

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for Racial Justice

31 January 2021

Liturgies this week

Sat	Mass	In thanksgiving [J]
Sun	Mass	Betty Gornall <i>RIP</i>
Mon	Mass	Sheila Murphy <i>RIP-birthday</i>
Tue.....	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	
	Mass	Fr Leo Lynch <i>RIP</i>
Wed	Mass	Monica Elder Woodward <i>anniversary</i> [LB]
	7.00pm Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu	Mass	Bill Campbell <i>RIP</i>
Fri.....	St Agatha	<i>virgin, martyr</i>
	Mass	Someone who is ill
Sat.....	Ss Paul Miki	<i>religious, missionary, martyr</i> & his companions <i>martyrs of Japan</i>
	Mass	Thomas & Mary Ibison <i>RIP</i>

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	Mass	David Pyke <i>anniversary</i> [JM]
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First Holy Communion 2021

I do not foresee us this year being able to offer anything like a normal programme of preparation. Having consulted our parish catechists, this is what I believe to be possible.

- If parents of children born before September 2013 are willing to prepare their child at home using the resources we recommend, they are welcome to do so, and we will support the parents as best we can.
- At the end of the preparation, we will arrange First Holy Communion for the children in twos and threes, as we did in 2020.
- For First Confession, whether we can have a group liturgy like we did in 2020 will rather depend on the number of children preparing, and the timing. Let's wait and see on this, rather than decide in advance.

If your child is eligible and you're willing to prepare them for the Sacraments, please let me know by the evening of Sunday 17 February. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Closing our churches

Please continue to pray for everyone involved in helping to roll-out the vaccine, so that we'll be able to open again for public worship in safety and with confidence. In the meantime, let's all of us play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe. God bless, *Fr Geoffrey.*

Folk for whom we are praying

Everyone, please take a look through the list of names in our newsletter of people who are ill or infirm. Sometimes names remain on the list of people who are now well recovered, or who were added by someone outwith the parish with whom we no longer have contact.

If you have requested that someone be included, please confirm that you'd still like them to remain on our list, and confirm that they have given their permission. E-mail the parish office, or phone and leave a message. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey.*

Faith & Justice newsletter

The latest edition of the newsletter from our diocesan Faith & Justice Commission can be downloaded at: <https://tinyurl.com/yxurca63>. Reports and newsletters mentioned in this issue are available at: <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/>

Resources from Stonyhurst

The *Christian Heritage Centre* offers a range of on-line resources to nourish our formation in faith: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/>

The Drama Displayed, a journey of salvation. Talks with speakers across the world: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Set Free Summit. A series on human relationships and sexuality for young adults, 7 Feb-14 Mar: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free/>

Integrating Spirit, Mind & Body. Two webinars for mental health professionals, 13 February & 13 March, integrating a Christian understanding of spiritual and bodily health with their practise. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>

Musings from my hermitage

The heart of Mark's Gospel is the person of Jesus. In this Sunday's episode Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. He made "a deep impression on [people] because, unlike the scribes, [Jesus] taught with authority".

Imagine what the first disciples made of this. They're learning that Jesus and his teachings have power to overcome 'unclean spirits'. Jesus is not just another prophet; Jesus is *the* Prophet, the *One*, promised by Moses.

Like the Hebrew slaves on their journey into freedom, we can sometimes feel overwhelmed by negative, divisive forces. Just as 'unclean spirits' disturbed the worship of the synagogue, so too can they invade our worship, our personal prayer. The things that drain us and drag us down are not easily put aside. We want to lead a good life; so easily we settle for compromise. The spirit of our baptism inspires us to serve — our family, the church, our local community; but other spirits prompt selfishness and isolation. We believe in goodness, that God has made us stewards of creation; but waste and excess are commonplace. We know that Jesus sought always to include people, draw them close; but so many attitudes separate and divide folk.

There are many voices like the 'unclean spirits' who tried to disrupt the prayer of the synagogue and shout down Jesus; and some of those voices might be in our own heart.

But the gospel according to Mark shows the power of Jesus' teaching, the authority of his words. The words of Jesus make change. When Jesus spoke, evil withdrew. What Jesus said happened for those who listened. Why would that not also be true in our own day?

RISE // Online Youth Group

Castlerigg Manor is launching an online Youth Group in March. It's free of charge and open to anyone in Years 7 to 9. Every other Thursday, 7.00-8.00pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

OVERFLOW // Online Young Adults Group

Also from Castlerigg Manor, an online group for anyone aged 18-30. Every Monday on Zoom. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow

Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue RIP

The former bishop of our diocese, Patrick O'Donoghue, has died. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. His Funeral Mass took place at home in Ireland on Tuesday 26 January. For a tribute to him and some good photographs: <https://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk/bishop-patrick-odonoghue-emeritus-bishop-of-lancaster/>

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Frank Higham, Sheila Woof.

Those who are ill or infirm. Doug Willoughby, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Viktoria Nurse, Elaine Stajniack, Jimmy O'Neill, Berney Murphy, Margaret & Austin Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Simon Crossley, Kevin Horan, Jean Dunne, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Alice Winstanley, Robert Tomlinson, Michael McBride, Agnes Evans, Tony Derbyshire, Elizabeth Cook, Harold Harwood, Ernest Cecil Clark Firth, Molly Walmsley, David Anthony Pyke, Kathleen Myerscough, Marino Habeishy, Carmen Christancho, Enrique Escobar, Marino Lemas, Hannah Marie Swarbrick, James Carter, Bill Jennings, Mary Whiteside, Angela Mary O'Regan, Eric Bayman and Alice Wells.