

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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Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

Sat	9	G	6.00pm	Mass	People of our Parishes
Sun	10	S	8.30am	Mass	Fr Joe O'Connor <i>lately dead</i> [TR]
		G	10.30am	Mass	Robert Billington <i>anniversary</i>
Mon	11	S	10.00am	Mass	Intentions of the Catterall family
Tue	12	--			
Wed 13					St Lucy <i>virgin, martyr</i>
		G	6.30pm	Mass	Alice & John Towers <i>RIP</i>
Thu 14					St John of the Cross <i>priest, doctor of the Church</i>
		S	10.00am	Mass	Fr Peter Johnson <i>RIP</i>
Fri	15	G	10.00am	Mass	Terry & Sheila Murphy <i>RIP</i>
			10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	

Third Sunday of Advent

Sat	16	G	6.00pm	Mass	Molly & George Singleton <i>RIP</i>
Sun	17	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Monica <i>anniversary</i> & Sam Carr <i>RIP</i>
			12.15pm	Baptism	Liam Lamoury

Christmas cards & gifts ...

... are on sale in the church shop at Garstang. All profits to parish funds.

Christmas concert by Lancaster Singers

If you like to hear live choral music at Christmas, including carol arrangements and other larger-scale works, then you're in luck. The Lancaster Singers are coming to our church in Garstang once again.

Following last year's successful collaboration with a group of young singers from our school, this year's concert will take place in church, **Tuesday 12 December**, 7.30pm. Parents, carers, and families of children at the school: apply for tickets at the school.

Tickets on general sale are £12 and will be available from the Lancaster Singers website at www.lancastersingers.org or you could turn up on the day and pay at the door. We hope to see you there for what promises to be another exciting, heart-warming, and uplifting concert.

Parish Coffee Mornings

After two coffee mornings, £150 has been handed to Fr Geoffrey for parish funds. *Thank you all very much for your support.*

The next coffee morning will raise funds for Cafod's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal [Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://cafod.org.uk): **Wednesday 13 December**, 10.00am-12 noon, Plessington Chapel, Garstang.

Hopefully, there will be mince pies. At the same time there will be a sale of homemade cakes. Christmas jumpers or accessories are not obligatory but do feel free to wear them! *The Coffee Morning Team.*

Next weekend : SVP collection

There will be a retiring collection next weekend, **16-17 December**, in both our parishes to support the work of our parish St Vincent de Paul society.

Safe in Faith

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), together with *Safe in Faith*, have compiled a number of acts in which you can partake as part of their campaign *Invest to prevent violence against women and girls.*

Investing can take many forms, whether it be donation of money, time, or resources. See the poster at back of church, or <https://www.csan.org.uk>.

Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service

LDHAS is preparing for their Christmas shelter. They'll provide their clients with meals and a place to shelter during Christmas week in a congenial atmosphere.

During the financial year ending March 2023, LSHAS supported 35 homeless people into accommodation; provided their services to 76 street-homeless and vulnerably-housed people; provided 1762 breakfasts, 1160 lunches, and 421 showers. Thirteen agencies worked from their building.

If you'd like to support this important work:

- Bank transfer: Account name: LDHAS; 40-52-40; 00031967; Ref. "Shelter2022".
- Cheque payable to LDHAS. Post to: LDHAS-Finance, Edward Street, Lancaster LA1 1QH.

For more information, visit www.ldhas.org.uk.

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.

Alternatively, contact Joe Walsh Tours, 0161-8208790. More information from Linda Wisdom, operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk.

Readers & Welcomers

We could do with more **Readers** for the Masses at Garstang. If you'd like to serve the liturgy in this way, please let me know. I'll gladly offer some preparation; you won't be left to sink or swim. Many thanks, Fr Geoffrey.

Likewise, at Garstang more **Welcomers** would be appreciated for the Sunday Masses and for funerals. If you'd be willing to take a turn, please let Frank Miller know, either directly or through the parish office. Thank you.

Alternative homilies

For an alternative reflection on the Scripture Readings, take a look at: <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/>

Hospice : can you help?

"I have been a Spiritual Care Volunteer at St John's Hospice Lancaster for the past year and a half and am finishing next month. This opportunity has been rich and rewarding, meeting patients, their loved ones and staff and listening to their concerns, hopes, needs and lives. I wonder if anyone in the congregation may feel called to offering a session a week or a fortnight to be a spiritual care volunteer? If you feel this might suit you I would be happy to have a chat, answer questions and outline the expectations."

Please contact Mark Brackley, through the parish office.

Faith resources for children

New items are available in the Children's Library at the back of church in Garstang: *Faith in Phonics* books for early readers, puzzles, and colouring.

Red Mission Boxes

2024 calendars are now at the back of church, feel free to take one even if you do not have a mission box.

Any boxes to be emptied, please bring them to church next weekend.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Ian Shepherd, Peter Lancaster, Fr James William (Billy) Bootle, Revd Graham Lavery.

Those who are ill or infirm. Canon Dunstan Cooper & Fr Jim Allen (retired priests of the diocese), Joe Rooney, Bert Lowe, Vicki Doherty, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Carley Cowburn, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Mary McCann, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Rita Whittaker, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, 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. John Gavin Nixon, George Cowburn, Annie Gregson, Lucy Madeleine Price-Jones, Monica Carr, Vincent Swarbrick, Grace Ross Darling, John Paul Cadden, Ethel Carroll, Alice Towers, Dennis Regan, Arthur J. Nickson, Charles Taylor, Joe Browne, Lucy Cahill and Barbara Ellen Crone.