

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



The Birth of the Lord



25 December 2020

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

The Holy Family

27 December 2020

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
	G	10.30am	Mass	Revd John Horn <i>anniversary</i>
Mon.....	THE HOLY INNOCENTS <i>martyrs</i>			
	S	10.00am	Mass	Pat Henry <i>lately dead</i> [PG]
Tue.....	ST THOMAS BECKET <i>bishop, martyr, patron of the pastoral clergy of England</i>			
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Wed	G	noon	Burial	John Cadden
	G	6.30pm	Mass	John Cadden
		7.00pm	Rosary	<i>in our homes</i>

Liturgies this week *continued* ...

Thu	S	10.00am	Mass	Margaret & Joseph Walmsley <i>RIP</i>
Fri.....	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – <i>New Year's Day</i>			
	G	11.00am	Mass	Sheila & Terry Murphy <i>RIP</i>
Sat	G	10.00am	Mass	Berney Murphy <i>poorly</i>

Second Sunday after Christmas

3 January 2021

Sun	S	8.30am	Mass	Pat Henry <i>lately dead</i> [PG]
	G	10.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes

Christmas blessings and every good wish ...

... to all parishioners and your families, from *Fr Geoffrey & Deacon D'Arcy*.
Thank you to everyone who has worked and helped in so many different ways to ensure that our churches are a Covid-safe environment for everyone. Because of you, we are able to celebrate public Mass. *Thank you*.

Dear Parishioners ...

... We know that we haven't seen you for a while but please be assured that we think about you often and pray for you regularly in school.
We'd like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a much brighter 2021.
With best wishes, Mr Parry & everyone at SS Mary & Michael Primary School.

Letter from Bishop Paul

Accompanying the newsletter is Bishop Paul's letter to us all for the Feast of the Holy Family. It is also on our website: [Homepage / Pastoral Letters](#).

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.

Christmas collection

In our diocese the Christmas collection forms a significant portion of the priests' income for the year. Thank you for your support. *Fr Geoffrey*

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

The fragility of human existence has been much before our eyes this year: close to home, in families of our parish; across the world, in many countries. On the global, political stage, there seems to be an inability or unwillingness to get to grips with the challenges and trials that beset so many folk on the planet.

Through all this, the Christmas Scriptures tell us that permanence, security, meaning is to be found not in institutions or empires, or systems, but in the One whose birth we celebrate, born among a people forlorn and oppressed. Because the Word was made flesh in Jesus, the Christian faith is very physical. At its heart is the marriage of heaven and earth in Jesus, the communion of God and creation in Jesus. So the human, tangible, and social context in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ is an integral dimension of the Christmas festival.

For some of us here, our circumstances, health, or well-being may be much changed from this time last year. ... Some are rejoicing over a new member of the family; others are mourning the loss of someone, who's died, or gone away. Christmas doesn't always feel like 'Christmas.'

And yet this is the world into which the Christ was born. Not some tinted, air-brushed version, but this world. ... It's in this world and in our very human hearts that Christ longs to live. God made flesh, God-with-us, sharing our life and our struggle. ... That's why the mystery of God made flesh in Jesus embraces every one of us, every human being across the face of the earth, whatever our experience and situation, however we feel. God-in-Jesus can touch us in the heart and depth of it all. Only God-in-Jesus can bring the consolation and healing for which our human spirit so deeply yearns.

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 operating their Christmas shelter. They're 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.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Mary Winstanley, Barbara Ellen Crone, Alice Towers, Bob Billington, John Cadden, Pat Henry, Ann Wicks.

Those who are ill or infirm. Viktoria Nurse, Elaine 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, 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. 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, Thomas Francis Horn, Louis Appleton Darbyshire, Mary Ibison, Elizabeth Quick, Katie McDonald, Agnes Cross, Leonard Lister, Celia Swarbrick, Mary Agnes Ibison, Alice Bernadette Swarbrick, Jim O'Brien, Margaret Walmsley, Frank Piela, Peggy Barton, Ellen Law, Marie Kendall, Diane Elizabeth Pattinson (1st anniversary), Robert Ibison, Alice Ibison, Michael Hoyle, Mary Ainsworth, Moya Casey (1st anniversary), Michael Hoyle, Richard Swarbrick, Winifred McArdle, William Boden, Eleanor Bolton and Iain Watson.