

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

ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com : www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

Second Sunday of Easter

24 April 2022

Sat	23	G	6.00pm	Mass	Terry Murphy <i>RIP-birthday</i>
Sun	24	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Steel & Curphey families <i>RIP</i>

The end of the Easter Octave

Mon	25	ST MARK <i>evangelist</i>			
		S	10.00am	Mass	GS: in thanksgiving [MC.G]
Tue	26	ST GEORGE <i>martyr, patron of England</i>			
Wed	27	G	6.30pm	Mass	John & Alice Towers <i>RIP-70th wedding anniv.</i>
			7.00pm	Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu	28	S	10.00am	Mass	Almond & Sweeney families <i>RIP</i>
Fri	29	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA <i>virgin, doctor of the Church, a patron of Europe</i>			
		G	10.00am	Mass	David Carr <i>RIP-birthday</i>
		G	10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Sat	30	S	12 noon	Wedding : Catherine Cragg & Steven Flesher	

Third Sunday of Easter

Sat	30	G	6.00pm	Mass	Maureen Clark <i>anniversary</i>
Sun	1	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Brenda Richardson <i>RIP</i>

Our parishes at prayer — celebrating Easter together

Our parish celebration of the Easter mysteries sought to be prayerful, gentle, and dignified, to draw all present into the heart of our faith, and renew us in our witness to Christ and his Gospel.

Thank you: to all in both churches who served as welcomers & stewards, musicians, singers, readers, and ministers of Communion; my sanctuary assistant; those who prepare the rosters; those who led Stations of the Cross throughout Lent and on Good Friday; cleaners, and polishers of the brass; movers of fixtures and fittings; carers of the grounds, and those who prepared all the floral arrangements and decorated the churches.

God bless you all. Fr Geoffrey

Easter Offerings : many thanks ...

... to everyone for your Easter Offerings which in this diocese form a major part of the priests' annual salary. Thank you for your support, and for your cards, wishes, and personal gifts. I am very grateful. Fr Geoffrey

Brenda Richardson : Memorial Mass

Mass on Sunday 1 May will be a Memorial Mass for our late parishioner Brenda Richardson, who died at the start of the first lockdown. Her friend Annette will be travelling over from Ireland, and members of her and Brenda's families will be present. At the beginning of the Mass, Annette will offer some words in remembrance of her friend.

SVP meetings resume

The members of our St Vincent de Paul group will resume their formal meetings on **Tuesday 26 April**, 6.30pm, in the Plessington Chapel. New members or enquirers are always welcome.

Sacrament of Confirmation

For the parishes of our Deanery, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at the Cathedral on the feast of Pentecost, **Sunday 5 June**, 2.00pm. Candidates are to be in Year 7 or above.

The preparation sessions will be held in the Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster LA1 3BT, **Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25 May**, 7.00-8.30pm. The final session on **Wednesday 1 June**, 7.00-8.30pm, will be held in the cathedral. An application form is on our website: About Us/Parish Forms.

Calder Vale Bluebell Teas

We are back for two Sundays only: **Sundays 1 & 8 May**, noon to 4.00pm, Calder Vale Village Hall PR3 1SJ. We are playing it safe this year and hope to be back to normal in 2023. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Hospital Visitors

Fr Chapple, Chaplain at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, is seeking volunteers to help with the provision to Catholic patients in the hospital. This will involve the general visiting of Catholic patients and taking Holy Communion to those who wish to receive. Days for volunteering can be flexible in consultation with Fr Chapple. In order to meet conditions currently laid down by the Trust, volunteers must be under 70 years old and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Please speak to Father Chapple if you are interested in this ministry. He can be contacted by email: schapple@lancastercathedral.org.uk, or by telephone at the Cathedral: 01524 384820.

Spiritual opportunities

Retreats £20, unless otherwise stated. To book: contact Donna Worthington: drworthington@live.co.uk; or visit: <https://christianretreats.live>

The Practice of the Presence of God. Brother Lawrence's wisdom on prayer as part of daily life. Three **Thursdays, 12, 19, 26 May**, 6.30-9.00pm, £60.

Silence. Starting with Jesus' approach to silence, explore silence in various aspects of the Christian tradition and practise the art of silent Christian prayer along the way, **Saturday 14 May**, 2.00-5.00pm, or **Monday 16 May**, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Ignatian training. If enough people are interested, it may be possible to arrange a Zoom retreat of about three hours for a small fee. The focus would be Ignatian imaginative guided prayer. If you are interested, please let the parish office know with your name and contact details, and we'll forward them to Donna.

Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

Dates: **22-29 July**, from £799 per pilgrim sharing. Booking forms on the diocesan Lourdes website: www.lancasterloourdes.co.uk. Alternatively, contact Joe Walsh Tours, 0161-8208790. A copy is available in Garstang sacristy. **Booking deadline, 1 May.**

Gift Aid at Garstang

Many thanks indeed to **Helena Rigby** who, after eight years of faithful service, is handing over her Gift Aid abacus to **Karine Rennie-Bloor**.

We are very grateful to Karine for offering to help the parish in this way.

If **you** are a UK tax-payer, *please* complete a Gift Aid form. Neither of our parishes can afford to forego free money from the Government.

Finance matters ... in both parishes

Diocesan levy. Each year the diocese levies the parish in order to fund central operations. This year, the rate of levy on offertory income remains unchanged at 24.70%, and the rate on rental income, including qualifying hall income, also remains unchanged at 20% of gross rental income received.

For Garstang, the levy this year is £10987.81, and for Scorton £2667.83.

Please pray for ...

Ordination anniversary. Fr Geoffrey, 40th ordination anniversary, 24 April.

Wedding. Catherine Cragg & Steven Flesher, 30 April, at Scorton.

Those who have died recently.

Those who are ill or infirm. Anthony Monks, Rita Whittaker, Paula Seager, John Bolton, Margaret Brocklehurst, O Murphy, Rory Montgomery, Tony Clark, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Pat Kennedy, Caroline Nurse, Caroline Rigby, Tony Blunt, Philippa Haynes, Yvonne Shaw, Barry Robinson, Elaine Stajniack, Anne Hunt, Jean Andrews, Tony Smith, 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: Margaret Horn, Isabel Clarke, Monica Stansfield, Fr Joseph Haydon, Thomas Sheridan, Basil Hibbs, Fr Geoffrey Cunliffe, Jack Swarbrick, Ann Swift, Charles Bisby, Phillip Flood, Maureen Clark, William Colin Swarbrick (1st anniversary), Richard Gornall, Richard Pickering, James Ashworth, Fr Bernard Cochrane, Bert Wrennall, Maureen Mary Jennings, Betty Mary Gregson, Jane Rossall, Sarah Banks, Robert Pegg and Alice Waring.