

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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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 February 2021

Liturgies this week

Sat	Mass	Thomas & Mary Ibison <i>RIP</i>
Sun	Mass	David Pyke <i>anniversary</i> [JM]
Mon	Mass	Pat & John Cairns <i>50th wedding anniversary</i> [M]
Tue	Mass	Fr Leo Lynch <i>RIP</i>
Wed	Mass	Rita Moreland <i>RIP-birthday</i>
	7.00pm	Rosary <i>in our homes</i>
Thu.....		OUR LADY OF LOURDES <i>patron of the diocese</i> WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK
	Mass	Sheila Feeney <i>lately dead</i> [WH]
Fri	Mass	Robert Davidson <i>lately dead</i> [MO'N]
Sat	Mass	Intentions of Helena Leaper

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	Mass	Greg Patterson <i>anniversary</i> [W]
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First Holy Communion 2021

I do not foresee us this year being able to offer anything like a normal programme of preparation. Having consulted our parish catechists, this is what I believe to be possible.

- If parents of children born before September 2013 are willing to prepare their child at home using the resources we recommend, they are welcome to do so, and we will support the parents as best we can.
- At the end of the preparation, we will arrange First Holy Communion for the children in twos and threes, as we did in 2020.
- For First Confession, whether we can have a group liturgy like we did in 2020 will rather depend on the number of children preparing, and the timing. Let's wait and see on this, rather than decide in advance.

If your child is eligible and you're willing to prepare them for the Sacraments, please let me know by the evening of **Sunday 14 February**. *Fr Geoffrey*.

Resources from Stonyhurst

The *Christian Heritage Centre* offers a range of on-line resources to nourish our formation in faith: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/>

The Drama Displayed, a journey of salvation. Talks with speakers across the world: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-drama-displayed/>

Set Free Summit. A series on human relationships and sexuality for young adults, **7 Feb-14 Mar**: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/set-free/>

Integrating Spirit, Mind & Body. Two webinars for mental health professionals, **13 February & 13 March**, integrating a Christian understanding of spiritual and bodily health with their practise. <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/spirit-mind-body/>

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*.

Closing our churches

Please continue to 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*.

Musings from my hermitage

St Mark's gospel shows God creating his vision for us in the person of Jesus.

Jesus began his public ministry by healing; and stories of healing make up over half Mark's gospel — twenty individual acts. Then there's what our Lord said about healing: "It's not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I didn't come to call the virtuous, but sinners." [Mk 2:17]

When people asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, he replied with images of healing: People who were 'blind' don't just see, they see the glory of God. People who were 'crippled' are able to walk in God's ways; 'lepers' are cleansed from sin. Those who were 'deaf' hear the Good News. People who once were 'dead' are raised to life in Christ; and the 'poor' become rich because they have accepted the Gospel.

Our Lord's healing restored wholeness to an ailing human race. He sought to heal everything that had gone wrong in creation: sickness, death, sin, evil, abuse, manipulation, broken promises, and all the rest.

Healing encapsulates our Lord's mission to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God. And his healing points towards the greatest miracle: the mystery of the cross and resurrection. Because the ultimate healing each of us needs comes through the suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our Lord's death on the cross, his mighty resurrection, continues to bring healing to an ailing human race, to soothe broken hearts and repair damaged lives. Thus we seek and desire, work and pray for wholeness and healing in this life, and for all people.

Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law; he healed folk brought to him from all over the place. Yet for Jesus to be able to heal people, they had to desire faith, yearn for real conversion of heart. And if we are to know deep healing and wholeness, bring healing and wholeness to others, Jesus needs us to recognise where all might not be well in us. He yearns for us to listen for God's voice, to have faith in him, to make that change of heart so that we do not allow sin and evil to have power over us.

Refuge and freedom from modern slavery

Medaille Trust is one of the largest providers of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK. It began when one lady – Sister Ann Teresa SSJA, now life president, gathered a group of friends from different Religious congregations and started tackling the scourge of modern slavery.

A cookbook has been produced called *A Taste of Home*, with recipes from clients of *Medaille Trust* along with their stories and an insight into why these recipes are so important to them.

All profits go directly to support victims of modern slavery living in *Medaille Trust* Safe Houses. See <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk> for further information on this and other ways to support the Trust.

OVERFLOW // Online Young Adults Group

From Castlerigg Manor: an online group for anyone aged 18-30. Every Monday on Zoom. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Bill Myerscough, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue, Frank Higham, Sheila Woof.

Those who are ill or infirm. Doug Willoughby, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Viktoria Nurse, Elaine Stajniack, Jimmy O'Neill, Berney Murphy, Margaret & Austin Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Caroline Nurse, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Margaret Pendleton, 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 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. Martha Horn, Stephen Turton, Winifride Swarbrick, Elizabeth Swarbrick, Ted Lydiate, Fred Dagger, John Bailey, Harry McNamara, Mary Bilsborrow, William Roland Price-Jones, Joseph Rossall, Walter Donovan, Joan Webster, James Richardson, Veronica Woodruff, Stephen Fox, Margaret Dilworth, Mary Pedder and May Sheridan.