

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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Easter Sunday

12 April 2020

Easter Eve.....Blessing of the Easter Candle & Baptismal Water

Easter Day..... MASS

People of our Parishes

The end of the Easter Triduum

Mass intentions this week

Monday	Veronica Pickering <i>anniversary</i>
Tuesday	Ints of Jenn & Stephen Mcguigan <i>wedding anniv.</i>
Wednesday	Intentions of Keith Johnson <i>60th birthday</i> [E+GS]
Thursday	Intentions of the Offer family
Friday	James McArdle <i>anniversary</i>
Saturday	Gillian MacMillan <i>lately dead</i> [GS]

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday People of our Parishes

The end of the Easter Octave

Easter blessings

"To all our parishioners and your families: every prayerful good wish and blessing." *Fr Geoffrey & Deacon D'Arcy*

Our cathedral is recording the liturgies celebrated by the Bishop, and uploading them to their *YouTube* channel shortly afterwards. Visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCp4kh6EOcC8T1MaMjywHp1Q>

Cardinal Nichols on BBC Local Radio

Cardinal Vincent Nichols will be leading a service on all 39 BBC local radio stations on Easter Sunday, 8.00am.

Easter prayer and a liturgy for our homes

Leaflets to help us pray and reflect on the Easter Scriptures are on our website: see Liturgical Seasons / Holy Week.

Printed copies of these leaflets are included within the newsletters, available in a clear plastic wallet, under a stone in the yard at the presbytery back door.

A simple liturgy to celebrate Easter in our homes, prepared by our Bishops, is on their website. Some printed copies will be available in the presbytery yard:

To read on-screen:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/PaH-EasterSunday.pdf>

To print at home:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/PaH-EasterSundayA4.pdf>

Resources for our young families:

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/Flu/WayCross-Families.pdf>

Message from Pope Francis

"I can imagine you in your families, living an unusual life to avoid contagion. I am thinking of the liveliness of children and young people, who cannot go out, attend school, live their lives.

"I have in my heart all the families, especially those who have a loved one who is sick, or who have unfortunately experienced mourning due to the coronavirus or other causes. These days I often think about people who are alone, and for whom it is more difficult to face these moments. Above all I think of the elderly, who are very dear to me. ...

"I also remember how many are in financial straits and are worried about work and the future. ...

"Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty. ... Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love. This is what is needed today: the creativity of love."

The Pope ended by urging people to "prepare for better times".

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

My daily walk six times around the grounds here in Garstang is thirty minutes. Taking that same walk each day, I began to notice the subtle changes: buds growing and beginning to burst; the soft green leaves on the copper beech that weren't out yesterday; bright red berries almost hidden by the hedge; the fresh flowers on a grave.

The virus that is killing people is part of the same creation that gives us life, brings cheer to our heart and comfort to our soul. ... Such is the wonder.

At Easter, "when heaven is wedded to earth," the wonder of God is proclaimed for all the world.

That wonder came first to the women of the gospel. The others had scattered; but the women went to the tomb. They'd seen Jesus die, and expected to find his tomb closed, guarded. But the stone had been rolled back.

These women were the first to proclaim the Easter message. And once the other disciples had met their Risen Lord, they announced the message to yet more folk. And in proclaiming that good news, they themselves were transformed and energised by it.

It's the same for every generation of Christian: each of us personally has to come to know and experience the risen Lord.

We meet the Lord when we allow his word to enlighten, challenge, and change us, his body and blood to nourish and sustain us; when we let him meet us daily in prayer; and allow ourselves to meet him in the flesh and blood of our fellow human beings.

Let us also allow Christ to meet us in our own flesh and blood, in the depth of our being, in that place where we want least to be disturbed.

In the resurrection of Christ, God has unlocked the grip of death and all its consequences. Everything we might fear is robbed of its power over us.

Because Jesus is risen, when we mourn, or are visited by the ghost of loss, we will find comfort; when we hunger and thirst for what is right, we will be satisfied.

Because Jesus is risen, it's the gentle who will inherit the earth; and the pure in heart who'll behold God's face.

Because Jesus is risen, our restless human heart will know peace; even night will be a time of hope; and the Risen Christ will light our day, brightly.

Stay safe. Be well. Keep the flame of Easter faith alive in your heart.

Jesus is risen, and will see us through these troubled times.

Easter blessing of our cemetery

"On Easter Day I will take the Baptismal Water around our cemetery, bless our graves, and pray for all our departed family, friends, and parishioners.

"With God's grace, may we all come to experience the fullness of Christ's resurrection." *Fr Geoffrey*

Palms have been blessed and will be widely available when the restriction on movement has been lifted, as will the Easter Baptismal Water.

Some good news

The Fairtrade Foundation has renewed our application to be recognised as a *Fairtrade Church*. This certification is the result of work of a number of parishioners, such as ensuring Fairtrade tea and coffee is served after Mass; promoting the Fairtrade message and organising the sale of Fairtrade goods from Traidcraft. Watch out for Fairtrade updates in the bulletin.

Mass intentions

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.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Michaela Pickervance, Pat & George Pearce (sister and parents of Trisha Bilsborrow, daughter-in-law of Joyce & Edward); Margaret Gigli (sister of Tom Ibison & Mary Purkis); 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. Jack Metcalfe, James Parker Richardson, Veronica Pickering, Rose Skillen, Bob Miller, Kevin Kavanagh, William Barnes, Bernadette Paton, Joan Preston, Anthony Atherton, Thomas James Horn, Ellen (Nellie) Swarbrick, and Anne Fitzgerald.