

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 of Easter

17 May 2020

Mass intentions this week

Sunday	People of our Parishes
Monday	Fr Geoff Cunliffe <i>anniversary</i> [LB]
Tuesday	Gillian Macmillan <i>lately dead</i> [ES]
Wednesday	Catenian Mass for Vocations
Thursday.....	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
	People of our Parishes
Friday	Brenda Richardson <i>lately dead</i> [AP]
Saturday	Tim Richardson <i>RIP</i>

Seventh Sunday of Easter

World Communications Day of Prayer

Sunday	People of our Parishes
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Pray for our Bishop

On Friday 8 May, our Bishop, Paul, was injured while exercising on his bike near Morecambe. He was admitted to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary that afternoon and diagnosed with a fractured skull and with damage to his left ear. On Sunday 10 May he was discharged, so that he could continue his recovery at home. During his days of quiet recuperation, he will not be making his weekly prayer video.

Praying the Rosary during May

Liz Billington has organised 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'

What inspires you?

There's 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.

Cafod : thanks : appeal video

The parish has received a letter of thanks from Cafod for our Lenten fast day offerings of £732. The letter is on our parish website.

On our parish website is a link to a coronavirus appeal video by the Director of Cafod. It's also available here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising>

Votive lights

Each morning when I go into church first thing, I light votive lamps for all of us at the statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady, and at the shrine of our martyr, St John Plessington.

If you have a particular intention for which you'd like me to light a votive candle for you, please let me know and I'll gladly do so. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Last Sunday's gospel gave us Christ's command to believe in him; this Sunday we receive Christ's command to love — to put our faith into action. The passage follows the Last Supper and the washing of feet.

Jesus encouraged his disciples: "I am coming to you." ... There's a hint that he's coming to them in a new way, that's somehow a dimension of his journey to the Father.

John's Gospel encourages us to see that, believing in Jesus, we experience God now. Whoever knows Jesus, knows the Father; and whoever believes in Jesus now will perform works greater even than Jesus did.

The risen, exalted Christ continues to work through us, his disciples, across the face of the earth because of and through the Holy Spirit. Released into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Spirit is at work in the community of faith, in all who believe in Jesus.

John's Gospel describes intimate, loving communion between the persons of the Holy Trinity and the community of disciples: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever ... The spirit of truth ... will be in you. ... I am coming to you ... I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you ... those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

John's gospel shows Jesus, the Father, the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) and ourselves all held together in the love of God. ... As Jesus faced his death, he urged his disciples to love as he had loved: "Those who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me."

For each of us there are practical consequences: How do we live the love of Jesus? How is God calling us today to make a difference in the circumstances in which we find ourselves?

As the feast of Pentecost approaches, pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that, in Christ, each one of us may be truly alive.

Do you need practical help or support?

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.

Diocesan newspaper

For the time being, *The Catholic Voice* is available only in digital form, a link to which is on our parish website. https://www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk/newsletters/Lancaster%20May%202020_Final.pdf

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. John Francis Birch (brother of Noel), John & Mary Turner (brother & sister-in-law of Fr Aidan), Betty Gregson (sister-in-law of Betty Carter), Brenda Richardson, David Winstanley (brother of Brian RIP), Aileen Seward (aunt of Fr Geoffrey's mother).

Those who are ill or infirm. Bishop Paul, Jean Andrews, Roger Bevins, Vin Cahill, Paul Cain, Eileen Cartner, Christine Cobane, John Cookson, Martina Cople, 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. John Barnacle, Dick Helme, Samuel Carr, Dick Edge, Eddie Finnegan, Frank Eastham, Jessica Pinnington, Roger Marsden, Jane Delaney, Joseph Hodgson, Raymond Fitzgerald and Anne Mary Swarbrick.

Please e-mail the parish with the name of anyone you would like to be remembered in this way.