

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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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for Unemployed People

14 February 2021

Liturgies this week

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| Sat | Mass | Intentions of Helena Leaper |
| Sun | Mass | Greg Patterson <i>anniversary</i> [w] |
| Mon | G 11.00am | Burial Liturgy : Bill Myerscough |
| | | Mass Paul Cain <i>lately dead</i> [TC] |
| Tue | | Mass Fr Leo Lynch <i>RIP</i> |
| Wed..... | | ASH WEDNESDAY <i>day of fasting & abstinence</i> |
| | | Mass Infirm clergy |
| | 7.00pm | Rosary <i>in our homes</i> |
| Thu | | Mass In thanksgiving : Joyce Bilborrow |
| Fri | | Mass Intentions of Anne Prentice <i>birthday</i> |
| Sat | | Mass Thomas & Mary Ibison <i>RIP</i> |

First Sunday of Lent

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| Sun | Mass | Intentions of Ted Richardson <i>birthday</i> |
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Continuing closure of our churches

Our Health & Safety leads in Garstang and in Scorton and I have reviewed the situation, and have agreed that both our churches will remain closed.

We will consult again following the Government's own review on 22 February. In the meantime, 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; and let's all of us play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe. God bless, *Fr Geoffrey*

Ash Wednesday

Early in the day, if you're able, be prayerfully mindful: Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, a season for conversion of heart and renewal of spirit.

Make your own ash as part of your prayer. Perhaps you have a palm cross from last year or the year before. Or as a sign of your desire for conversion, prayerfully write on a piece of paper the sins of which you truly repent and desire mercy and forgiveness. Burn the palm cross or your piece of paper – safely – and mix the ash with a little oil. You could also use soil from your garden or a flowerpot. Anoint one another in your household, or anoint your own head with the ash or soil saying either "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Read and reflect on one or other Scripture reading for Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

If a prayer leaflet is made available, it will be on our website and printed copies will be available in the presbytery yard.

Stations of the Cross

A free video reflection to watch: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/stations-of-the-cross-then-and-now-free-reflections>

Lent Retreat

Developed by the Ignatian Centre in Glasgow and taken up by the BBC Daily Service, this offers various options for people to take part.

Get to know and love the person of Jesus better in order to live a deeper and more authentic Christian life of service. This Lent Retreat includes scripture and prayer material, art and music to pray with and other prayer resources to help you deepen your faith. Visit: [Lent Retreat 2021 | Pathways to God](#)

Keeping a holy Lent

Talk of “giving things up,” “doing without” can make Lent seem dull, negative even; as if we hadn’t enough to contend with at the moment.

But Lent’s not an end in itself; it’s the season in which we prepare joyfully to celebrate the mystery of Easter with mind and heart renewed.

In Lent, the community of faith is blessed with a spirit of loving reverence for God and of willing service to neighbour. Thus, Lent is a time for more intense prayer and reflection and for particular attention to the word of God, especially the Sunday readings.

Our Lenten penance is not only inward and personal but also outward and social. How might our prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity deepen our conversion to Christ and be of benefit to others?

Above all, what is it that we’d like God to do for us this Lent?

Fasting & abstinence

Fasting means having only one full meal, though a little food may also be taken at breakfast, and midday or evening: from our 15th to 59th birthday.

Abstinence, abstaining from meat, is expected of us every Friday throughout the year, except on Fridays which are liturgical solemnities.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fasting and abstinence.

Apart from these two days, abstaining from meat may be substituted by any of the following penances:

- abstaining from another food;
- abstaining from alcohol, smoking, or some form of amusement;
- some form of special prayer;
- fasting from food for longer than usual, giving the proceeds to the poor;
- especially helping people who are poor, sick, elderly, or lonely.

Free ecology talks during Lent

Bishop John Arnold of Salford, our lead bishop on the environment, is taking part in a series of evening talks and reflections on ecology.

The aim is to inform and challenge participants to respond to Pope Francis’ call to care for “our common home”. Six Thursdays, **18 February - 25 March**, 7.30-8.30pm. To register: jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

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 this Sunday evening, 14 February**. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Berney Murphy, Bill Myerscough, Bishop Patrick O’Donoghue.

Those who are ill or infirm. Doug Willoughby, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Viktoria Nurse, Elaine Stajniack, Jimmy O’Neill, 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 Cople, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Margaret Dilworth, Mary Pedder, May Sheridan, Horn/Brown Families, Agnes Smith, Thomas Dilworth, Jane Molloy, Henry Davis, Tony Hall, Lillian Williams, Bill Ainsworth, Dennis Bolger, Margaret Mary Carmel Hayden (1st anniversary), Agnes Horn, Ann Cookson, Elsie Tomlinson, Mary Miller, Winifred Carr, John Horn, Thomas Ibison and Marjorie Edge.