

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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Third Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

Liturgies this week

Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Brenda Richardson <i>RIP</i> [AP]
Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Winnie Kennedy <i>lately dead</i> [TC]
Mon.....				St John of the Cross <i>priest, doctor of the Church</i>
	S	10.00am	Mass	Intentions of Philippa Catterall
Tue		---	Mass	Fr Leo Lynch <i>RIP</i>
Wed	G	6.30pm	Mass	Matthew Pearson <i>lately dead</i> [L]
		7.00pm	Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu	S	10.00am	Mass	Brian Winstanley <i>RIP</i>
Fri		---	Mass	Winifride Derbyshire <i>lately dead</i> [F+BC]
Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Mary & Roger Mason <i>50th wedding anniversary</i>

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	James Boulton & Gregory Place <i>anniversaries</i>

Prayerful, penitential preparation during Advent

With us not being able to hold our customary Advent Liturgy of Reconciliation, this week's leaflet to help our Advent preparation is an Examination of Conscience. See our website: [Liturgical Seasons / Advent](#).

Coming to Mass at Christmas

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses at Garstang and at Scorton are fully booked, and we'll be unable to allow people to enter who are not already booked in. *Please let anyone know who might be thinking of just turning up.*

There are plenty of spaces for Mass on Saturday 26, 10.00am, Garstang, and the Masses on Sunday 27, 8.30am, Scorton, 10.30am, Garstang.

If you have already booked for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, you are welcome now also to book for the Saturday or Sunday.

Forms are available in church, in the presbytery yard, and there's a link to the booking form on the Homepage of our website.

Finding Light in the Deepest Dark

Christian mental health charity *Sanctuary UK* is offering a free self-guided tool to help Christians prepare for a Christmas like no other.

Finding Light in the Deepest Dark: Journeying through Lament into Gratitude has been created to help Christians explore experiences of loss that have accompanied this year while rediscovering the hope of Christmas.

It combines biblical reflection with activities and music. Designed to be used in one sitting, either by an individual or in a group, it has also been tailored to be fully user-friendly over Zoom or video platform. Available as a free download on Sanctuary's website: www.sanctuarymentalhealth.org/uk

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.

Also: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-for-children>

RISE // Online Youth Group for Year 7-9s

Organised and presented by our diocesan team at Castlerigg Manor, this online group is a place for young people (Year 7-9, or equivalent age) to explore faith and make some friends. **Now underway.**

Sign up at <https://lancasteryouthservice.churchsuite.com/events/0wf7layy>

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Rejoice! is the keynote of this third Sunday of Advent: the prophet Isaiah rejoices because God has clothed him in “the garments of salvation” — Imagine how they looked. God had wrapped Isaiah “in the cloak of integrity” — Imagine how that might feel.

The voice of Isaiah, the voice of John the Baptist cry out in today’s wilderness: to hearts troubled by feelings of inadequacy, to souls battered by the message that we’re supposed to be richer, more powerful, better dressed, a different shade, slimmer, younger, fitter, oh, and happier.

But the word of God speaks a different language, has another way of measuring. The Saviour has good news for the poor, Christ gives true liberty to captives; Jesus fills the starving with good things. God’s vision is coming to birth. That’s why we can rejoice even if our own personal circumstances are tinged, even overwhelmed with sadness.

John came “as a witness to testify to the light so that all might believe through him”. John prepared people to recognise Christ in their midst; Christ present, active, working, healing, saving in their midst. “Of all those born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen.” That’s how highly Jesus rated John. But he went on: “Yet even the least in the kingdom is greater than [John].” That’s how highly Christ rates you and me.

John thought himself unworthy even to be the lowest grade of slave — not worthy even to untie the master’s sweaty sandal. Yet the same master trusts us to share his mission: to bring good news, soothe broken hearts, help people to be truly free, “to proclaim ... the Lord’s favour”. Is that how I understand my life as a Catholic Christian? Do other people see that in me?

The Advent liturgy urges us to renew our relationship with God. Dare I let God move within every fibre of my being, as Mary did? let God inspire my every thought and word and deed? direct all my relationships? Not just for our own good, but so that we might boldly proclaim Christ’s presence to people who are hungry for God, even if they don’t know it.

Free to a good home

One printer, Epson Workforce 2630, cartridges and software. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Scorton : Mass books

The Mass books for the new liturgical year are now available at the back of church. You’re welcome to take one, write on it your name, and retain it for your personal use.

If you already have one of the previous Mass books, please return it to church. *Thank you.*

Garstang parish draw

Congratulations to Catherine Eastham and Don Porteous, our December winners. The big Christmas draw will take place on Saturday 26 December. If you’d like to take part in the draw, please contact Trish & Kev through the parish office.

Many thanks to Trish & Kev for all their work. They have given the parish a cheque for £1700; which is all the more welcome this year. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Pat Henry (Scorton), Ann Wicks (friend of Philippa Catterall), Joan Walbank, Pat Nickson.

Those who are ill or infirm. John Cadden, Margaret Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Joyce Bilsborrow, Alice Towers, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, Janet Howarth, Austin Walmsley, Eileen Cartner, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Simon Crossley, Mary Winstanley, Kevin Horan, Jean Dunne, Louise Williams, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Cople, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Grace Ross Darling, Ethel Carroll, Dennis Regan, Arthur J Nickson, Charles Taylor, Joe Browne, Lucy Cahill, Gregory Place, Sally Foley, Joan Norcross, Josephine Black, Helena Holland and Revd Patrick Flynn.