

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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Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 December 2023

Sat 23	G	6.00pm	Mass	David Carr <i>2nd anniversary</i>
Sun 24	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Richard Gaughan <i>anniversary</i>

The Birth of the Lord

Sun 24	G	6.00pm	Mass	People of our Parishes
Mon 25	S	8.30am	Mass	Agnes & Bob Thompson <i>RIP</i>
	G	10.30am	Mass	Revd John Horn <i>anniversary</i>
Tue 26	--			
Wed 27	ST JOHN <i>apostle, evangelist</i>			
	S	11.00am	Wedding	Bethan Donnelly & Anthony Bates
	G	6.30pm	Mass	Diane Pattinson <i>anniversary</i>
Thu 28	THE HOLY INNOCENTS <i>martyrs</i>			
	S	10.00am	Mass	Fr Peter Johnson <i>RIP</i>
Fri 29	ST THOMAS BECKET <i>bishop, martyr, patron of the pastoral clergy of England</i>			
	G	10.00am	Mass	Tony Blunt <i>RIP-birthday</i>
		10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	

The Holy Family

Sat 30	G	6.00pm	Mass	Anthony Ingleby <i>anniversary</i>
Sun 31	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Margaret <i>anniv.</i> & Joe Walmsley <i>RIP</i> [AC]

Christmas Collection

In this diocese, the Christmas collection forms the major part of the priests' annual salary. *Thank you for your support.*

Christmas greetings from Tokyo

On the noticeboard at the back of church in Garstang is a Christmas card and letter from **Fr Satori Kato and his family**.

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, LDHAS 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.

Parish coffee morning : many thanks

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the coffee morning by baking, attending, and spending. A total of **£299** was raised and will be sent to Cafod in response to their Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

Check the newsletter early in 2024 for the next coffee morning date. Thank you all. *The Coffee Morning Team.*

Hear Angels Cry

The *Friends of the Holy Land* have produced a Christmas song, endorsed by Pope Francis, to inspire prayer for peace in the Holy Land: *Hear Angels Cry*. All monies donated by purchases e.g. on Amazon, downloads, and streams will help bring relief to Christians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Please select *Hear Angels Cry* from the menu when you visit:
<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.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 Saturday & Sunday Masses, and for funerals.

My thinking and hope is that if more folk are familiar with the ministry of welcoming at the weekend and what it involves, we'll likely have more cover for our funerals.

If you'd be willing to take a turn, please let Frank Miller know, either directly or through the parish office. Thank you.

Hummingbirds : thank you

Thanks to a generous donor from the parish the children at Hummingbirds are having a great Christmas including a number of dance sessions with Diddi Dance. Potential contenders for Strictly in a few years? Your generosity has been much appreciated. *Frank Miller*.

Ways into prayer

Here's an initiative from the Diocese of Southwark:
<https://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/ways-into-prayer>

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place on the following dates in the New Year: **7 January**, 4 February, 3 March, 7 April

"We are still a small team of catechists and would welcome and support any volunteers for this ministry." If you're able to help, please contact Nancy Walbank, directly or through the parish office.

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.

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 this weekend.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. George Williams (Bowgreave Rise), James Parkinson, Ian Shepherd, Peter Lancaster, Fr James William (Billy) Bootle.

Those who are ill or infirm. Pat McKenna, Canon Dunstan Cooper & Fr Jim Allen, 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. Thomas Leo Horn, Doris Mary Wilson, Mary Winstanley, Jas G. Hall (Benefactor), Keith Barton, Kathleen Boden (30th anniversary), Ronald Clifton, John Kirby, Winifred Bracegirdle, Thomas Wilcock, Kathleen Collins, Anthony Ingleby, Rev. John Michael Horn, Thomas Francis Horn, Lois Appleton Darbyshire, Mary Ibison, Elizabeth Quick, Katie McDonald, Agnes Cross, Leonard Lister, Celia Swarbrick, Mary Agnes Ibison, Alice Bernadette Swarbrick, Jim O'Brien, Margaret Walmsley, Frank Piela, Peggy Barton, Ellen Law, Marie Kendall and Diane Elizabeth Pattinson.