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### St Vincent de Paul Society – can you help?

If you'd like to assist the members of our parish SVP, perhaps delivering/dropping off shopping for example, please contact Helen Forshaw: [hm.forshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:hm.forshaw@btinternet.com) or 01995-603944.

If you are elderly and vulnerable and need assistance, please contact our SVP on their dedicated mobile number: 07535-736975.

If you know of someone who might need help, please speak to them first and then contact our SVP on their dedicated number.

If you'd like to help generally around Garstang and Scorton, please check out the *Your Garstang* Facebook group.

Thank you to all who are helping in whatever way at this difficult time.

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### Red Mission Boxes : Garstang

A total of £298.41 has been banked. In the last year, Red Box holders and contributors in our parish have raised £885.78. Our sisters and brothers around the world continue to need our prayers and financial support. If you would like a box for your home, please contact Celia Horn, 01995-602341.

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### Please pray for ...

**Lately dead.** Frances Dickinson.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** Jean Andrews, Roger Bevins, Vin Cahill, Paul Cain, Eileen Cartner, Christine Cobane, John Cookson, Martina Copple, Bob Cross, Simon Crossley, Jean Dunne, Dorothy Evans, Louise Gornall, Michael Hendry, Pat Hickey, Peter Holland, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe, Kevin Horan, Janet Howarth, Keith Jones, Nigel Lord, Graham Markham (Australia), Seamus Martin, Ian Moran, Pat Nickson, Matthew Pearson, Margaret Pendleton, Sarah Preston, Francisca Rainford, Brenda Richardson, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Wendy Seed, Revd Andrew Shaw, a Sick Parishioner, Teresa Smith, Tony Smith, Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Austin Walmsley, Andrew Whipp, Ann Wicks, Louise Williams, David Winstanley, Mary Winstanley, Ellen Worsley, Ewan, Kathryn, Lucy & family.

**Those whose anniversary we keep.** John Bevins, Fr Odran Callan, Marie Calvert, Mary Carr, Fleetwood Carter, Mary Carter, William Darwen, Aileen Dearn, John Ellwood, Frank Gornall, Alice Helme, Shirley Hawes, Mary Horn.

# 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

[ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com](mailto:ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com) : [www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

29 March 2020

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### Mass intentions this week

Sunday	People of our Parishes
Monday	Intentions of Brenda Richardson
Tuesday	Intentions of Bob & Pauline Finlayson
Wednesday	Canon Charles Canning <i>RIP</i>
Thursday	Fr David Elder <i>RIP</i>
Friday	Judith Swarbrick <i>RIP-birthday</i>
Saturday	Langley Family <i>RIP</i>

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sunday	People of our Parishes
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### Full closure of Catholic churches

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation, Monday 23 March, strengthening restrictions in an attempt to combat the spread of COVID-19, our Bishops have now closed our churches, including for personal prayer.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols stressed that we must all play our part to safeguard the NHS and to save "precious lives".

"We're going to play our full part in it. That was the call of St Paul that we ought to be good citizens, and today we ought to be good citizens playing our part in the protection of the vulnerable, in our support for the NHS, and in the preserving of human life, which is so precious to God in the face of this virus."

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## While our churches are closed

**Mass intentions.** Fr Geoffrey continues to celebrate Mass in private, and the intentions are listed in the newsletter. Please continue to request Mass intentions: place your intention and offering in an envelope and post through the presbytery letterbox, or e-mail or phone with your request.

**Bulletins** are on the parish website, together with a leaflet to use when Mass cannot be celebrated publicly. As long as our churches remain closed, the bulletins will not be printed.

**Pray at home.** At the usual times of Mass, everyone is invited to join in prayer, using the leaflets on our website.

**Prayerful Preparation for Sunday.** Also on our website are leaflets to help us pray and reflect on the Scripture of the Sunday to come.

**Mass on-line.** Links to the live-streaming of Mass are on our website.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation.** During this time when we are all urged to stay at home, it is inappropriate for priest and penitent to meet for Confession. We all share responsibility for slowing the spread of Covid-19.

If you would like a pastoral or spiritual chat over the phone or by e-mail, please contact me. *Fr Geoffrey*

Pope Francis has said: "It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly to God, your Father, and tell him the truth. Say, 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." He urges us in these circumstances to say an Act of Contrition or the *I confess* from the Mass, and promise to confess individually as soon as we are able.

The Vatican Penitentiary has clarified that Confessions cannot be done at a distance, meaning over the phone or through Skype, but that if a priest is inaccessible, sincere penance and request for God's forgiveness is enough.

**Weekly Church Offerings.** Thank you to everyone who has a Standing Order for our parishes. If other parishioners are able to support the parishes with a Standing Order, please e-mail or phone the parish and ask for one, or download one for either parish from our website.

If you give weekly through the collection, please set your donations aside at home and, once we are back to public celebrations, please make a cheque payable to the parish. This is to avoid people having to count money and visit the bank.

Please continue your regular donations to Cafod and other charities.

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## Urgent request from our school

The Government has issued a request: "Where possible, we encourage school settings to also look after key workers' children and vulnerable children throughout the Easter holidays."

If you are not in a high-risk category for Covid-19 infection, have a parish DBS check, and can help in school over the Easter holidays, please make yourself known to Fr Geoffrey as soon as possible. Your help and support at this time would be a massive boost to the community and the fight against the virus. Many thanks.

*Fiona Brooks, Foundation Governor, SS Mary & Michael's Catholic Primary School, on behalf of Mr Parry, Deputy Head Teacher.*

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## Catholicism DVDs

Although the public showing of these films is on hold, if anyone would like to borrow the DVDs to watch at home, please contact Elizabeth Horn, 07940 471617, to make arrangements to borrow them.

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## Spiritual help on the www

The following resources may be helpful for your daily reflection and prayer: Fr Richard Rohr [www.cacradicalgrace.org](http://www.cacradicalgrace.org). Daily meditations are offered.

Search for 'onlineministries' and click on the link to [www.creighton.edu](http://www.creighton.edu). The Jesuit university offers many resources for prayer and reflection.

*Lent 2020 with the Prophet Elijah.* The idea is to undertake a forty day walk through the desert in the Carmelite spiritual tradition. Paste this link into your browser: <https://hozana.org/t/8v4xt>. To subscribe, click on "I join" and they will send you the necessary material.

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## Parish Draw : Garstang – suspended until further notice

The Draw is suspended until Sunday Mass resumes. Trish & Kev will collect any outstanding subs and bring the monthly draws up to date. Those who have paid their subs by cheque recently: they will be banked when going to the bank is permitted. If anyone would like any further information about the parish draw, please contact Trish & Kev, 01995-60429.

Congratulations to all our winners this year; thank you for supporting our parish. A list of all the 2019/2020 winners is on the notice board in church.