

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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Third Sunday of Advent

15 December 2024

Sat 14	G	6.00pm	Mass	People of our parishes
Sun 15	S	8.30am	Mass	Fr Alf Parker <i>lately dead</i> [T+S]
	G	10.30am	Mass	Alice <i>anniversary</i> & John Towers <i>RIP</i>
Mon 16	S	10.00am	Mass	Infirm clergy
Tue 17	--			
Wed 18	G	6.30pm	Mass	Molly & George Singleton <i>RIP</i>
		7.00pm	Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>
Thu 19	S	10.00am	Mass	Peter McGuigan <i>lately dead</i>
Fri 20	G	10.00am	Mass	Patrick Deehan <i>lately dead</i> [KD]
	G	10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sat 21	G	6.00pm	Mass	David Carr <i>3rd anniversary</i>
Sun 22	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Bob Cross <i>3rd anniversary</i>

This weekend : SVP collection

There will be a retiring collection this weekend, **14-15 December**, in both our churches to support the work of our parishes' St Vincent de Paul society.

Calling all Readers : new Lectionary

Those of you who are reading over the coming weeks might like to photograph the relevant pages from the *Lectionary*, to assist your preparation. Alternatively, there are a couple of copies of the Sunday Missal 2025 in the sacristies for Readers to borrow. But the layout of the Sunday Missal is not the same as the layout of the Lectionary.

Additional Readers? This is an opportunity to invite anyone who attends Mass with us to discern whether you might serve the liturgy as a Reader. If you'd like to, please let me know. I'll gladly offer some preparation; you won't be left to sink or swim. Many thanks, *Fr Geoffrey*.

Advent reflection

Our Bishops' Conference website has a reflection for each of the Sundays of Advent: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-gift-of-your-presence-peace/>

Advent Appeal : CAFOD

Your support will help CAFOD continue providing urgent support to families fleeing conflict in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and across the world. Please visit www.cafod.org.uk. There is also a QR code on the poster in the church porch.

Dates for your diary

Concert by Lancaster Singers and children from our school, **Tuesday 17 December, 7.00pm**, SSMM. (NB, *not* 7.30pm as advertised previously.) Tickets, £12, including refreshments; children free. See the poster.

Christmas Masses: As last year: **Tuesday 24 December**, 6.00pm, Garstang; **Wednesday 25 December**, 8.30am, Scorton; 10.30am, Garstang.

Sticky toffee pudding, anyone?

Thomas Hogarth is making sticky toffee puddings in December to raise money for a local charity, Thumbs up for Charlie. He will be taking orders for pickup or local delivery on **Saturday 21 December**.

A cake serves 4-6 and costs £4.50. There are posters at the back of the church with further details. To make an order please contact Lee, 07415-308186. Gluten free available on request. *Thank you for your support.*

Christmas Prayer Tree

This Christmas season, we invite all parishioners, visitors, and friends of our church to join us in creating a special *Christmas Prayer Tree* at Garstang.

At the back of the church, you will find a variety of prayer tags and pens. We encourage you to take a tag and write a prayer or message for someone close to your heart: a loved one who is unwell, a cherished soul who is at rest, or simply to offer a prayer of hope and peace this Christmas.

Once completed, place your prayer tag on the Christmas tree, at the front of the church. Together, let us fill the tree with prayers and blessings, offering comfort and unity during this holy season.

Thank you for your participation and prayers. May this tree be a reminder of the light and love of Christ, shared among us all.

Jude and The Houseman Family XXX

6.00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Once again, we are operating an allocated seating plan for this Mass. If you wish to attend, please complete the Seat Request form or email directly ssmm.christmas.mass@gmail.com.

Please supply the following information: Your name; number of seats required; number of those U12; any special requests/considerations (e.g. mobility issues, disabled parking space); contact phone number (mobile preferred).

Please note that we will only be using the main body of the church: current fire regulations mean we cannot use the balcony or have parishioners standing at the back of church.

Seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis, and every effort will be made to accommodate everyone who wants to attend. There are no restrictions on the number in a bench and all rows will be filled to their safe capacity. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Red Mission Boxes

Please bring boxes to be emptied to church this weekend. Thank you.

Flower arranging for Christmas at Garstang

This will take place on **Monday 23 December**, 9.30am. Everyone welcome. Liz Billington. *Thank you.*

Monthly parish collections : November

Collections for November: **Garstang**, £1,438.55, plus £2,122.00 Standing Orders; **Scorton**, £128.50, plus £677.67 Standing Orders. *Thank you.*

Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service

LDHAS is preparing for their Christmas shelter. They'll provide their clients with meals and a place to shelter during Christmas week in a congenial atmosphere.

During the financial year ending March 2024, LDHAS had a footfall of 2836 clients, provided 1808 breakfasts and 1622 lunches, and supported 21 homeless people into accommodation. Eleven agencies worked from their building. If you'd like to support this important work:

- Bank transfer: Account name: LDHAS; 40-52-40; 00031967; Ref. "Shelter2024".
- Cheque payable to LDHAS. Post to: LDHAS-Finance, Edward Street, Lancaster LA1 1QH.

Please Gift Aid your donation, if you are able to do so. Thank you.

For more information, visit www.ldhas.org.uk.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Joe Rooney, Kenneth Walsh (father of Shiron Renaghan), Fr Bob Horn, David Stubbs.

Those who are ill or infirm. Deacon Jim Maguire, Liz Boden, Deacon Michael Dolan, Bob Tomlinson, Fr Tony Walsh, Steve Masterman, Rita Marley, Bob Cookson, Pat Stockdale, Jim Costain, Fr Michael Murphy, Pat McKenna, Bert Lowe, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Philippa Haynes, Yvonne Shaw, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Peter Holland, Martina Cople, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Dennis Regan, Arthur J Nickson, Charles Taylor, Joe Browne, Lucy Cahill, Barbara Ellen Crone, Gregory Place, Sally Foley, Joan Norcross, Josephine Black, Helena Holland, Rev Patrick Flynn, Ann Nugent, Jack Singleton, Ada Rawlinson, Annie Cusack, Phyllis Steel, David Thomas Carr, Jim Winstanley.