

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

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remembrance Sunday

8 November 2020

Liturgies this week

Sat **Mass** Intentions of Michael Heys

Sun **Mass** Matthew Pearson *lately dead* [VB]

Mon..... **DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME**

Mass Intentions of Mr & Mrs Wallbank

Tue **Mass** Bob Finlayson *lately dead* [PF]

Wed..... **St Martin of Tours** *bishop*

Mass For a successful operation

7.00pm **Rosary** *in our homes*

Thu..... **St Josaphat** *bishop, martyr*

Mass Anne Gelderd *anniversary* [PG]

Fri **G** 11.30am **Burial Liturgy : Janet Pearson**

--- **Mass** Patrick Burton *anniversary* [KB]

Sat **Mass** Janet Pearson *lately dead* [W]

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun **Mass** George Gidlow *anniversary*

Remembrance Sunday

On *Remembrance Sunday*, Fr Geoffrey will offer prayers in our cemetery. Alas, this cannot be a public liturgy this year.

First Holy Communions 2020

On Wednesday evening, three of our young parishioners made their First Holy Communion: Zachary Murphy, Ava Kadir, Francesca Montalbo. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Many thanks to all our catechists, whose planning, preparation, and commitment was sorely interrupted this year.

Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service

LDHAS managed to keep going through lockdown, albeit in a limited way. The service is now back in full operation, and preparing for their Christmas shelter. They'll be able to provide their clients with Christmas meals and a place to shelter during the day in a congenial atmosphere. Government restrictions mean that they cannot make overnight provision this year.

It seems likely that, with the current situation persisting, there may well be an increase in homelessness.

To support this important work, send a cheque payable to LDHAS. Post to: LDHAS-Finance, Edward Street, Lancaster LA1 1QH. Alternatively, make a donation online. Account name: LDHAS; sort code: 40-52-40; account number: 00031967; please use the reference, "Shelter2020". Thank you.

Coming to Mass at Christmas

In order to make best use of the capacity of our churches at Christmas, we need you to book for Mass. A link to the booking form is on the Homepage of our website, and copies are available in the presbytery yard.

At this stage, please book for only one Mass: either Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day or Sunday; and book seats only for people in your household or bubble. Closer to the time, if there's lots of space remaining for one or other Mass, we'll let you know and you can book again.

To help us make best use of the space, you will be assigned a specific seat. If a particular Mass becomes fully booked, no more bookings can be accepted, and we'll be unable to allow people to enter who are not already booked in.

Post your completed form through the presbytery letterbox, or scan it and e-mail it to the parish office. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*.

Praying the Rosary with other parishioners

Especially while our churches are closed, you might like to pray the Rosary in your home, **Wednesdays**, 7.00pm, with your fellow parishioners. If you'd like to pray with others on Zoom, please contact Liz Billington.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

"It's déjà vu all over again." Lockdown with tweaks: schools and public toilets remain open this time around.

First time around, did you make any resolutions? Resume the piano? Sort through your receipts and bank statements? Fix that gutter? And, did you?

During those months, what did you learn about yourself? Something worth building upon? How's it going?

How can we use these coming weeks well?

The scripture readings at this time of year begin to speak to us of staying awake, being ready. We live in a time of waiting upon our Lord, a time to grow in the ways of the Lord; preparing to meet the Lord of all; a time to nurture the gift of hope, as we ready ourselves to be with the Lord for ever.

The crucial ingredient in this time of waiting upon our Lord is wisdom.

For us, wisdom is knowing Christ, believing his message, living his teaching. Yet this wisdom isn't just poured into us. Our first reading for this Sunday stresses that wisdom is found by all who seek her. Wisdom makes herself known to all who desire her. Do we long for wisdom enough that we're prepared to change? ... day by day to model ourselves ever closer on Christ? "O God, you are my God, for you I long. For you my soul is thirsting."

Can we pray that psalm from the heart? Do we thirst for God deeply enough to seek only that which will truly quench our thirst? Each day drinking from the fount of scripture, spending time at the well of prayer?

Speaking for myself, yes, there are moments of deep longing for God, times of heart-felt prayer. But periods, too, when I know that I drift along, not really attending to God's word or constant in my prayer, not all that generous in responding to those in need.

The late Cardinal Hume once said that God's judgement on our time may well be that we were clever, but that we were not wise. Heavenly wisdom alone can satisfy our deepest human quest. And at the last, we will be judged according to whether we sought and lived God's wisdom.

Online Bible study course

Make lockdown fruitful. An online Bible study course begins this coming week offered by the Diocese of Westminster: Introduction, Monday 9; Session 1, Wednesday 11 November.

Check out the website www.comeandsee.org, where you can register.

St Paul Sunday Missal 2021

Covid regulations mean it's unlikely we'll be able to have multiple copies of the *St Paul Sunday Missal* available for people to use at will.

If you'd like a personal copy of the 2021 edition of the *St Paul Sunday Missal*, cost £6.00, depending on the numbers ordered: e-mail the parish office, phone and leave a message, post a note through the letter box, or leave a note on the collection plate.

Deadline for orders: 30 November.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Deacon Bernard Loveland, John Steel (uncle of Fr Geoffrey), Sister Cecilia (Carmelite Community, Fulwood), Janet Pearson (mother of Marie).

Those who are ill or infirm. Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Joyce Bilborrow, 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, Paul Cain, Jean Dunne, Louise Williams, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Pat Nickson, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Kathryn, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Ann Wicks, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. James McDonald, Annie Rawlinson, Terry McCann, Josephine Monica Seton, Joseph Smith, Elizabeth Minnie Fitzpatrick, Edward Cunney, Anne Gelderd, Johnson Cook, Jim Costello, Margaret Ward, William Helme, Louis Gornall, Angela Wallbank, Margaret Dilworth, John Cookson, George Gidlow, William E Barton, Imelda Newsham and Joan Baines.