

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

28 April 2024

Sat 27 G 6.00pm **Mass** Brenda Richardson *4th anniversary* [AP]

Sun 28 S 8.30am **Mass** People of our parishes

G 10.30am **Mass** Betty Ball *RIP-birthday*

Mon 29 ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

virgin, doctor of the Church, a patron of Europe

S 10.00am **Mass** Charlotte Doogan *lately dead* [GMC.A]

Tue 30 --

Wed 1 G 6.30pm **Children's Liturgy of Reconciliation** *all welcome*

Thu 2 St Athanasius *bishop, doctor of the Church*

S 10.00am **Mass** Fr Peter Johnson *RIP*

Fri 3 SS PHILIP & JAMES *apostles*

G 10.00am **Mass** Someone who is ill [LB]

G 10.30am **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sat 4 G 6.00pm **Mass** Gordon Johnson *RIP-birthday*

Sun 5 S 8.30am **Mass** People of our parishes

G 10.30am **Mass** David Carr *RIP-birthday*

Sudan : Cafod appeal this weekend

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at www.cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Bishop Paul and Cardinal Nichols on the fighting in Sudan

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/49435>

Sacrament of Confirmation

Do you know anyone in Year 7 or older who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? This year, Confirmation will be on **Pentecost Sunday, 19 May**, 200pm, Lancaster Cathedral. There will be **two preparation sessions: Sunday 5 & Sunday 12 May**, both after Mass, 11.45am-3.00pm. Lunch will be provided.

If you would like more information, or an electronic copy of the form, please email Heather Hogarth, hogarth_h@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively, you can collect a form from the back of church and return it to the presbytery as soon as possible. Please pass this on to anyone who may be interested.

The cloud of unknowing

Explore this mystical text written in the 14th century, a profound guide on prayer. **Monday 13 May**, 11.30am-3.00pm, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella, Browndedge Road, Lostock Hall PR5 5AA.

<https://www.christianretreats.live/online-retreats/in-situ-retreats/in-situ-the-cloud-of-unknowing-explore-this-incredible-mystical-text-written-in-the-14th-c-a-profound-guide-on-prayer>

For bookings: parish office, 01772-335387 or office@saintgerards.org.uk.

The foot-stomping Gospel Band

A night of Gospel and Blues, **Saturday 18 May**, 7.30pm, Garstang Free Methodist church, Windsor Road PR3 1ED. Admission £10. Book at www.footstomping.band.

Hummingbirds

If you have any knowledge of HR (Human Resources) and/or TUPE regulations the Management Committee of Hummingbirds would appreciate your advice. Please contact Frank Miller on 01995 604030 or frankmiller_bhs@hotmail.com.

Church maintenance projects at Garstang

Work was carried out last year to improve drainage and some of the pathways in the cemetery. I am very grateful to those of you who helped to fund the project.

A second phase of work is now required, to address health and safety concerns about the path from the newly-prepared section of the cemetery round to the front of church.

We will be seeking grant funding for the project, although grants will not cover all the costs. To assist our application, we need to be able to demonstrate the extent to which parishioners support the project.

Last weekend, 20-21 April, there was a short questionnaire at the back of the church. If you haven't already done so, I would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to complete it and to support the project.

The same questionnaire will also seek your support to help us apply for a grant towards a significant repair of the organ and its continuing maintenance. Thank you for your assistance. Fr *Geoffrey*

SVP report on "levelling up"

The St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) has published a new report that highlights charity's vital role in delivering locally-based support to "left behind" communities.

The research - *From the Frontline: Tackling Regional Inequalities from the Ground Up* - provides a snapshot of the St Vincent de Paul Society's (SVP) community-based "levelling up" work in 10 regional centres and through locally-based volunteer members, working in 17 of the 20 most deprived communities in England.

The report highlights: A 49 percent increase in the number of requests for help to SVP's support line, nearly 2300 in the last 12 months, showing an alarming trend of reliance on charities like SVP to deliver frontline services.

The report can be downloaded here: <https://svp.org.uk/levelling-up>.

Promoting the Gospel in schools

NISCU is a local Christian charity working in schools. They employ workers who visit schools to take assemblies, deliver RE lessons, run clubs and Christian Unions, and provide resources for teaching the Christian faith. St Mary & Michael's is one of the local schools that they regularly visit, and they are active in almost all our local primary schools. They also run weekly clubs at Our Lady's Catholic College in Lancaster (and LRGS, LGGS and Ripley).

NISCU are holding an information evening at Garstang Free Methodist Church on **Tuesday 7 May**, 7.30pm. An opportunity to learn more about their work in our local schools, to meet the schools' workers, and to see the resources that they produce. It will be accessible to people from all Christian denominations and experiences and anyone is very welcome to attend.

Coffee morning for Christian Aid

At the coffee morning on Saturday 23 March, at Scorton, £685 was raised for Christian Aid. Many thanks to all.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Bernard Goodwin (father of Caroline Winstanley), Fr Tom Forster & Fr John Heaney, Anne Stobbs.

Those who are ill or infirm. Bob Cookson, Martha Billington, Pat Stockdale, Jim Costain, Fr Michael Murphy, Pat McKenna, Joe Rooney, Bert Lowe, Vicki Doherty, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Philippa Haynes, Yvonne Shaw, 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. Charles Bisby, Phillip Flood, Maureen Clark, William Colin Swarbrick, Richard Gornall, Richard Pickering, James Ashworth, Fr Bernard Cochrane, Bert Wrennall, Maureen Mary Jennings, Betty Mary Gregson, Jane Rossall, Sarah Banks, Robert Pegg, Alice Waring, Patricia Ann (Pat) Kennedy, Fr A Richardson, Monica Hargreaves, Fr Edward Bilsborrow, Emma Seery, Tom Cassidy, John Davis, Teresa Topping and Fred Garvey.