

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

ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com : www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

Ss Peter & Paul

(Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

28 June 2020

Mass intentions this week

Sunday People of our Parishes

Sundays Year A : Weekdays Year 2 : Liturgy of the Hours Week I

Monday Fr David Elder *RIP – ordination anniversary*

Tuesday Infirm clergy

Wednesday Mary & John Turner *lately dead* [F+BC]

Thursday Cathie Cadden *anniversary* [LB]

Friday..... **ST THOMAS** *apostle*

Hugh & André Ferguson *RIP* [LB]

Saturday Charles & Evelyn Langley *anniversary* [VB]

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday People of our Parishes

Opening our churches ...

At the time of writing, Thursday evening, I've just received a letter from our Bishop Paul, the joint statement by the Archbishops of England, and the liturgical guidelines for celebrating Mass, drawn up following the Government's latest announcements about places of worship.

The Archbishops' statement and our Bishop's letter are on our website, and copies are included with the printed newsletters.

Over the coming week, the Chair of the Parish Council at Scorton and the Property and Health & Safety Leads in Garstang and I will carefully work through the instructions and evaluate the implications for our two churches.

The strict criteria already in place for opening our churches for individual private prayer remain in place, and any public celebration of Mass can take place only by observing these. It will require a lot of work, thought, effort and imagination and, not least, co-operation and understanding.

In the meantime, please continue to let me know if you'd like me to light a votive lamp for a particular intention and if you'd like a socially-distanced pastoral chat or Confession, I'm sure we can arrange it.

Please pray for discernment and right judgement in all of this: by our Government, our Bishops' Conference, our own Bishop Paul and the diocesan offices, ... and by me. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*

Prayerful reflection for Ss Peter & Paul

Accompanying this newsletter is a reflection for the feast of Ss Peter & Paul. This is also available on our parish: Liturgical Seasons / Ordinary Time.

Praying the Rosary with other parishioners

You are invited to pray the Rosary in your home, **Wednesdays**, 7.00pm, with your fellow parishioners. If you'd like to pray with others on Zoom, please contact Liz Billington stubbinsfarm@outlook.com; 07918-662711.

Covenant Books – open again

As well as selling Catholic books and Bibles, *Covenant Books* also stock a wide variety of gifts and items suitable for Baptism, Holy Communion & Confirmation. The shop is now open again at Holy Family parish, 34 Whitby Avenue, Ingol PR2 3YP; 01772-735993. Thursday & Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm; Saturday, 10.00am - noon, and after Sunday Mass when this resumes.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

We know from the Vatican archives that 29 June's been associated with Peter and Paul since the year 258. Earlier still, it was associated with the founder of Rome, a certain Romulus.

The choice of this date on which to celebrate the apostles Peter and Paul looks like it was deliberate: Romulus founded the city of Rome; Peter and Paul founded the church in Rome.

St Paul's letter to the Galatians tells us that Peter and Paul were recognised as the heads of the Jewish and Gentile missions respectively. But we know there were Jewish Christians in the city before either of the apostles arrived. So Peter and Paul, if not literally the founders of the church in Rome, were certainly regarded as its leaders from earliest times.

And the latest archaeological work underneath St Peter's basilica indicates very strongly the authenticity of the original tomb. I was able to make a tour of the excavations a couple of years ago, and it was wonderful: fascinating, immensely interesting, but also – unexpectedly – a spiritual and prayerful experience. (Being saluted by a Swiss Guard was an added bonus.)

But how does all this help us in our faith in these uncertain days?

We celebrate two great saints, apostles: one a renowned leader, the other a tireless and charismatic preacher. But they were two people, with different gifts and skills. Peter was a fisherman; Paul, a tent-maker. They experienced life and struggled with faith; so do we. They didn't know what the future held, either for themselves personally or for their communities of believers; neither do we, and especially after these months of Covid-lockdown.

God chooses all sorts of folk, points them towards the most daunting-looking of tasks, and enables them in ways beyond our imagining, with gifts God entrusts to our care, talents of which we are called to be faithful stewards.

What Jesus asks of us is what he asked of Peter and Paul in their own day: to pray, to challenge that which is wrong, and to care.

The scriptures and the prayers for this feast show us in St Peter and St Paul deeply personal faith, tireless preaching and living of the gospel, a desire always to be close to Christ.

That's the rock on which we are founded; the vision we are called to live in the circumstances in which we find ourselves; the kind of parish communities we're asked to nurture.

St Vincent de Paul – *update*

Over the past three months of lockdown the SVP have been continuing to provide help to those in need. Support has ranged from keeping in touch to providing furniture. Money has also been used to assist the food banks at Ingol and Caritas on a regular basis. Any local needs have been responded to as and when requested.

Special thanks to parishioners who have made this work possible. Whilst SVP funds are limited because there have been no regular collections after Mass, we still have money available.

If you would like to make a financial donation please pop it through the presbytery letterbox.

If you need practical help or would just like a chat, or if you know of someone who might (please speak to them first), contact the SVP on their dedicated number: 07535-736975.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Kathleen Eyre (Scorton), Revd Dr Peter Campbell (retired deacon of the diocese), the mother-in-law of one of our parishioners, John Parkinson (Moor Farm).

Those who are ill or infirm. Jean Andrews, Roger Bevins, Vin Cahill, Paul Cain, Eileen Cartner, John Cookson, Martina Copple, Bob Cross, Simon Crossley, Dorothy Evans, Louise Gornall, Michael Hendry, Pat Hickey, Peter Holland, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe, Kevin Horan, Janet Howarth, Keith Jones, Mavis Lee, Nigel Lord, Graham Markham (Australia), Seamus Martin, Ian Moran, Pat Nickson, Caroline Nurse, Matthew Pearson, Margaret Pendleton, Sarah Preston, Francisca Rainford, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Wendy Seed, Revd Andrew Shaw, a Sick Parishioner, Teresa Smith, Tony Smith, Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Austin Walmsley, Andrew Whipp, Ann Wicks, Louise Williams, Mary Winstanley, Ewan, Kathryn, Lucy & family.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Sister Agnes Weeks, Clare Dias, Anne Blacklock, Veronica Slater, Isobel Swarbrick, John Smith, Augustine Kavanagh, Irene Collinson, Michael Bamber, Freda Nickson, Joseph Norcross, Mary Donovan, Teresa Powell, Angela Murphy, Charles Langley, Winifred Winstanley and Bill Jennings.