i>
	G	6.30pm	Mass	Berney Murphy <i>RIP [V]</i>
		7.00pm	Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu	S	10.00am	Mass	Gelder & Carr families <i>RIP</i>
Fri	G	10.00am	Mass	Fr David Elder <i>RIP-birthday</i>
Sat.....				St Maximilian Mary Kolbe <i>priest, religious, martyr</i>
	G	10.00am	Mass	Terry Murphy <i>10th anniversary</i>

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	Betty Gornall <i>RIP</i>
	G	10.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes

First Holy Communion

This Sunday, 8 August, at the 8.30am Mass, **Holly Gornall** will make her First Holy Communion. Please keep Holly and her family in your prayers.

Reception into Full Communion

Next Sunday, 15 August, at the 10.30am Mass, **Mark Brackley** and **Peter McKevitt** will be received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. Please keep Mark and Peter and their sponsors in your prayers this week.

Sunday – *it is our day*

The Bishops' Conference has issued a statement on the central importance of celebrating Sunday, The Lord's Day. The statement is included with the printed newsletters and is on our parish website.

The Bishops say, "It is our continuing judgement ... that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday of Advent 2021."

With this in mind, and perhaps to enable more parishioners to attend than are currently able to, I'd like us to consider moving our Saturday morning Mass to Saturday evening, at its former time of 6.00pm.

We already have stewards, musicians, Readers, and Ministers of Holy Communion arranged for Saturday mornings until the end of August; and so I suggest that we move our Saturday Mass to the evening beginning 4 September. I welcome your reflections. Fr Geoffrey

Organ recital at St Walburge's

As part of the concerted fundraising efforts towards the costs of restoring the iconic St Walburge's Church, Preston, an organ recital will be held in the church, **Saturday 21 August**, 6.30-8.30pm.

The programme will be a colourful collection of baroque and early classical works from Germany and Austria, featuring legendary composers, Johann Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn. The recital will be by accomplished organist, Sean Maxwell, an American currently based in Austria.

Further information, including ticket prices, online purchase of tickets, etc., can be found at: <http://www.goldengiving.com/e/sw-organ-recital-2021>

Mary's Meals

Until 31 August, new regular donors to this excellent charity will have their first three donations tripled, thanks to a group of generous supporters.

Details are on the charity's homepage: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Musings from my hermitage

In chapter six of John's gospel, Jesus is struggling against people's misunderstanding. They don't seem to be able to read what John calls "the signs". Jesus is willing people to look beyond what they can see with their eyes; he longs for them to "Believe in the One [whom God] has sent."

Centuries earlier, in the wilderness, the Hebrews had been fed by the miracle of manna; they still died. But Jesus offers something never seen before: the bread of heaven, true and lasting nourishment for the human heart and soul, for the human being. "Whoever eats this bread will live for ever."

Through God's Holy Spirit, the One who was crucified gives his flesh and blood to nourish and sustain us still. The Holy Spirit gathers us as Christ's living Body; inspires the scriptures as the living word of God; and, in the eucharistic prayer, transforms bread and wine into the living Christ.

Yet the ultimate focus of the Mass is the transformation of ourselves. We pray "... that, partaking of the body and blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit" [EP2]; "... become one body, one spirit in Christ" [EP3]; "... a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of [God's] glory" [EP4].

In the eucharistic prayer, we offer ourselves to God in the sacrifice of Christ; and we make this prayer of the whole Church our own singing an 'Amen' which is to be truly great and full of faith.

Here in the Mass, God rouses us from sleep like he roused the prophet Elijah. God feeds us with his life-giving word, and with the bread of heaven, the body and blood of Christ. Restored, we continue our journey of faith, and witness with fresh energy, renewed commitment. The sacred mysteries always send us back to our homes and families, our neighbourhoods and places of work, to continue Christ's work.

In the rough and tumble of everyday life, you and I continue the miracle of transformation begun here in the eucharist. Close up, it's hard to see. Real life, real problems, real pain and loss, can seem no easier or lighter after Mass than they did before. But God is crafting a vision, and you and I are part of God's divine plan.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

After 10.00am Mass on Fridays at Garstang, I will be available in church until 11.00am to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For the time being we will celebrate the Sacrament in the Lady Chapel, which has good ventilation. You are welcome to kneel at the altar rail where you will see the screen, or enter the chapel to sit; the chairs will be a suitable distance apart.

If you see that someone is already making their Confession, please remain towards the back of the church until they have finished. Fr Geoffrey

Diocesan Directory 2022

To order a copy of next year's diocesan directory: for *Scorton*, please contact Catherine Pickering; for *Garstang*, please e-mail the parish office, or phone and leave a message. Please specify which edition: ring-bound, £5.25; standard, £4.50.

Deadline for orders: Friday 27 August, noon.

Austin Walmsley RIP

Garstang parish gratefully acknowledges donations of £270, given in memory of Austin. May he and Margaret rest together in peace.

We will use the donations to help repair the historic cemetery wall.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Paul Harrison (cousin of Anne Cahill), JoAnn Casey (cousin of Martina Copple), Tom Rigby, Mary Cowburn.

Those who are ill or infirm. Monica Sanderson, Josie Higham, Tony Blunt, Philippa Haynes, Phyllis Steel, Yvonne Shaw, Barry Robinson, Elaine Stajniack, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, Jean Andrews, Tony Smith, Roger Bevins, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Marie Swarbrick, Peter Holland, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Bert Maddock, Mary Spencer, Gerald James Derbyshire (1st anniversary), James Greenall, Elizabeth Keefe, John Cross, Geoffrey Smith, Terry Murphy (10th anniversary), Gerald Rawlinson, Jack Pinnington, Frances and Gerard Wearden, Thomas Jennings, Elizabeth Wignall and Bernard Cummins.