

### Oaklands : *can you help?*

At Oaklands (the former Leonard Cheshire home on Dimples Lane) we have a varied programme of activities, and are seeking volunteers to join us. We particularly need additional support for our established wheelchair dancing group, which is great fun and takes place each Tuesday morning. (No dance experience necessary.) We also need drivers to help ad-hoc with appointments and outings.

If you would like to know more, please contact Paul Ferguson on 07944 603684. *Thank you.*

### St Vincent de Paul Society

Our SVP Conference would like to thank parishioners for the wonderful £524 collected recently at Garstang and Scorton. This money will be used to support the local food bank, helping around 30 families a month, and to provide financial assistance for the SVP Sudanese feeding programme.

Members send sincere thanks and best wishes for Christmas & the New Year.

### Please pray for ...

**Those who have died recently.** Mgr Joseph Branson (priest of Plymouth Diocese, living in retirement in his birth city of Lancaster), Molly Singleton.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** Fr Harry Holden, Annie Billington, Federico Lema, Mary McCann, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Anthony Monks, Rita Whittaker, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Tony Clark, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Tony Blunt, Philippa Haynes, Yvonne Shaw, Anne Hunt, Jean Andrews, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Peter Holland, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family, Jessica Holmes.

**Those whose anniversary we keep.** Keith Barton, Kathleen Boden, Ronald Clifton (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary), John Kirby, Winifred Bracegirdle, Thomas Wilcock, Kathleen Collins, Anthony Ingleby, Rev John Michael Horn, Thomas Francis Horn, Louis Appleton Derbyshire, 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, Robert Ibison, Alice Ibison, Michael Hoyle, Mary Ainsworth, Moya Casey, Richard Swarbrick, Winifred McArdle, William Boden, Mary Teresa (Tess) Rogerson.

## 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](mailto:ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com) : [www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

### The Birth of the Lord

25 December 2022

Sat	24	<b>G</b>	6.00pm	<b>Mass</b>	People of our Parishes
		<b>G</b>	10.00pm	<b>Mass</b>	Revd John Horn <i>anniversary</i>
Sun	25	<b>S</b>	8.30am	<b>Mass</b>	Fr Michael Tully & Parents <i>RIP</i>
		<b>G</b>	10.30am	<b>Mass</b>	Bob Billington <i>anniversary</i>
Mon	26	--			
Tue	27	--			
Wed	28			<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	<i>martyrs</i>
		<b>G</b>	6.30pm	<b>Mass</b>	Anthony Ingleby <i>anniversary</i>
Thu	29			<b>ST THOMAS BECKET</b>	<i>bishop, martyr, patron of the pastoral clergy of England</i>
		<b>S</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Intentions of J & S McGuigan
Fri	30			<b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	
		<b>G</b>	10.00am	<b>Mass</b>	Mary Winstanley <i>2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary</i>
		<b>G</b>	10.30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	

### Mary, Mother of God

New Year's Day

Sat	31	<b>G</b>	6.00pm	<b>Mass</b>	Margaret <i>anniv.</i> & Joe Walmsley <i>RIP</i> [AC]
Sun	1	<b>S</b>	8.30am	<b>Mass</b>	People of our Parishes
		<b>G</b>	10.30am	<b>Mass</b>	Diane Pattinson <i>anniversary</i>

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### 6.00pm Christmas Eve Mass : *seat allocation*

Thank you for all those who have requested seats at this Mass. We are happy to report that all requests have been met and, if you have applied, a seat(s) will have been allocated.

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### Christmas Collection

In this diocese, the Christmas collection forms the major part of the priests' annual salary. *Thank you for your support.*

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### Tea & coffee : *New Year's Day*

We're hoping to offer tea & coffee after 10.30am Mass, **Sunday 1 January**. If you're able to help, please contact Marie Pearson, either directly or through the parish office. An opportunity to meet is always welcome.

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### Cemetery update

Work to prepare the new section for use is now complete, and we have so far raised **14,474** towards the **£20,000** cost of that work.

Many thanks for your generous response: you have made it possible.

Further donations would be most welcome.

Work has also concluded to replace the three badly damaged paved paths with tarmac. This has been largely paid for by a bequest to the parish from the late Brenda Richardson.

The next area of work is to make good the path around the side of church from the West Door to the new section of the cemetery. Quotations are being sought; watch this space. We'll need to appeal for your help again.

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### Lancaster Singers recent concert

The Choir's chairman has written: Dear Fr Geoffrey, on behalf of Lancaster Singers may I offer a formal vote of thanks and gratitude for your allowing us to use your wonderful church.

The occasion was memorable in so many ways and we have, of course, written to the children to say how pleased we were with their efforts. You couldn't have been more welcoming and helpful to us as we invaded and took over your space, so thanks for that.

We look forward to future collaborations, in particular our concert there on **Sunday 25 June**, 7.30pm. All the best, *Chris*.

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### A Christmas Poem : John Bell (1745-1831)

Light looked down and saw the darkness.

"I will go there", said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there", said peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there", said love.

So he,

the Lord of Light,

the Prince of Peace,

the King of Love,

came down and crept in beside us.

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### Don Porteous : *many thanks*

Kim, Chloe & Hayley would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness whether through your kind words, cards, letters or loving hugs.

Your support brought light to us in a difficult time and will always be remembered.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended Don's funeral. He would have felt very blessed and honoured by your presence.

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### The Church in the Holy Land : *can you help?*

*Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) is dedicated to serve Christians around the world who are persecuted, oppressed, or suffering material need.

ACN is giving 14,00 children in Lebanon warm clothing and a Christmas gift. In Syria, up to 30,000 children will receive much-needed winter clothes. In Aleppo, which suffered almost constant bombardment during the Syrian civil war, 1,500 children will join elderly guests for Christmas celebrations: carols, a nativity play, and Christmas lunch.

The initiative will also provide food and other essential goods for needy families, medical aid for the sick and elderly, financial support for schools in danger of closing, support for seminarians, help for scout groups, aid for religious congregations, and Mass stipends for priests, which provide the priests with a basic income to keep them above the breadline.

More information at: [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org).