

Catholic Parishes of Garstang & Scorton

St Mary & St Michael : Bonds Lane : Garstang PR3 1ZB

St Mary & St James : Snowhill Lane : Scorton PR3 1AY

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First Sunday of Advent

29 November 2020

Liturgies this week

Sat		Mass	Diane Pattinson <i>RIP</i>
Sun		Mass	Agnes Faloon <i>lately dead</i> [JG]
Mon.....		ST ANDREW <i>apostle, patron of Scotland</i>	
		Mass	Clarice & Eric Haythorn <i>RIP</i>
Tue		Mass	Austin Kelly <i>anniversary</i>
Wed	G	6.30pm Mass	Maureen Ingleby <i>RIP-birthday</i>
		7.00pm Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu.....		St Francis Xavier <i>priest, missionary</i>	
		Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees	
	S	10.00am Mass	Infirm clergy
Fri	---	Mass	For a successful operation [vc]
Sat	G	10.00am Mass	Anthony Ingleby <i>RIP-birthday</i>

Second Sunday of Advent

Sun	S	8.30am Mass	People of the Parish
	G	10.30am Mass	Maureen Pyke <i>anniversary</i>

Prayerful preparation for Advent

Accompanying the newsletter are some prayer prompts to help our Advent preparation. These are also on our website: [Liturgical Seasons / Advent](#).

Advent Retreat

The Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, is offering a virtual Advent Retreat: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/adventpilgrimage.html>.

Cafod 'Journey to the manger' prayer series

An invitation for students, house mates, parents, teachers, family and friends to take a moment to pause and reflect in the lead up to Christmas. Every Sunday in Advent, 6.00pm, join for a 20 minutes' prayer session and feel reconnected in a relaxed online event.

To register: https://www.bigmarker.com/series/advent/series_summit.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Advent Liturgy of Reconciliation will not be possible this year. Pope Francis urges us to say an Act of Contrition or the *I confess* from the Mass, and promise to confess individually as soon as we are able.

Coming to Mass at Christmas

In order to make best use of the capacity of our churches at Christmas, we need you to book for Mass. A link to the booking form is on the Homepage of our website, and copies are available in the presbytery yard.

Please note that Christmas Eve, 6.00pm, Garstang is fully booked, and we'll be unable to allow people to enter who are not already booked in.

Post your completed form through the presbytery letterbox, or scan it and e-mail it to the parish office. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*.

Safeguarding in the Church – statement from Bishop Paul

On Tuesday 10 November, the Independent Inquiry into Child Abuse (IICSA), published its report into the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Bishop Paul's statement and his heartfelt prayer are on our parish website: see Parish Safeguarding / sub-heading: Child Abuse. In the same location is a piece from Fr Geoffrey with a link to the Bishops' website.

Our Bishop was interviewed by Joe Wilson on BBC Radio Lancashire, Sunday 22 November. Follow this link, and the Bishop is on 1 hour and 20 minutes into the programme: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p08xvmlf>.

Send a Christmas message to the brave

Each day, human rights defenders and environmental activists worldwide are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. Cafod invites you to send a card of solidarity to the brave.

Visit www.cafod.org.uk and support people like Fr Alfred Buju (defending local communities against mining companies in DRC), and Palwasha Hassan (fighting for women's rights in Afghanistan). Click on: campaigns > latest campaigns > peace and human rights > messages to the brave. Deadline: **7 December**.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Waiting's a fact of life and, often enough, shot through with anxiety: we wait for exam marks, hospital results, a phone call; we're anxious about our children's future, the health of an ageing parent or our partner. We wait expectantly and, sometimes, in fear.

The expectancy of Advent's just as mixed. We listen to readings about the end of the world and last judgement, and wonder how that's 'good news'; how is it something to look forward to? The First Sunday of Advent continues the imagery of the last few Sundays. The scripture readings still speak about "the last days," about waiting, but the mood's changing. The spirit of the liturgy is moving into waiting not in dread, but "in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour."

Isaiah and Matthew were speaking to communities who'd grown tired of waiting in hope, who'd begun to give up on God's promise; lose their zeal for the ways of the Lord. Isaiah and Matthew affirmed the ancient prophecies: despite the long haul, God will fulfil the promise. So stay awake and stand ready, says Matthew; wake up, live decently, urged Paul; the nations will gather to worship God, declared the prophet, and war will be no more.

What response does God's word seek from us? We can be so caught up with the busyness of living that we've no time for God's vision, no energy to sense the Advent of our Saviour.

But life is about living fully the present moment; it's the only moment we have. The past is gone; we cannot use the future; and every present moment can be one of waking to God's presence and action: "Now is the favourable time. This is the day of salvation." Not after we've sorted out the garage, written the cards, cleared the desk; but now, while we're sorting the garage, writing the cards, beaver away, and pottering about.

St Paul Sunday Missal 2021

Covid regulations mean it's unlikely we'll be able to have multiple copies of the *St Paul Sunday Missal* available for people to use at will. If you'd like a personal copy of the 2021 edition, cost £6.00 depending on the numbers ordered: e-mail the parish office, phone and leave a message, or post a note through the letter box. Deadline: **30 November**.

Morecambe Bay Foodbank

For obvious reasons we're unable to collect food at church this Advent to send to the foodbank. If you'd like to support this important work financially:

- Bank transfer: Morecambe Bay Foodbank. 01-05-78. 42209552. Ref: SSM&M RC.
- Cheque payable to Morecambe Bay Foodbank. Send to 48 Euston Road, Morecambe LA4 5LE, or post through the presbytery letterbox.

Please pray for ...

New Headteacher. All those who will be involved in the interviews to appoint a new Headteacher for our parish primary school.

Those who have died recently. Joan Walbank, Pat Nickson, Paul Cain (relative of Teresa Cole), Sarah Davis, David Leece, Deacon Bernard Loveland.

Those who are ill or infirm. John Cadden, Margaret Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Joyce Bilsborrow, Alice Towers, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, Janet Howarth, Austin Walmsley, Eileen Cartner, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Simon Crossley, Mary Winstanley, Kevin Horan, Jean Dunne, Louise Williams, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Ann Wicks, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Mgr Paddy O'Dea, Eugenia McCarthy, Sarah Ingleby, Maureen Pyke, Very Revd Canon Joseph Tootall, Jack Noblett, Margaret Stopforth, Nellie Bateson, John Robert Boulter (1st anniversary), William Kelsall, Joseph Smith, Grace Lillian Salles, May Ball, Bridie O'Connor, James Aloysius Horn, William Morrison, Robert Bilsborrow, Mary Bilsborrow, Lucy Walmsley, Richard Noel Bamber and Joan Wilcock (1st anniversary).