

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

St John Plessington & the Martyrs of Lancashire

(Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

19 July 2020

Liturgies this week

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	John Francis Birch <i>lately dead</i>
	G	10.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
Mon	S	10.00am	Mass	Brenda Richardson <i>lately dead</i> [AG]
Tue				
Wed				ST MARY MAGDALENE <i>disciple of the Lord</i>
	G	6.30pm	Mass	Diane Pattinson <i>RIP</i>
		7.00pm	Rosary	
Thu				ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN <i>married woman, religious founder, a patron of Europe</i>
	S	10.00am	Mass	The Catterall family <i>RIP</i>
Fri				St John Boste, Bl. Christopher Robinson, & companions <i>martyrs of Cumbria</i>
			Mass	Infirm clergy
Sat				ST JAMES <i>apostle</i>
	G	10.00am	Mass	Kathleen & Stuart Cunningham <i>50th W.A</i> [vB]

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
Sun	G	10.30am	Mass	John Fleming <i>RIP-birthday</i> [TC]

Celebrating Mass together again

It's great that we've now resumed celebrating public Mass in both our churches: a Sunday Mass and two weekday Masses in each.

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 and wherever it is celebrated publicly. I hope this will spread our parishioners across the week, rather than concentrate you all on Sunday.

Church will be open for individual private prayer 30 minutes either side of the scheduled time of Mass.

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*

Cafod appeal

Cafod has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict.

You can donate at www.cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family.

Or use Cafod's *Summer of Hope* fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: www.cafod.org.uk/summerofhope.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Although the parables remain the same, we do not.

The circumstances of our life change: our concerns now may be different from what they were; the issues we face today may not be what we expected; and haven't Covid-19, the lockdown, and the continuing, fluctuating restrictions thrown many things up in the air for all of us?

But old stories can speak to us afresh; our Lord's message can touch us anew.

Last Sunday we heard of the sower, a parable of confident hope. The same message of hope comes across in this Sunday's gospel passage, in the short parables about the tiny mustard seed and the little blob of yeast.

God's transformation of creation is under-way. We may struggle to notice it, but the result is certain: Jesus has told us so.

In St Matthew's gospel, as God's kingdom grew around Jesus, some people became uncomfortable, especially those who thought their place was guaranteed. To these people, Jesus addressed the parable of the wheat and the weeds. The religious leaders criticised Jesus for associating with those they regarded as outcasts: Jesus sat at table with prostitutes, spent time with those who collected taxes for the army of occupation. (Surely these people couldn't be part of God's kingdom?)

Jesus' parable tells us that separating bad from good is God's business, no one else's. God knows who's on the kingdom's guest list, no one else. God will do the sorting, and at the time God chooses.

God wants no one excluded by mistake, no one shut out by people who do not see as God sees. What we learn from this Sunday's first reading is that God allows time and space for us to recognise our weakness, and to realise that the path to wholeness is the path to God.

If we know this — even if only partly — then thanks be to God. And let's express our gratitude by being open and welcoming to others; and by caring not least for the social outcasts of our own day.

Jesus has chosen us to draw in the people on the margins, not close the door in their face. Who do we perhaps regard as weeds, spoiling the good crop? An individual? a type of person? a family? a group?

Let's leave judgement to God and, instead, focus on living the precepts of the gospel ourselves: being generous to the hungry; an arm to lean on; a shoulder to cry on; an ear for the person to whom no one listens.

Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes ... virtually

The programme for our diocesan pilgrimage, 24 July - 1 August, is being replicated on-line this year, with Mass and devotions being live-streamed from around the diocese.

The details of the programme are on our parish website, and you can visit: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk

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.

Rita Moreland RIP

The Burial Liturgy for our parishioner Rita Moreland will take place in the cemetery at SSMM, Thursday 30 July, noon. May she rest in peace. Amen.

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. Rita Moreland, 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. John Fleming, Winifrid Keefe, Margaret Heyes, Marion Waddingham, Edna Reid, John Murphy, Dr Martin Thomson, George Grayston and Bill Williams.