

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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for Seafarers

12 July 2020

Sundays Year A : Weekdays Year 2 : Liturgy of the Hours Week 3

Liturgies this week

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
Mon	S	10.00am	Mass	Brian Winstanley <i>1st anniversary</i>
Tue			Mass	Intentions of J+FA
Wed				St Bonaventure <i>bishop, religious, doctor of the Church</i>
	G	6.30pm	Mass	Intentions of Mavis & Peter Lee [EH]
		7.00pm	Rosary	
Thu	S	10.00am	Mass	Freda Smith <i>lately dead</i> [MCG]
Fri			Mass	Keith May <i>lately dead</i> [ES]
Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Neal Walmsley <i>RIP</i>

St John Plessington & the Martyrs of Lancashire

(Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	John Francis Birch <i>lately dead</i>
Sun	G	10.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes

Celebrating Mass together again

I'm delighted to report that we are now able to resume celebrating public Mass in both our churches: a Sunday Mass and two weekday Masses in each.

The first Sunday Mass at Garstang will be on 19 July, to celebrate the feast of St John Plessington and the martyrs of Lancashire.

I believe that the key is to proceed gently, evaluating and tweaking as we go, including in response to changing directives from the Government.

It will be good to see you again, when you feel ready; you will know.

Please bear in mind 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 you are able to volunteer as a steward, for Garstang contact Frank Miller; for Scorton contact Kevin Morley.

Church will be open for individual private prayer 30 minutes either side of the scheduled time of Mass, to reduce our need for stewards.

Please be aware that our toilets remain out of use; also, at Garstang, the individual cushioned chairs will not be in use.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to prepare the buildings, and to those who have offered to serve as stewards. I am very grateful.

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

Canon Frank Cookson RIP

Parishioners are welcome to attend Canon Frank's Burial Liturgy, which will be held in Cloughton cemetery, Friday 17 July, c. 12.15pm. This will be preceded by his Funeral Mass in the church which, because of current Government restrictions, the general public is unable to attend.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

At the simplest level, parables are good stories. But there's often a twist in the tail, a hidden depth. Just when we're comfortable with a familiar image, we're knocked sideways by a sudden realisation.

In Matthew's gospel for this Sunday, the shorter version of the parable of the sower might be closer to the parable as told by Jesus.

It's a simple tale; a straightforward message: in spite the loss of some seed, there'll be a tremendous harvest. Indeed, there'll be an outrageous harvest.

The usual crop-yield was apparently 7.5 %; 10% would have been very good. So 100% is literally fantastic. Jesus promises miraculous success despite apparent failure. How encouraging is that for us to hear!

In his own ministry, Jesus faced much frustration: hostile authorities; followers who drifted away; a friend who'd betray him. Yet Jesus is confident that his ministry will triumph. As rain and snow make fertile the earth, so the word from God's mouth breathes life; and as seed that is sown in the ground, so the life of Christ will yield abundant harvest.

Our Lord's simple message still holds good for us.

In our personal life, we meet frustration and failure: our faith can seem dry, relationships fragile, our energy sapped.

In Christ's body, the Church, there can be much to frustrate us: the inability or unwillingness to tackle the issue of providing sufficient priests, to name but one. (I have a vested interest.)

On the world stage, we see oppression and injustice in so many lands.

At home: worries about jobs, finance, provision for our old-age.

The parable of the sower is no bland reassurance. Our Lord's ministry succeeded, not because he worried, or worked hard, but because he remained true to what he knew God was asking of him. Jesus followed God's way, proclaimed God's vision, lived God's values.

That's the path Jesus maps out for us. It's daunting, and it will cost us. But it is the only sure way. It was the way followed by our martyr St John Plessington, whom we commemorate next Sunday.

Christ is still at work, and you and I are the ones he's called to sow the seed and nourish the soil, by our faithful, persistent, and humble living 'out there in the world' of what we proclaim and celebrate 'in church'.

Data protection : Garstang – can you help?

Our parish would benefit from having a volunteer who would become the Parish Lead for ensuring all data stored or transmitted within the Parish conforms to Government legislation and Diocesan procedures. In the first instance, if you have an interest in this area, please make yourself known to Fr Geoffrey for preliminary discussion. No obligation, honestly.

Red Mission boxes

At this time of the pandemic the missions need our help more than ever.

It is not possible to empty mission boxes but if you would like to donate your money you can, by either sending a cheque made payable to *Missio – Mill Hill*, and posting to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU, by text to REDBOX 5 to give £5 or REDBOX 10 to give £10, by phone on 020 7821 9755 or by bank transfer Account name *Missio*, Sort Code 16-00-16, Account Number 10824230, Ref. RB + your postcode. Thank you.

Please pray for ...

Our school: especially the Y6 leavers; the staff, after a most challenging few months; our Governors for all their support.

Those who have died recently. Pat Hickey, Canon Frank Cookson (retired priest 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, 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. Brian Winstanley, Pat Salles, Robert Spenser, Frederick Lyford, Harry Nickson, Agnes Evans, Agnes Bullen, Thomas Wells, George and Mary Pyke, Edwin Seed, Mary Thompson, Christina Bateson, Mary Wrennall, Ann Swift, Patricia Maguire, Agnes Imelda Taylor, Margaret Mary Thompson, Annie Morris, Mary Walmsley, Susan Conway, Phyllis Hull, William Dilworth, John Fleming and Winifrid Keefe.