

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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Fourth Sunday of Advent

20 December 2020

Liturgies this week

Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Mary & Roger Mason 50 th wedding anniversary
Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	James Boulton & Gregory Place anniversaries
Mon	S	10.00am	Mass	Ann Wicks lately dead
Tue		---		
Wed	G	noon	Burial	Alice Towers
	G	6.30pm	Mass	Alice Towers
		7.00pm	Rosary	in our homes



The Birth of the Lord



Thu	S	10.00am	Mass	Freda Smith RIP & Heather McGuigan anniversary
	G	6.00pm	Mass	People of our Parishes
Fri	S	8.30am	Mass	Fr Michael Tully & Parents RIP
	G	10.30am	Mass	Fitzpatrick & Lowe families RIP
Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Hugh & André Ferguson RIP

The Holy Family

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Revd John Horn anniversary

Prayerful preparation in the last week of Advent

Accompanying the newsletter is a leaflet to help our final Advent days of preparation. It is also on our website: Liturgical Seasons / Advent.

Coming to Mass at Christmas

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses at Garstang and at Scorton are fully booked, and we'll be unable to allow people to enter who are not already booked in. *Please let anyone know who might be thinking of just turning up.*

There are spaces for Mass on Saturday 26, 10.00am, Garstang, and the Masses on Sunday 27, 8.30am, Scorton, 10.30am, Garstang.

If you have already booked for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, you are welcome now also to book for the Saturday or Sunday.

Forms are available in church, in the presbytery yard, and there's a link to the booking form on the Homepage of our website.

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.

Also: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Advent-for-children>

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 setting a place at our [Big Family Christmas dinner table](#) or buying a Christmas gift card on our [website](#). More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove. Thank you.

Son of God : The Daily Gospel

This e-book for the current Liturgical Year may be downloaded free of charge to any computer/ tablet / phone. It offers the Gospel for every day of the current liturgical year, followed by a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. Visit: www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/.

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Once again the great Advent themes challenge us to renewal: to renew our lives as we look to Christ's return in the fullness of God's time; to renew our lives as we prepare to remember our Saviour's birth, in a precise moment of human time.

The Old Testament readings in Advent remind us how, at key points in human history, God intervenes. The last two Sundays, we've listened to the testimony of John the Baptist: John, son of Zechariah and his elderly wife Elizabeth. Now we're ready to hear of the conception and birth of Jesus, born of the virgin Mary. Jesus doesn't simply emerge from the flowing stream of human history; God wove the mystery of the Word made flesh into the very fabric of human history, altering it for ever.

On this final Sunday of Advent, the scripture readings put before us the two perspectives of Jesus: From one, Jesus is a product of human history, born of a woman, descended from King David. In other words: Jesus is everything the bible means when it speaks of "flesh". From the other perspective, Jesus is "the Son of the Most High," conceived of the Holy Spirit. In other words: Jesus is everything the bible means when it speaks of "spirit".

These two perspectives the gospel writers hold together. And this is why the Church proclaims Jesus to be truly human and truly divine. The season of Christmas will help us once again to reflect on this great mystery, to find the godhead in the humanity of Jesus, not separate from it. This is the mystery about which St Paul writes so eloquently in this Sunday's second reading: the mystery "kept secret for long ages but which is now disclosed".

The scriptures for this Sunday remind us that the word was made flesh because others co-operated with God: King David, the Virgin Mary, Joseph, the angel. In the prayers of the Advent liturgy we've prayed for change — in our personal life and in our world. But transforming change can only happen if we co-operate with God, and use our gifts and talents to help build God's vision.

In this final week of Advent, in the midst of all the busyness, let's be sure to make space to feel something of this sacred and awesome mystery; allow God to touch us, renew us, build us into the vibrant Body of Christ.

Let's dare to ask God in our prayer to make us eager to reach out with the Good News of Christ; show us how to live it; that our witness will enable others to know Christ their Saviour.

Free to a good home

One printer, Epson Workforce 2630, cartridges and software. *Fr Geoffrey.*

Scorton : Mass books

The Mass books for the new liturgical year are now available at the back of church. You're welcome to take one, write on it your name, and retain it for your personal use.

If you already have one of the previous Mass books, please return it to church. *Thank you.*

Thank you for your prayers ...

... from Joyce Bilsborrow and Janet Haworth.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Barbara Ellen Crone (mother of Helen), Alice Towers, Bob Billington, John Cadden, Pat Henry, Ann Wicks, Joan Walbank, Pat Nickson.

Those who are ill or infirm. Viktoria Nurse, Selena 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, Mary Winstanley, Kevin Horan, Jean Dunne, Louise Williams, Teresa Smith, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, 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, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Joan Norcross, Josephine Black, Helena Holland (10th anniversary), Rev Patrick Flynn, Ann Nugent, Jack Singleton, Ada Rawlinson, Annie Cusack, Jim Winstanley, Mary Grayston, Margaret Nixon, John Francis Green, Thomas Leo Horn, Doris Mary Wilson, Jas G. Hall (Benefactor), Keith Barton, Kathleen Boden, John Kirby, Winifred Bracegirdle, Thomas Wilcock, Kathleen Collins, Anthony Ingleby, Rev John Michael Horn (15th anniversary), Thomas Francis Horn and Louis Appleton Darbyshire.