

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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First Sunday in Lent

18 February 2024

Sat 17	G	6.00pm	Mass	Sally Fletcher <i>anniversary</i> [JW]
Sun 18	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Yvonne Guy <i>lately dead</i> [v]
Mon 19	G	10.00am	Mass	Price-Jones, Hull, Ackers families <i>RIP</i>
Tue 20	--			
Wed 21	G	6.30pm	Mass	Intentions of Dympna Magee [v]
Thu 22	THE CHAIR OF ST PETER <i>apostle</i>			
	S	10.00am	Mass	Stephen Sartin <i>1st anniversary</i>
Fri 23	CAFOD FAST DAY — <i>Day of Prayer for the Hungry & Needy of the World</i>			
	S	11.00am	Funeral Mass : Dick Gornall	
	G	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross	

Second Sunday of Lent

Sat 24	G	6.00pm	Mass	Ints. of Ted Richardson <i>100th birthday</i>
Sun 25	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Betty Ball <i>anniversary</i>

Keeping a holy Lent

Talk of “giving things up,” “doing without” can make Lent seem dull, negative even; as if we hadn’t enough to contend with at the moment.

But Lent’s not an end in itself; it’s the season in which we prepare joyfully to celebrate the mystery of Easter with mind and heart renewed.

In Lent, the community of faith is blessed with a spirit of loving reverence for God and of willing service to neighbour. Thus, Lent is a time for more intense prayer and reflection and for particular attention to the word of God, especially the Sunday readings.

Our Lenten penance is not only inward and personal but also outward and social. How might our prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity deepen our conversion to Christ and be of benefit to others?

Above all, what is it that we’d like God to do for us this Lent?

Cafod Family Fast Day – Lent appeal

This Lent, your donations to Cafod’s Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies. Give today using the envelope or <https://cafod.org.uk/give> and please join us in praying for Cafod’s development and emergency response work all over the world.

Parish Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will take place on **Wednesday 21 February**, 10.00am - 12 noon, in the Plessington Chapel, Garstang. It may be Lent but you can still meet up with friends – old and new – for a chat and a brew.

Thanks to your generosity last month we were able to send £65 to *Toybox* which helps street children in Latin America get birth certificates which mean they can get an education, see a doctor, work, etc.

This month we’ll be raising money for Cafod’s Lenten Appeal. We look forward to seeing you soon. *The Coffee Morning Team*.

HCPT Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes

“This Easter we will be travelling to Lourdes with HCPT Group 72 as part of the Children’s pilgrimage. To assist with fundraising, we will be selling cakes after each of the Masses next weekend, **24-25 February**. Thank you.” *Debbie, Roisin & Brendan McCann*. Tea & coffee on Sunday 25, after 10.30am Mass.

Ecumenical Prayer for Schools

All are welcome to gather to pray for our schools, **Friday 1 March**, 2.00-3.00pm, St Mary & St Michael's.

Day of renewal

The invisible Father (Colossians 1.15), is the theme of a day of renewal offered at St Clare's Parish Hall, Preston PR2 9HH, **Saturday 2 March**, 10.00am-4.00pm, beginning with Mass at 10.00am. Led by Gary Stephens.

Please take a packed lunch; tea & coffee available. For more information: Christine, 07745-009694; Annette, 07954-429333.

Lenten lunches, Garstang

Supported by *Christians Together in Garstang*, the lunches take place in Garstang URC Hall, Croston Road, 12noon-1.00pm, each of the six Wednesdays in Lent, **to 20 March**.

Enjoy a meal of soup, bread & cheese in a warm & friendly environment. Donate the cost of your lunch, if you are able, to Christian Aid. Please Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer.

Three parishioners have kindly volunteered to help when it is our turn, 20 March. *Thank you*. If other parishioners can make soup that day, please contact Philippa C on 238331.

Parish health & safety : can you help?

We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of *H&S Administrator* for St Mary & St Michael's. The current post holder, Michael Hoffman, will be stepping down at the end of March.

This is an administrative role: you would be responsible for raising matters for attention to Fr G using the diocese online tool, *Safety Toolbox*. This involves completing online questionnaires and surveys, giving notice to Fr G of approaching dates for renewal of such things as the annual fire extinguisher check. Confidence and ability in working online is a requirement.

Full support will be provided by the current post holder, together with ongoing support and advice. There is also the diocesan team who are there to help as well. For further information please speak to Fr G, or Michael Hoffman at ssmm.healthandsafety@gmail.com

SVP : many thanks ...

... from the members of our St Vincent de Paul group to everyone who supported their latest appeal. A total of £472.50, including £122 from Scorton, was donated. Thank you for your generous support. The December appeal went mainly to support 3 local families in need. *God bless you all*.

A B Grace Trust

St Mary & St Michael's gratefully acknowledges receipt of **£2,400.00** from the A B Grace Trust. This is from the Trust's income in the second half of 2023; it was Mrs Grace's wish that it be used for the upkeep of our churchyard, and it will help with the repair of the next section of the paths.

Lenten reflections

This year, as part of their reflections on one of the readings of the day, Cafod will be sharing the stories of people from a fishing community in Liberia, as well as a daily prayer and suggested action you might like to take.

Join this journey by signing up for Cafod's daily Lent e-mails: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Dick Gornall, Mary McCann.

Those who are ill or infirm. Pat McKenna, Joe Rooney, Bert Lowe, Vicki Doherty, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Philippa Haynes, Yvonne Shaw, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Peter Holland, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Ann Horn, Ann Cookson, Elsie Tomlinson, Maureen Hall, Mary Miller, Winifred Carr, John Horn, Thomas Ibison, Marjorie Edge, Henry Gornall, John Dilworth, Mary Gillett, Margaret McKevitt, Marjorie Kirkman, Agnes Gallagher, John McHale, James Houlihan, Robert Winder, Samuel Smith, Robert Hull, Grace Barton, Frank Richardson, Catherine Eastham, Agnes St John Firth, Dorothea Agnes Mary Rafferty and Neil Brady.