

# 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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## The Baptism of the Lord

(First Sunday in Ordinary Time)

10 January 2021

### Liturgies this week

Sat **Mass** Diane Pattinson & Neal Walmsley *RIP*

Sun **Mass** Fr David Elder *RIP*

### Weekdays Year I : Liturgy of the Hours Week I

Mon **Mass** Almond & Sweeney families *RIP*

Tue.....**St Aelred of Rievaulx** *religious*

**Mass** Infirm clergy

Wed.....**St Kentigern (Mungo)** *bishop, missionary*

**Mass** Matthew Pearson *lately dead* [F+BC]

7.00pm **Rosary** *in our homes*

Thu **Mass** Someone who is ill

Fri **Mass** In thanksgiving [A:LC]

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat **Mass** Barbara Tommenay *lately dead* [MW]

Sun **Mass** Intentions of LMS

### Closing our churches

Responding to the appeal by Lancashire's Public Health Officer, I do not believe it safe to open our churches with this current level of risk.

After discussions with our Health & Safety leads in Garstang and in Scorton, I have decided that both churches are closed as of now, and I await clarification from our Bishops in due course.

After all these months, and for the sake of a few more weeks, ...

Keep safe everyone. God bless, *Fr Geoffrey*

### Readers at Mass

Once we're back open for public worship, it will be good to have our Readers exercise their ministry at Mass.

If you'd like to resume your ministry: for *Scorton*, please contact Catherine Pickering; for *Garstang*, please contact Frank Miller.

This is an opportunity to invite anyone else who attends Mass with us to discern whether you might serve the liturgy as a Reader. If so, in the first instance, please have a word with Fr Geoffrey. Thank you.

It's unlikely that our Ministers of Holy Communion will be able to resume their ministry at Mass any time soon.

If you'd like to take a turn serving as a Reader instead, please contact Catherine or Frank.

### Mary's Meals

**Until 31 January 2021**, donations made to Mary's Meals "Double the Love" campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million.

Please consider buying a gift card on their [website](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk). More information on how to support us can be found at [www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove).

### Phishing, not mending nets

The last several months have seen a flurry of dodgy e-mails invading our inboxes: Amazon Prime renewal, BT cancellation, DHL missed delivery, etc.

Whoever the sender purports to be, check the address inside the < ... >.

Forward any suspicious e-mail to our Government's cyber security agency: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Help keep us all safe from the e-bandits.

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## Garstang Parish Draw

Congratulations to Joyce Bilsborrow and Christine Thomson, our Christmas winners. Happy New Year, and thank you all for your support with our Parish draw during 2020. For more information, contact Trish & Kev O'Hanlon.

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## Thank you ...

... from our parish SVP Conference to parishioners for the generous donations which have been received in recent weeks. The money will be used to help local needy people. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

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## Musings from my hermitage

This Sunday we celebrate the final feast of Christmas — the Baptism of the Lord. Over the Christmas season, we have celebrated not only the birth of Christ, but those events which unfolded God's vision for all to see: how Jesus was shown to the world at the visit of the Magi; how John the Baptist recognised Jesus and pointed him out as the Saviour. In the baptism of Jesus, God anointed him for the work he was entrusting to him.

But why did Jesus need to be baptised? He hadn't committed sin; there wasn't a church to join. St Mark doesn't say why. But this is where Mark begins his gospel: no angels, no shepherds, no stable or kings. What was important to Mark was the tearing of the heavens, that the voice of God shows who Jesus is. Mark allows us to overhear the secret voice only Jesus heard: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Jesus was changed in his baptism. Now he began to preach and heal, call people to transform their heart. Mark lets us in on what those around Jesus couldn't see; shows us the significance of all that'll follow: "You are my Son."

Already Mark is guiding us to the heart of the matter: our Lord's baptism, ... his transfiguration, ... crucifixion: Mark describes all three in the same way.

As St Mark's gospel unfolds over the course of this year, the focus will be the person of Jesus. The crisis point will be the challenging question: "Who do you say I am?" The heart of Mark's gospel is Peter's confession of faith.

Jesus has trusted the Church – trusted us – to make him recognised and known, and honoured as Saviour; to continue the work he began at his baptism: transforming hearts and minds in the love of God.

Our baptism marked each of us for life, and God-with-us is still with us in the thick of it all.

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## St Paul Sunday Missal 2021

Covid regulations mean we're unable to have multiple copies of the *St Paul Sunday Missal* available for people to use at will.

If you missed your chance to order a personal copy through the parish, you can still order one for yourself: 0207-828-5582 or <https://stpauls.org.uk/st-paul-sunday-missal-2018.html>. (This is the correct link, despite saying 2018.)

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## Folk for whom we are praying

Everyone, please take a look through the list of names in our newsletter of people who are ill or infirm.

Sometimes names remain on the list of people who are now well recovered, or who were added by someone outwith the parish with whom we no longer have contact.

If you have requested that someone be included, please confirm that you'd still like them to remain on our list, and confirm that they have given their permission. E-mail the parish office, or phone and leave a message.

Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*.

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## Please pray for ...

**Those who have died recently.** Sheila Woof, Fr Jimmy Hook, Mary Winstanley, Barbara Ellen Crone, Alice Towers, Bob Billington, John Cadden.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** Frank Higham, Barry Robinson, Viktoria Nurse, Elaine Stajniack, Jimmy O'Neill, Berney Murphy, Margaret Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, Austin Walmsley, Eileen Cartner, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Simon Crossley, 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, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

**Those whose anniversary we keep.** Mary Dickinson, John Finlay, Revd Patrick Smyth, Christopher John Newman, Peter Winstanley, Jane Greenall, Beryl Bellamy, Marina Poulton, Monica Elder-Woodward, Teresa Fox, James Wilson, Rosemary Austin, Monica Jepson, Winifred Kavanagh, Paul Haslehurst, John Tully, Leonard Sinar, Jack Rawlinson, Frederick W. Garvey, Greg Eastham, Elizabeth Ellen Pedder and Renee Williams.