

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 of Lent

6 April 2025

Sat	5	G	6.00pm	Mass	Wilson Family <i>RIP</i> [JW]
Sun	6	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Mary Mason <i>lately dead</i> [FC]
Mon	7	S	10.00am	Mass	Fr Tim Sullivan <i>RIP</i>
Tue	8	--			
Wed	9	G	6.30pm	Mass & Reception into Full Communion of Samantha Tuxford	
					Rita Whittaker <i>RIP</i>
			7.00pm	Rosary <i>in our homes</i>	
Thu	10	S	10.00am	Mass	Infirm clergy
Fri	11	G	10.00am	Mass	In thanksgiving [J]
		S	10.00am	Stations of the Cross	
		G	10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
		G	12 noon	Burial of Vera Towers	
		G	6.30pm	Stations of the Cross	
Palm Sunday					
Sat	12	G	6.00pm	Mass	In thanksgiving [N+CB]
Sun	13	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Neal Walmsley & Diane Pattinson <i>RIP</i>

Pastoral Letter on Assisted Suicide

This weekend, Bishop Paul, in conjunction with all the Bishops of England and Wales, has issued a Pastoral Letter on this important matter currently before Parliament.

It will be read at all the Masses, and some copies are at the back of church.

Also at the back of church are copies of an A5-sized postcard which we are urged to complete and send to our MP. Please do.

Church floor at Garstang

This week, **Tuesday 8 to Wednesday 9 April**, the church floor at Garstang will be cleaned, resealed, and polished, and the carpets will all be cleaned.

Church will not be open during this time and, even if you have a key, you are asked not to come into church, please. It will be open for Wednesday Mass.

Liturgy of Reconciliation

Deanery Liturgy of Reconciliation, **Wednesday 9 April**, 6.30pm, at the cathedral. An opportunity for individual confession.

Funeral of Vera Towers

The Funeral Mass for the late Vera Towers, mother of Fr Adrian, will take place at St Andrew's, Cottam, **Friday 11 April**, 10.30am. Her burial will take place here at St Mary & St Michael's on the same day, 12 noon.

Ecumenical prayer on Palm Sunday

There will be a short time of prayer on **Palm Sunday, 12 April**, 10am, at Moss Lane Park. All are welcome to attend, and if someone is willing to lead a prayer on behalf of our parishes, please let me know. Many thanks, Fr G

Parish Coffee Morning

March's event raised £100 for CAFOD which has been added to the Lent Family Fast collection. To avoid Holy Week, the next coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 23 April**, 10.00am to 12 noon, Plessington Chapel, Garstang.

Do come along and celebrate the Resurrection with friends old and new. Our 'good cause' will be the North West Air Ambulance: a charity we can no longer easily support since the closure of their Garstang charity shop. We hope to see you there. *The Coffee Morning Team*

Lenten Challenge for Stella Maris

The hat kits have all gone so we hope you're busy with the needles. If you need more wool, do help yourself to the balls in the box in the narthex at Garstang. Equally, if you have needles and would like a pattern and/or wool just dip into the same box.

Please return completed hats (together with the needles and left-over wool) to the same box. If you have wool you'd rather use, feel free. Fingers crossed that we can knit 40 hats during the 40 days of Lent.

Thank you in advance for your support. *SVP and Stella Maris*

Diocesan pilgrimage to Lindisfarne & Holy Island

From Bishop Paul: "As part of our diocesan celebrations of the Centenary, I will be leading a pilgrimage to the sites associated with St Cuthbert, co-patron of our Diocese, **21-23 May**." See the poster at the back of church.

VAT rebate for listed churches

Many thanks to those of you who contacted your MP or the Government directly about the importance of maintaining the VAT rebate for works carried out on listed churches.

St Mary & St Michael's has just received a rebate of **£2,112.55** for various works carried out in recent months. This will be used to pay for the cleaning and sealing of the church floor, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, and the remainder will go towards the cost of treating the West and North Doors.

CAFOD Fast Day collection

A very big *Thank You* to everyone who supported our CAFOD Lent Fast Day either by donating at church, by standing order, or donating online. Including £100 raised at the recent monthly coffee morning, and donations via CAFOD pyramid collecting boxes. We will be sending to CAFOD: £985 from Garstang and £80 from Scorton.

Many thanks again for your generosity towards our brothers and sisters around the world.

Monthly parish collections : March

Collections for March: **Garstang**, £1,456.00, plus £2,100.00 Standing Orders; **Scorton**, £271.50, plus £677.67 Standing Orders. *Thank you.*

Stations of the Cross at Garstang

The Stations occupying the south wall were removed prior to the recent decorating. This seemed a good time to obtain an updated quote for having them cleaned and conserved.

Heather Davies, Conservation Manager of Lancashire County Museums Service, who worked on our James Lonsdale *Crucifixion* painting above the sacristy door, and who gave the initial quote, has reviewed them and we are awaiting her update.

This fine set of paintings was presented in 1894 to Fr James Hennessy, parish priest from 1874 to 1914, by one of his former parishioners from St Nicholas' church Liverpool, in recognition of his hard work there especially at the time of a serious outbreak of cholera in 1866.

Ministries and jobs in Holy Week

If you can help in these or any other ways during this busy week, please let me know. Many thanks, *Fr Geoffrey*. We need people to ...

Holy Thursday, 17 April, 6.30pm. Prepare an altar of repose.

Easter Vigil, Saturday 19 April, 8.00pm. Prepare the Easter fire; help spread the candlelight around the church.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Vera Towers, Rosemary Walmsley.

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

Those whose anniversary we keep. Aileen Dearn, George Swarbrick, June Ann McLaughlin, Mary Bowles, Canon Alban Cochrane, Charlotte McAleer, Mgr Michael Tully, Joe Walmsley, Joseph Nickson, Mary Wellings, John Adamson, John Cunningham, Joseph Davis, Richard Winstanley, Jack Metcalf, James Parker Richardson, Veronica Pickering, Rose Skillen, Bob Miller.