

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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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day of Prayer for Peace

17 January 2021

Liturgies this week

| | | |
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| Sat | Mass | Barbara Tommenay <i>lately dead</i> [MW] |
| Sun | Mass | Intentions of LMS |
| Mon..... | Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins | |
| | Mass | Brenda Richardson <i>RIP</i> [BP] |
| Tue | Mass | Fr Leo Lynch <i>RIP</i> |
| Wed | Mass | Eleanor & Thomas Bolton <i>RIP</i> |
| | 7.00pm | Rosary <i>in our homes</i> |
| Thu..... | St Agnes virgin, martyr | |
| | Mass | Bill Campbell <i>RIP</i> |
| Fri | G 11.00am | Burial Liturgy : Frank Higham |
| | Mass | Des Traynor <i>RIP</i> |
| Sat | Mass | May & Tommy Boyle <i>anniversaries</i> [AR] |

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun **Mass** Janet Pearson *lately dead*

Closing our churches

Lancashire's Public Health Officer recently appealed that, because of the current risk level of Covid transmission among the community, places of worship do not remain open. I believe that we have a civic responsibility to respond positively to the Health Officer's appeal.

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

Pray for everyone involved in helping to roll-out the vaccine, so that we'll be able to open again for public worship in safety and with confidence. In the meantime, let's all of us play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe.

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.

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.

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*.

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 them is at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove.

Musings from my hermitage

In this Sunday's passage from John's Gospel, to the two men who began to follow him, Jesus asked: "What do you want? What are you looking for?"

Did they know, do you think, these two disciples of John? Do we? How would you and I answer today our Lord's simple question, "What do you want?"

The two disciples replied, "Rabbi, Teacher, where do you live?" It might have been a very practical reply. It was getting late in the day. The two disciples needed to rest, and Jesus offered it to them: "Come and see [where I live]."

Already, right from the start of their encounter, Jesus is inviting them to share his life; offering them intimacy, deep connection. These disciples will find rest, staying over with Jesus. They will find God's rest and God's energy.

We don't know what went on, simply that they spent the rest of the day with Jesus. Yet the results of being with Jesus are immediate: these new followers went out and brought along others. They bore witness to what they'd experienced. Andrew was already convinced that they'd found God's anointed One, the Messiah, the true servant and messenger of God. It was a find he could not keep to himself. Andrew took along his brother, Simon.

Again, we see this immediacy in our Lord's response to people: Jesus "looked hard at" Simon, discerned the essence of his soul, and gave him his real name, Cephas, Rock.

Like Andrew and the other disciple, Simon probably came without knowing what he wanted, or who he thought Jesus might be. But Simon was open to hearing the Lord's voice; the voice called him, and gave him his new name.

Isn't this what we need to discover from God: our true name, our real identity, the person whom God has created us to be?

Jesus invites us to meet him, to be with him. Our encounter with Jesus will change us, and challenge us, reveal to us a name and an identity which we might not have chosen for ourselves. Only in our relationship with Jesus will we discover what it is that we want, what it is that we're really looking for.

Specs savers?

A pair of brown tortoise-shell glasses have been found outside on the path near to the presbytery front door at St Mary & St James. They would have most likely been lost on Sunday 3 January.

To reclaim them, please contact Catherine Pickering.

On-line resource from the Dominicans in Ireland

<https://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/2021/01/new-year-new-lockdown-new-opportunities-lumen-dominican-centre-online-supports-fill-your-minds/>

Bishop of Monze RIP

Bishop Moses Hamongole of Monze diocese, Zambia, aged 54, died on 13 January, two weeks after testing positive for Covid 19. May he rest in peace.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2021-01/church-in-zambia-mourns-bishop-moses-hamungole.html>

Our diocese has enjoyed a close relationship with Monze since the 1960s, and Bishop Moses attended Bishop Paul's episcopal ordination here.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Frank Higham, Sheila Woof, Fr Jimmy Hook.

Those who are ill or infirm. James Costain jr, 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, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Cople, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Renee Williams, David Trevor Orr, Tom Thompson, Thomas Henry (Harry) Horn, Eileen Darby, Ann Swarbrick, John Joseph Heyes, Elizabeth McGolderick, Thomas F McNicholas, Jim Bamber, Ben Kelsall (1st anniversary) and Belle Metcalfe.