

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

Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians

9 May 2021

Liturgies this week

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------|-------------|---|
| Sat | G | 10.00am | Mass | Brian Winstanley <i>RIP</i> |
| Sun | S | 8.30am | Mass | People of our Parishes |
| | G | 10.30am | Mass | Sheila Ann Carroll <i>6th anniversary</i> [AC] |
| Mon | S | 10.00am | Mass | Speight & Catterall families <i>RIP</i> |
| Tue | | --- | Mass | |

The Ascension of the Lord

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|-----|----------|---------|---------------|---|
| Wed | G | 6.30pm | Mass | Brian & Mary Winstanley <i>RIP-70th wedding anniv.</i> |
| | | 7.00pm | Rosary | <i>in our homes</i> |
| Thu | S | 10.00am | Mass | Tommie Morley <i>anniversary</i> |

Fri..... **ST MATTHIAS** *apostle*

--- **Mass** Infirm clergy

Sat **G** 10.00am **Mass** Joan Walbank *RIP* [NW]

Seventh Sunday of Easter

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Sun | S | 8.30am | Mass | People of our Parishes |
| | G | 10.30am | Mass | Intentions of Celia Lowe |

The Day of the Lord : a statement from our Bishops

Now that the many and various restrictions are easing, the Bishops of England & Wales have issued a statement reaffirming the importance of Sunday as the Day of the Lord.

A copy is included with the printed newsletters and is also on our website. There's a link on our Homepage.

Welcome back to Mass

If you're fairly recently returned to Mass: welcome back; it is good to see you once again. Please take a copy of the leaflet at the back of church *Welcome back to Mass*, which indicates the changes in place on how we are celebrating Mass in the present circumstance.

You might wish also to take a copy of the *Order of Mass* to enable you to pray the Apostles' Creed and, perhaps, to say the *I confess* as part of your own preparation for Mass. Mark the copy with your name, and retain it for your personal use.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

If anyone would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please contact me to make arrangements. Fr Geoffrey

Food bank in Garstang : can you help?

Our parishes and school support the foodbank run from St Thomas' church, Garstang. In the coming weeks they are starting up a Food Club which will enable users to come into their hall and choose their own food. For this they need the help of volunteers.

If you would like to help or to receive a weekly "best to buy" email recommending items to buy for the food bank please contact Kathryn Sperring: kathrynjsperring@gmail.com, or 01995-606288. Thank you.

Job vacancy

Hummingbirds Nursery is seeking a level 3 or higher early-years practitioner, preferably with experience, due to a rise in numbers from September 2021. The post is full-time, term-time only with a one-year temporary contract. Interested parties should email millerja63@gmail.com for further detail and application forms. Closing date for applications: **Friday 14 May**.

Bishop Paul reads a poem by John Bradburne

<https://youtu.be/Wzx5pqganfA>

Pentecost novena

Beginning on the Ascension and leading to Pentecost, there will be a Novena of Prayer for evangelisation and the renewal of the Church. Visit:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/pentecost-novena/>

Musings from my hermitage

The Holy Spirit is a key dimension of Easter, because the most important consequence of our Lord's resurrection is the gift of the Holy Spirit: one gift which all share, in the spirit-filled family of faith. At Mass, through the Scriptures, in our personal prayer we explore what our spirit-filled life together means; its personal implications, practical consequences.

St John was writing his gospel when the structures of the Church were beginning to take shape. Last Sunday's gospel spoke of the communion of the disciples: Christ the vine; we his branches. In this Sunday's episode, Jesus speaks of his "society of friends." Friends of one another, yes; but in the first-place friends of Jesus. Because of our friendship with Jesus, members of the Church are friends of one another.

Our Lord sees his 'society of friends' as marked by joy – complete joy; and his friends go out and bear lasting fruit. Joy, and being fruitful: this is what happens when our Lord's family of friends fulfils his command to love. That's the test of whether our knowledge of God is authentic, true, faithful to tradition. Why so decisive? Because God is love. And that's no vague generalisation. For St John, "God is love" is a profession of faith by people who know that, in Jesus, we encounter the abiding love of God.

"God is love" is the confident affirmation of people who are coming to terms in their own life with God; the mystery of God who became one of us in Jesus; the mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection; of how we share the very life of God in the spirit-filled family of Jesus' friends.

As we open ourselves to the energy of God's Holy Spirit, the more we experience God's joy; naturally we'll love one another; instinctively we'll reach out to people bruised by the cares of the world. And the fruit that we bear: that fruit will last.

Supporting our parishes : *thank you*

Thank you to everyone who has a Standing Order for our parishes, or who donates with a regular cheque. Protocols for handling cash are strict, and if we can avoid your fellow parishioners having to count cash manually and then carry it to the bank, so much the better. In particular, please avoid donating coins if at all possible.

Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer, *please* complete a Gift Aid declaration for the parish. It costs you absolutely nothing. You are giving to your parish anyway; this simply asks the Government to redirect to the Church some of the tax you have paid to the Government. For every £1 you give, the Church can reclaim 25p of tax. Thank you.

Standing Order forms and **Gift Aid declarations** are available at the back of both churches; alternatively, download them for either parish from our website, or e-mail or phone the parish office.

The Castlerigg Lottery

Our diocesan youth centre in Keswick, Castlerigg Manor, is seeking to raise funds through a lottery. £3 per month, winner takes half the pot. To join, visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Colin Swarbrick, Sue Ratelitte (known to Tony Clark), HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Those who are ill or infirm. Phyllis Steel (sister-in-law of Fr G), John Skillen, Yvonne Shaw, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Elaine Stajniack, Austin Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, Jean Andrews, Tony Smith, Roger Bevins, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Marie Swarbrick, Peter Holland, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Violet Eydmann, Lucia Tesseyman, Mary Speight, Peter Nickson, Brenda Lever, Sarah Turner, Elizabeth Wrennall, Joseph Grayston, Cyril Lamoury, Jane Gornall, Ellen O'Brien, Wilfred Swinburne, Ray Wilcock, Tommie Morley, William Gillett, Mary Agnes Mackenzie, William Thompson, Leonard Thomas Carter, Fr Charnley Moah and Winifred Cross.