

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

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 July 2020

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

Liturgies this week

Sun		Mass	People of our Parishes
Mon	S 10.00am	Mass	Almond & Sweeney families <i>RIP</i>
Tue		Mass	In thanksgiving [J]
Wed		Mass	Someone who is ill [VB]
Thu	S 10.00am	Mass	Terry & Sheila Murphy <i>RIP-wedding anniv.</i> [HF]
Fri		Mass	Janet Carmel <i>lately dead</i> [AP]
Sat.....		ST BENEDICT	<i>abbot, religious founder, principal patron of Europe</i>
		Mass	Revd John Horn <i>RIP-ordination anniversary</i>

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for Seafarers

Sun S 8.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

Our Lady's grotto

It's been suggested that we put a bench by Our Lady's grotto in the grounds opposite SSMM school. Any donations towards this would be welcome.

An update on our on-line cemetery records

For over a year we have been documenting our cemetery plots with the intention of making their details available on our website.

All burial plots have now been documented and are viewable by clicking the Cemetery menu option from our Home page. This will display an aerial view of our church and cemetery from where any one of seven documents may be clicked to open up the details of the associated burial plots.

There are three documents that detail the plots of the OLD cemetery (containing Fr Hickey's Monument), a further three detailing the plots in the NEW cemetery, and one document that details the plots of the Infant graves.

Please read the narrative on the aerial view page, to understand how each plot is documented. An index to all the burial plots is also available from this page. These documents will be maintained to reflect the burials that take place. Please notify the parish office of any anomalies you find.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Canon Frank Cookson (retired priest of the diocese), Kathleen Eyre (Scorton), Revd Dr Peter Campbell (retired deacon of the diocese).

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. Bill Jennings, Evelyn Langley, Gerard Wearden, May Dilworth, Thomas Edgar Darwen, Ruari Lambert-Heysham, Henry Wearden, Agnes Bamber, Joseph Bugeja and Brian Winstanley.

Opening our churches for public Mass

Now the fun begins! Please bear with me.

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.

Over the past ten days, the Chair of the Parish Council at Scorton and the Property and Health & Safety Leads in Garstang and I have been working through the instructions and assessing the implications for our churches.

I believe that the key is to proceed gently, evaluating and tweaking as we go. Note first that our obligation to attend Mass on Sunday *remains suspended*.

If you wish to come to Mass, you are welcome to do so whenever it is celebrated publicly. I hope this will spread our parishioners across the week, rather than concentrate you all on Sunday.

We are required to have stewards in place every time church is open.

If we open church for individual private prayer 30 minutes either side of the scheduled time of Mass, this will reduce our need for stewards.

If you are able to volunteer as a steward, for Garstang contact Frank Miller; for Scorton contact Kevin Morley. Thank you.

You'll see from the front page of our newsletter that everything is in place for us to be able to celebrate public Mass at Scorton from Monday 6 July.

Please note the adjusted times on weekdays: this is so that we can clearly avoid the drop-off / pick-up times at the schools.

At Garstang, the size and layout of the church requires more arrangements to be put in place to comply with the Government regulations.

We're aiming to celebrate our first Sunday Mass at Garstang on the feast of our martyr, St John Plessington, 19 July. It may well be possible to celebrate public Mass on weekdays at Garstang before then. Watch this space.

In both churches, we are designating seating at the 2m distancing.

This allows people from one household or the same social bubble to sit next to each other without encroaching on the minimum space required between them and the person next nearest them.

At Garstang, the individual cushioned chairs will not be in use.

Please be aware that our toilets remain out of use.

Do 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, we can certainly arrange it.

Please continue to pray for discernment and right judgement, and for the health and well-being of us all. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Hi. Me again.

Talk about distractions: every day at Mass this week I've found myself gazing out across church and subconsciously working on various permutations for socially-distanced seating, how best to minister Holy Communion, and so on.

Anyway, this Sunday's Gospel begins the section of St Matthew devoted to our Lord's parables about the mystery of the kingdom of God.

Matthew's gospel has this vision of the Lord's abiding presence in his Church: Emmanuel, God-still-with-us. Matthew sees the Lord at work in his Church, and we the Church at work in the world, showing Christ to others, drawing people into the love of God.

We are chosen, you and I; called to be Christ-in-the-world; Christ in this part of the world; Christ in our homes, on our streets, and in our shops. Already in this gospel, Jesus has said that those who speak for him will be known "by their fruits".

God's grace is at work even – perhaps especially – in the difficulties, suffering, and set-backs of life, in times like now.

In this Sunday's passage, notice that Jesus isn't offering to share our yoke, bear our burden. It's the other way around. Suffering and the consequences of sin is the burden Jesus carries, and invites us to help him. Illness, frailty, and the troubles of life is the yoke across Jesus' shoulders, and he's asking us to help him.

The more we walk in step with Jesus, the easier will be our journey through life; the more we learn from Jesus how best to wear his yoke, the lighter it will feel.

Jesus humbled himself to bring the wisdom of God to human kind. For the Church — each of us — to follow the pattern set by our divine Master, we will witness to the Gospel not by being bossy and exclusive, but by our humble, lived example.