

# 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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## Fifth Sunday of Easter

2 May 2021

### Liturgies this week

Sat	<b>G</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Intentions of E.H. [CH]
Sun	<b>S</b>	8.30am	<b>Mass</b>	Margaret Walmsley <i>lately dead</i>
	<b>G</b>	10.30am	<b>Mass</b>	People of our Parishes
Mon.....				<b>SS PHILIP &amp; JAMES</b> <i>apostles</i>
	<b>S</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Brenda Richardson <i>anniversary</i>
Tue.....				<b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>
			<b>Mass</b>	
Wed	<b>G</b>	6.30pm	<b>Mass</b>	John & Mary Turner <i>1<sup>st</sup> anniversary</i> [HB]
		7.00pm	<b>Rosary</b>	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu	<b>S</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Jim Doogan <i>lately dead</i> [G.MCA]
Fri			<b>Mass</b>	Keith May <i>1<sup>st</sup> anniversary</i> [ES]
Sat	<b>G</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Brian Winstanley <i>RIP</i>

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sun	<b>S</b>	8.30am	<b>Mass</b>	People of our Parishes
	<b>G</b>	10.30am	<b>Mass</b>	Sheila Ann Carroll <i>6<sup>th</sup> anniversary</i> [AC]

### Red Box 2020 : thank you

In 2020 our two parishes raised £416.41 through your red box and donations to *Missio* and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Communities around the world are so grateful that we are supporting them through prayer and your generous donations. The missionaries, and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID-19.

They have asked us to pass on their thanks, and tell us that they pray for us all. You can find out more at [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk).

Red Boxes cannot be emptied at the moment. However, you can make a donation by sending a cheque payable to *Missio-Mill Hill* to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU; or make a bank transfer to [www.missio.org.uk/redbox](http://www.missio.org.uk/redbox); or call 020-7821-9755 to donate with a card.

### The Logos & Literature : Elaborating the Divine

A series of online evening talks exploring some of the great themes of Catholic Christianity in writings old and new, with Catholic scholars and contemporary authors. Every second Thursday, 7.30pm from **29 April**.

For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/logos-and-literature/>

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

If anyone would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please contact me to make arrangements. Fr Geoffrey

### Support for Rwanda

The Rwanda Group Trust is a registered Catholic charity based in Preston which raises funds for the poorest of the poor in Rwanda. The situation there is very serious due to Covid 19, lack of vaccine, and serious food shortages.

Families are having to sell their precious goats in order to buy food. The Charity has launched an appeal in which every penny raised will enable families to replace their goats and purchase food. Goats cost £30 in Rwanda. The charity has no paid employees or overheads.

For more information, to make a donation or help a Rwandan family buy a goat, please contact: [www.rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com](http://www.rwandagrouptrust.blogspot.com) or e-mail [rwandagrouptrust.org@gamil.com](mailto:rwandagrouptrust.org@gamil.com), or phone Michael Donlan, Trustee, 07864-990941.

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## Food bank in Garstang : can you help?

Our parishes and school support the foodbank run from St Thomas' church, Garstang. In the coming weeks they are starting up a Food Club which will enable users to come into their hall and choose their own food. For this they need the help of volunteers.

If you would like to help or to receive a weekly "best to buy" email recommending items to buy for the food bank please contact Kathryn Sperring: [kathrynjsperring@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynjsperring@gmail.com), or 01995-606288. Thank you.

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## Musings from my hermitage

During the weeks between Easter and Pentecost, the Acts of the Apostles tells us of the first decades in the life of the Church: small communities of faith; heroic individuals like Paul and Barnabas; the disciples' struggle against the religious authorities; the spread of the good news.

What happened that first Easter had transformed the disciples: they wanted others to share what they had experienced with Jesus. This Sunday we hear how Barnabas introduced Paul into the communion of the apostles. As a body they enjoyed fellowship, communion in the risen Christ; as a body they experienced the consolation of God's Holy Spirit.

This notion of communion is at the heart of this Sunday's gospel. The image of the vine and its branches is immediate. Jesus is the vine; we're his branches. We and our Saviour are one living body. Our purpose is to bear fruit. It's our nature because we're branches of the vine of Christ. His sap flows through us, impels us to bear plentiful fruit, to the glory of the Father.

The image of the vine reminds us that our faith in Christ is both personal and corporate. Each of us is responsible for nurturing our faith, and for living our faith. We're each of us also responsible for encouraging one another, playing our own unique part in the life and mission of the Church, for which Christ himself has chosen us.

This Sunday's second reading puts flesh on this image. The fruit we bear will be evident in our faith and works, in our belief and obedience, in our prayer to God and our love of one another. Both. What we do in church, and how we live outside.

The season of Easter opens us to the pruning force of God's word, to the energy of the risen Saviour. What's the Lord asking of us today? How are we to continue the work our Lord has entrusted to his Church?

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## Supporting our parishes : *thank you*

Thank you to everyone who has a Standing Order for our parishes, or who donates with a regular cheque. Protocols for handling cash are strict, and if we can avoid your fellow parishioners having to count cash manually and then carry it to the bank, so much the better. In particular, please avoid donating coins if at all possible.

**Gift Aid.** If you are a UK tax payer, *please* complete a Gift Aid declaration for the parish. It costs you absolutely nothing. You are giving to your parish anyway; this simply asks the Government to redirect to the Church some of the tax you have paid to the Government. For every £1 you give, the Church can reclaim 25p of tax. Thank you.

**Standing Order forms** and **Gift Aid declarations** are available at the back of both churches; alternatively, download them for either parish from our website, or e-mail or phone the parish office.

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## The Castlerigg Lottery

Our diocesan youth centre in Keswick, Castlerigg Manor, is seeking to raise funds through a lottery. £3 per month, winner takes half the pot. To join, visit [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery).

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## Please pray for ...

**Those who have died recently.** Colin Swarbrick, Sue Ratelitte (known to Tony Clark), HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Charlie Robinson, June McLaughlin.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** O Murphy, Yvonne Shaw, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Elaine Stajniack, Austin Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, Jean Andrews, Tony Smith, Roger Bevins, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Marie Swarbrick, Peter Holland, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes.

**Those whose anniversary we keep.** Fr A Richardson, Monica Hargreaves, Fr Edward Bilsborrow, Emma Seery, Tom Cassidy, John Davis, Teresa Topping, Fred Garvey, Teresa Garner, James Pedder, Winifred Bilsborrow, William Wignall, Stephen Richardson, Henry Banks, Violet Eydmann and Lucia Tesseyman.