

# 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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## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for Unemployed People

19 February 2023

Sat 18 **G** 6.00pm **Mass** Ints. of Ted Richardson *99<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Sun 19 **S** 8.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

**G** 10.30am **Mass** Tony Hall *anniversary*

Mon 20 **S** 10.00am **Mass** Martha & John Bashall *RIP [HF]*

Tue 21 --

**Wed 22 ASH WEDNESDAY : Day of fasting and Abstinence**

**G** 6.30pm **Mass** Intentions of Jo Counsell [A]

7.00pm **Rosary** *in our homes*

Thu 23 **S** 10.00am **Mass** Robert & Agnes Thompson *RIP*

Fri 24 **G** 10.00am **Mass** For successful operation [s.c.]

10.30am **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**NB >>>** *No Stations of the Cross this week*

## First Sunday of Lent

Sat 25 **G** 6.00pm **Mass** Thomas Ibison *anniversary*

Sun 26 **S** 8.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

**G** 10.30am **Mass** Thomas Bernardo *anniversary*

## Lent

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Mass for our parishes will be at the usual time of 6.30pm. If you'd like to attend Mass during the day, there is Mass at the Cathedral at 12.15pm.

If you're unable to attend Mass, seek to keep Ash Wednesday in your home.

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.

## 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?

## Resources for Lent

A great collection of online resources for Lent: talks, retreats, Stations of the Cross, and so on: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44124>

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## First Holy Communion 2023

If your child was born before September 2015 and you'd like to help them prepare for their First Holy Communion, please request an application form from our parish school office, see our website, or e-mail the presbytery.

Please return your completed application form to the presbytery by the evening of **Sunday 19 February**. Thank you. *Fr Geoffrey*.

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## Parish SVP meeting

The members of our parishes' St Vincent de Paul Society will meet on **Tuesday 21 February**, 6.30pm, in the Plessington Chapel. New members and enquirers are always welcome.

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## Lent : Stations of the Cross

The Season of Lent is approaching. Once again, I want very much to encourage parishioners from either parish to lead the Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 6.30pm at Garstang: individuals, couples, friends, parish groups.

If you're willing to take a turn, please let me know, **by Ash Wednesday, 22 February**. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*

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## Tea & Coffee : next Sunday

On **Sunday 26 February, after 10.30am Mass** at Garstang, the SVP will be serving Fairtrade teas and coffees in recognition of *Fairtrade Fortnight*, 27 February - 12 March. There may well be other Fairtrade products available.

All are welcome to attend and to support the producers who work hard to provide us with quality drinks and foods. Many of these producers are now facing the additional challenges brought about by climate change.

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## Lenten Lunches 2023

These ecumenical lunches will again be held in Garstang United Reformed Church Hall from 12 noon to 1.00pm. We have been asked to cater with soup, bread and cheese on **Wednesday 29 March**.

The only payment requested from those attending is a donation to Christian Aid. If you are able to help by donating food or a couple of hours to serve, please contact Philippa Catterall on 01995 238331 *by 20 February*.

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## Cafod emergency appeal

CAFOD is responding to the Syria-Turkey earthquake with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors.

Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather.

Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give> .

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## Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop Paul invites you to join him on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, **21-28 July**.

Booking forms are available at the back of both our churches, or to download on the diocesan Lourdes website: [www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk](http://www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk). Alternatively, contact Joe Walsh Tours, 0161-8208790. More information from Linda Wisdom, [operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk](mailto:operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk).

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## Please pray for ...

**Those who have died recently.** Stephen Sartin (dear friend of Elizabeth Horn), Jean Andrews, Mary Swarbrick.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** Evelyn Steel (mother of Fr G), Mary Purkis, Teresa Walmsley, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Fr Harry Holden, Federico Lema, Mary McCann, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Anthony Monks, Rita Whittaker, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Tony Clark, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Tony Blunt, 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.** Mary Miller, Winifred Carr, John Horn, Thomas Ibison, Marjorie Edge, Henry Gornall, John Dilworth, Mary Gillett, Margaret McKevitt, Marjorie Kirkman, Agnes Gallagher (1st Anniversary), John McHale, James Houlihan, Robert Winder, Samuel Smith, Robert Hull, Grace Barton, Frank Richardson, Catherine Eastham, Agnes St John Firth, Dorothea Agnes Mary Rafferty, Neil Brady, Tom Rawlinson, Neil McLaughlin and Christine Ackers.