

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent

21 March 2021

Liturgies this week

Sat **G** 10.00am **Mass** Alice & John Towers *lately dead* [F+BC]

Sun **S** 8.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

G 10.30am **Mass** Ellen Dwerryhouse *lately dead* [SC]

Mon **S** 10.00am **Mass** Eddie McLaughlin *lately dead* [LY]

Tue --- **Mass** Intentions of GS

Wed **G** 6.30pm **Mass** Thomas & Eleanor Bolton *RIP*

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

Thu.....**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

S 10.00am **Mass** Anne Gelderd *RIP*

Fri --- **Mass** Intentions of Celia & Derek Young

Sat **G** 10.00am **Mass** Hugh & André Ferguson *RIP* [LB]

Palm Sunday

Sun **S** 8.30am **Mass** Intentions of LMS

G 10.30am **Mass** People of our Parishes

Celebrating Holy Week & Easter

From Bishop Paul to the priests, 3 March 2021. "Please be careful not to give any impression that things are returning to normal at the present time – they are not. Even though places of worship have had, so far, a great deal of success in being Covid-secure establishments, we are still asked to hold essential church services only and our liturgies must be kept brief."

How do we keep our liturgies brief, yet unhurried? Working within the restrictions and prohibitions, how do we best ensure that the principal elements of these ancient liturgies remain front and centre?

For each of the liturgies there will be a leaflet giving the outline of the rite and any necessary instructions for the congregation.

Booking for the liturgies is essential. Forms are available in the benches, online, and in the presbytery yard.

Palm Sunday

Palms will be blessed within all three Masses on the Saturday and Sunday.

Holy Thursday, 6.30pm.

Although there can be no 'watching' at an altar of repose, there will be a short period of adoration at the end of Mass, before the Blessed Sacrament is carried to the sacristy.

Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3.00pm

The Veneration of the Cross will have to be different. The Wood of the Cross, covered, will be set in place beforehand. During the Liturgy when the Wood of the Cross is revealed, all genuflect in adoration. You will be asked to make a profound bow to the Wood of the Cross later in the liturgy, when you process past it on your way to Holy Communion.

Easter Eve, 6.30pm

It can't be a 'vigil' this year because we are unable to gather round the Easter fire or distribute candles. We will proclaim the essential reading from Exodus and the Easter Gospel. The Exsultet and Solemn Alleluias will be sung by soloists; since people cannot reply in song, those who have a small bell at home might like to bring it and ring it at the conclusion of these chants, to welcome in the Easter Season joyfully. We will renew our baptismal promises and celebrate the first Easter Eucharist.

Thank you for all your support and understanding. Let's all of us continue to play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe. God bless, *Fr Geoffrey*.

Supporting our fellow Christians in Lebanon

What if you could provide a hot meal for a desperate Christian family in Lebanon while you enjoy your Sunday lunch at home?

You are invited to join *Aid to the Church in Need* for a virtual Sunday Lunch, **21 March**, to support an initiative that serves daily meals to over 1,000 Christians in and around the city of Zahle. Many of these families are refugees from Syria or local people who have lost their livelihoods because of the national financial crisis or the pandemic. They struggle every day to get by, but you can help. <https://acnuk.org/event/acn-virtual-sunday-lunch/>

Musings from my hermitage

“The hour has come.” The signs Jesus gave, his entire ministry, have been leading to this “hour,” this decisive moment when God will be glorified. “And what should I say — ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, it’s for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

For the whole human race, the cross of Jesus is a new beginning. No more animal sacrifice and burnt offering, but worship “in spirit and in truth;” the worship of serving God and our neighbour, making ourselves “a living sacrifice in Christ,” “an eternal offering” to God.

The cross proclaims this new way to live. In St John’s gospel, the sword of judgement falls between those who can perceive the truth of the cross, who embrace it, and those who cannot, who are locked into their own way of seeing things. The opponents of Jesus fail because they cling to life and to faith as they see it; they want to keep what they can see now.

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.” Jesus was building God’s vision because his sense of oneness with God was so strong. “The Word was with God and the Word was God.” This is the “covenant of grace” written on our hearts. It’s this gift of oneness with God through baptism that is to shape and direct our life: the disciple must be with Jesus; the servant must be where the Master is.

The grain that falls into the ground and dies, is an image of fruitful self-giving. That’s not the same as driving ourselves into the ground. Burning ourselves out — even for others — can be just another way of trying to control. But a loving “letting go” of ourself into God’s vision will bear fruit, in our own well-being, and in the quest to gather all God’s scattered children to the healing cross of Christ.

Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem

The Ignatian Spirituality Centre is offering a link to view on Zoom the Stations of the Cross on the Vía Dolorosa in Jerusalem. It takes place every Friday, 2.00-3.00pm. Register for the Stations on this link and they will send you the link by email: <https://sites.google.com/view/geneva-isc/home>

Keeping us all safe

During this pandemic all churches open for public worship have had a duty to keep all parishioners as safe as they can. For us that has involved frequent submissions to the diocese outlining how we are doing this and the steps we have taken. In our churches we have set up a hand sanitiser station, encouraged you to use Track & Trace, ensuring that those who can are wearing a face covering and that social distancing measures are in place.

Even though the vaccination roll out is going well we have been told that we must not yet relax these steps. Mass takes place because we have taken these precautions, and also because of the fantastic work of our small team of stewards and cleaning staff. Without their help and support we would not be able to open. Thank you for your continued understanding.

Michael Hoffman & Kevin Morley, *H&S Leads*, Garstang & Scorton.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Jimmy O’Neill (nephew of Marion), John Towers, Teresa Smith.

Those who are ill or infirm. Joan Wilkes, Doug Willoughby, James Costain jr, Barry Robinson, Viktoria Nurse, Elaine Stajniack, Austin Walmsley, Ethel Davis, Anne Hunt, John Skillen, Jean Andrews, Keith Jones, Tony Smith, Sarah Preston, Roger Bevins, Andrew Whipp, Charlie Robinson (4 years old), Simon Crossley, Kevin Horan, Jean Dunne, John Cookson, Revd Andrew Shaw, Wendy Seed, Graham Markham (Australia), Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Seamus Martin, Peter Holland, Bob Cross, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe.

Those whose anniversary we keep. André Ferguson, Ann Rigg, Rev Bernard Whiteside, Betty Gornall, Austin Walmsley, Harry Swarbrick, Kate Simkin, John Gillett, Dorothy Rose Kelsall (10th anniversary), Francis Bryan, Brian Richardson, Frank Walmsley, Gladys Richardson, Nellie Hodges, Frances Dickinson (1st anniversary), James Pooler and James Pedder.