

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

3 May 2020

Mass intentions this week

Sunday	People of our Parishes
Monday.....	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS
	Brenda Richardson <i>lately dead</i> [LB]
Tuesday	Sheila Ann Carroll <i>5th anniversary</i>
Wednesday	Canon Charles Channing <i>RIP</i>
Thursday	Neal Walmsley <i>RIP</i>
Friday	Brian McGugan <i>lately dead</i> [F+BC]
Saturday	Someone who is ill [VB]

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday	People of our Parishes
--------	------------------------

Brenda Richardson RIP

The Burial Liturgy for our parishioner, Brenda, will take place at SSMM, **Monday 4 May**, 11.00am. Please join in prayer for Brenda at that time. A copy of her Burial Liturgy is on our parish website; some printed copies are available in the presbytery yard.

Current restrictions in place limit attendance and require social-distancing.

Praying the Rosary during May

Liz Billington is organising a group to pray the Rosary during May, **Wednesdays, 7.00pm**. She invites you to use the Zoom app, which enables participants to see and hear one another. Alternatively, simply pray the Rosary at the same time in your own home.

Download Zoom to your smart device, and register (free of charge). After you've registered, please send your e-mail address to Liz, who will then invite you to join the group meeting: stubbinsfarm@outlook.com; 07918-662711.

Intentions for prayer. At the beginning of the session, the group members mention those requesting prayers, and include these in their intentions that week. If anyone would like to request prayer, please contact Liz.

If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself, please ensure you have their permission for them to be named. If not, you can always petition for e.g. 'a private intention' or 'someone suffering from ... '.

Mass for the NHS

In order to show a spiritual solidarity, each Thursday, 7.00pm, a Bishop will celebrate in their cathedral a Mass which will be live-streamed. Visit each cathedral's or the Bishops' Conference webpage, www.cbcew.org.uk, for links to the live-streaming of these Masses.

Message from our own Bishop: "I will be celebrating Mass each Thursday evening at 7.00pm in the cathedral. Unfortunately, it is not possible to live-stream, but it's important perhaps for people across the diocese to know it will be taking place. I'll then be back home in time to join the clap for the NHS at 8.00pm. God bless, +Paul."

Carmel Hayden RIP

SSMM parish gratefully acknowledges donations of £306.00, given in memory of our late parishioner, Carmel Hayden. May she rest in peace.

What inspires you?

There's now a page on our parish website, *Shared Words*, for parishioners to contribute poems, thoughts, etc that have been or are, meaningful to them. If you'd like to share something in this way, please e-mail it to Fr Geoffrey. Please remember to acknowledge the author and any copyright details.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Good Shepherd Sunday. The gospel passage for this year directs our attention to the sheep, and their relationship with the shepherd.

They have good, safe pasture because they recognise his voice, respond to his call, and follow him. The gospel assures the sheep that they'll not perish, not be snatched from the shepherd (at the final judgement).

The Father had given Jesus a command: by handing himself over to death on the cross he would gather his sheep into one with the Father and the Son.

The decisive factor is whether the sheep recognise the voice of their shepherd, respond to his call, and follow him. In St John's gospel, this is always the crunch issue.

I'm wondering what reflection does that invite from me? us? ourselves, our parishes? the wider Church?

On Easter morning we proclaim the last sentence of St John's gospel: "These things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus declares: "I came that [the sheep] may have life, and have it to the full, ... abundantly."

The Shepherd calls each of us by name.

What's the Shepherd saying to you today? Can you allow yourself to be attentive, waiting for the sound of his voice?

Where in your life now, with all that's going on around and within us, do you need to hear the voice of your good shepherd?

His voice is gentle, but insistent. He calls us by name, invites each of us — not just to have life — but to have it to the full, ... abundantly.

Are we perhaps fearful of "abundant life"? preferring things as they are? ... Or dare we trust Christ to show us how to live, and how to live to the full the life he has won for us?

Do you need practical help?

If you are elderly or vulnerable or self-isolating and need assistance or support, please contact our St Vincent de Paul group 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.

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 avoids folk having to count and bank the money.

Please continue your regular donations to Cafod and other charities.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Betty Gregson (sister-in-law of Betty Carter), Mary Turner (sister-in-law of Fr Aidan), Brenda Richardson, David Winstanley (brother of Brian RIP), Aileen Seward (aunt of Fr Geoffrey's mother), Ellen Worsley, Michaela Pickervance, Pat & George Pearce.

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, 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, Mary Winstanley, Ewan, Kathryn, Lucy & family.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Emma Seery, Tom Cassidy, John Davis, Teresa Topping, Fred Garvey, Teresa Garner, James Pedder, Winifred Bilsborrow, Monica Hargreaves, William Wignall, Stephen Richardson, Henry Banks, Violet Eydman, Lucia Tesseyman, and Mary Speight.