

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

Christ the King

Last Sunday in Ordinary Time : National Youth Sunday

22 November 2020

Liturgies this week

Sat **Mass** Mavis Lee *lately dead* [EH]

Sun **Mass** Peter Cole *anniversary*

Mon **Mass** Brian Winstanley *RIP-birthday*

Tue..... **Ss Andrew Dung-Lac priest, martyr,
& his companions martyrs of Vietnam**

Mass Brian Hargreaves *5th anniversary*

Wed **Mass** Fr David Elder *RIP*

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

Thu **Mass** Price-Jones, Hull, Ackers families *RIP*

Fri **Mass** Margaret & Frank Doran *RIP*

Sat **Mass** Diane Pattinson *RIP*

First Sunday of Advent

Sun **Mass** Agnes Faloon *lately dead* [JG]

Supporting our diocesan youth ministry

This year the collection for National Youth Sunday is going to be taken online. The proceeds will go to support Castlerigg Manor and the Youth Service, which have suffered a great deal this year with Covid and the lockdowns.

If you can spare any money for this important cause, please head to castleriggmanor.co.uk/nys; alternatively you can send donations to Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AR. *Thank you.*

Praying the Rosary with other parishioners

Especially while our churches are closed, you might like 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.

Advent Retreat

The Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, is offering a virtual Advent Retreat: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/adventpilgrimage.html>.

Also on offer is a Zoom study day on the Nativity story, **28 November**. For this and other on-line resources: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/>.

Coming to Mass at Christmas

In order to make best use of the capacity of our churches at Christmas, we need you to book for Mass. A link to the booking form is on the Homepage of our website, and copies are available in the presbytery yard.

Please note that Christmas Eve, 6.00pm, Garstang is fully booked, and we'll be unable to allow people to enter who are not already booked in.

Post your completed form through the presbytery letterbox, or scan it and e-mail it to the parish office. Thank you, *Fr Geoffrey*.

Send a Christmas message to the brave

Each day, human rights defenders and environmental activists worldwide are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. Cafod invites you to send a card of solidarity to the brave.

Visit www.cafod.org.uk and support people like Fr Alfred Buju (defending local communities against mining companies in DRC), and Palwasha Hassan (fighting for women's rights in Afghanistan).

Click on: campaigns > latest campaigns > peace and human rights > messages to the brave. Deadline: **7 December**.

Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service

LDHAS managed to keep going through lockdown, albeit in a limited way. The service is now back in full operation, and preparing for their Christmas shelter. They'll be able to provide their clients with Christmas meals and a place to shelter during the day in a congenial atmosphere. Government restrictions mean that they cannot make overnight provision this year.

It seems likely that, with the current situation persisting, there may well be an increase in homelessness. If you'd like to support this important work:

- Bank transfer: Account name: LDHAS; 40-52-40; 00031967; Ref. "Shelter2020".
- Cheque payable to LDHAS. Post to: LDHAS-Finance, Edward Street, Lancaster LA1 1QH.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

St Matthew portrays Jesus as someone who's clear about his priorities, and clear about how we human beings will be judged.

In this Sunday's parable, both groups were surprised: no one on right or left had noticed Jesus. They all ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty?" God will judge the nations, will judge every human being – whether they profess faith in Jesus or not – by how they served those in need.

Christ himself knew what it meant to be without. He saw the ravages of illness and disease; he was himself arrested and tortured. He urges us to respond to these needs in others, as he did.

You and I are to have the mind and the heart of Christ, and we'll be judged accordingly. Did we take care of the most pressing problems of the needy? Did we address their hunger, their thirst, the problems of being a foreigner; disease, captivity?

The insignificant, the poor and the forgotten, the "least" of the world: wherever they are, that's where we find the shepherd-king of the gospel. And whenever you and I serve the "least," we are serving the Christ who will be our judge.

The grace and gift of baptism enables us to hear the quiet voice of our Shepherd, calling us onto the right path, leading us home.

And along our way, the grace and gift of baptism empowers us faithfully to serve the least of the brothers and sisters of Christ our King.

Stand up, and smile

A cross-party group of MPs from the three main parties in the UK Parliament is bringing forward the Abortion (cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK.

You can find out more about the Bill and the families supporting it at www.standupandsmile.org.uk.

St Paul Sunday Missal 2021

Covid regulations mean it's unlikely we'll be able to have multiple copies of the *St Paul Sunday Missal* available for people to use at will.

If you'd like a personal copy of the 2021 edition of the *St Paul Sunday Missal*, cost £6.00, depending on the numbers ordered: e-mail the parish office, phone and leave a message, or post a note through the letter box.

Deadline for orders: **30 November**.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Paul Cain (relative of Teresa Cole), Sarah Davis, David Leece (related to Frank Miller), Deacon Bernard Loveland, John Steel (uncle of Fr Geoffrey).

Those who are ill or infirm. Joan Walbank, Margaret Walmsley (wife of Austin), Ethel Davis, 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, 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, Vin Cahill, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Christine Cobane, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Ann Wicks, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. William Haydock Barton, Frank Blessing, Cuthbert Billington, Brian Hargreaves, Sheila Bourke (1st anniversary), Edward Storey, Marjorie Addison, Rev Austin William Splain, George Bamber, Nellie Winder, Thomas Cooney, Dr Gerard Flood, Cath Bagot, Eleanor Elizabeth Ratcliffe, Mgr Paddy O'Dea, Eugenia McCarthy and Sarah Ingleby.