

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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Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

6 September 2020

Liturgies this week

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

Sun **G** 10.30am **Mass** Carmel Hayden *RIP* [JD]

Mon **S** 10.00am **Mass** Infirm clergy

Tue.....**THE BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

Wed **G** 6.30pm **Mass** Fr David Elder *1st anniversary* [LB]

7.00pm **Rosary** *in our homes*

Thu **S** 10.00am **Mass** Marie Lynch *lately dead* [LY]

Fri **G** 10.30am **Burial Liturgy : Matthew Pearson**

Mass Matthew Pearson *lately dead* [F+AM]

Sat **G** 10.00am **Mass** Brian Dickinson *1st anniversary* [LB]

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun **S** 8.30am **Mass** Bob & Agnes Thompson *RIP*

Sun **G** 10.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

Receiving Holy Communion at Mass

If you would like to return to Mass but are unable to walk to the altar to receive Holy Communion, when you arrive at church please speak to the stewards and they will make arrangements with you.

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation runs each year from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of St Francis of Assisi).

This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationship with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer.

We give thanks for all that God has made, repent the damage we have caused, and commit to helping to protect the earth, our common home.

This year we have been made acutely aware of how interconnected we all are, and we come together in hope that we can rebuild and heal our world.

A beautiful presentation of a Novena to St Francis can be found on CAFOD's website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Season-of-Creation>

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.

London Marathon comes to Garstang

On Sunday 4 October, Frank Miller will be running (or walking) 26 miles out and about locally to raise funds for *Mary's Meals*, a charity providing school meals for children in Africa. To support Frank:

- Go online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FrankMiller>;
- Leave donations in an envelope in the labelled basket at the back of either church, or post through the presbytery letter box;

If you wish to add Gift Aid, please include your name and full address with postcode. "Many thanks for your support. I suspect from all the aches and pains this may well be my last marathon." *Frank Miller*.

Saints, scholars, and spiritual masters

The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst is offering a series of online talks over the next few months. Exploring some of the great figures of Western spirituality with well-known experts, the series is free to attend online. Thursdays, 7.30pm, until 10 December.

Simply register to receive a link, either online at <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/> or by email: events@christianheritagecentre.com.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Forgiveness: a brilliant idea. Not always easy in practice, whether that's to forgive someone else, or to accept forgiveness oneself.

The dramatic parable of the unforgiving servant rounds off St Matthew's portrait of what it means to live as members of the Church.

The basis of all relationships within the Christian community is forgiveness.

All of us live under the forgiveness of God. Christ died and rose again, won forgiveness of sin, and is Lord of all the living and the dead. We are baptised for the remission of sins; in the celebration of the eucharist our sins are forgiven; in the sacrament of reconciliation, and the sacrament of anointing.

This is the blessed context in which we live, rich with the mercy of God. If God places no limits, we'd be fools to do so: if I set limits on forgiving others, I'll have limits placed on my forgiveness by God. It's as simple — and as stark — as that.

Is it always possible to forgive, to show mercy? I can't imagine how I'd feel if my child were run down by a drunk driver, or interfered with, or if I were maimed by a terrorist. Nor is it always easy to accept forgiveness, to let go of our guilt and live.

If that's where we find ourselves today — struggling to forgive, or finding it hard to accept forgiveness and live — then from that place let's pray to our loving and merciful God. Give thanks for God's mercy; and pray for the grace of a true spirit of forgiveness.

At the very least, it means disciplining ourselves to think the best of one another, resisting the temptation to presume the worst. That's the bedrock of the communion of Christ's disciples, and the measure of our desire to become the people God has in mind.

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. If you have an interest in this area, or are willing to learn about it, please make yourself known to Fr Geoffrey.

Stewarding at Garstang – *can you help?*

If you are coming to Mass at Ss Mary & Michael's please consider volunteering to help with the stewarding, an essential requirement for us to be able to open the church.

Currently we have eight stewards who are on a rota covering all three masses each week. Because we aim to have three stewards at each Mass, that is a lot of commitment for each of them.

If you are able to take a turn, please contact Frank Miller. Thank you.

Please pray for ...

Our parish school. Teachers, staff, pupils, parents, and governors, at the beginning of their new year.

Those who have died recently. Pdraig O'Donnell (cousin of Pat Costain), Paul Joseph Noblet, Gerald Derbyshire, Mavis Lee.

Those who are ill or infirm. Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Joyce Bilsborrow, Alice Towers, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, Janet Howarth, Austin Walmsley, Eileen Cartner, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Simon Crossley, Mary Winstanley, Kevin Horan, Paul Cain, Jean Dunne, Louise Williams, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Pat Nickson, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Kathryn, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Cople, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Ewan, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Ann Wicks, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Matthew Maguire, Agnes James, Malcom Mayo, Richard Pawlowski, Michael Sheridan, Nora Jacques, Dorothy Towers, Moira Adamson, Benedict Joseph Johnson, Robert Horn, Harvey Smith, Helen Mary Brennan, Eve Porteous and Julie Beatty.