

# 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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## Second Sunday of Easter

19 April 2020

### Mass intentions this week

Sunday People of our Parishes

#### The end of the Easter Octave

Monday Anthony MacManmon *anniversary*

Tuesday.....**St Anselm** *bishop, doctor of the church*

Intentions of David Cowburn *birthday* [WA]

Wednesday Intentions of Beth Hamilton *birthday* [ES]

Thursday.....**ST GEORGE** *martyr, patron of England*

World Peace [C]

Friday Gerry Steel *RIP*

Saturday.....**ST MARK** *evangelist*

In thanksgiving [RM]

## Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday People of our Parishes

### Easter blessings

"To all our parishioners and your families: every prayerful good wish and blessing." *Fr Geoffrey & Deacon D'Arcy*

### Easter blessing of our cemetery

"On Easter Day I took the Baptismal Water around our cemetery, blessed our graves, and prayed for all our departed family, friends, and parishioners.

"With God's grace, may we all come to experience the fullness of Christ's resurrection." *Fr Geoffrey*

### A card found in Canon David Murphy's prayerbook

Do not look forward to what might happen tomorrow;  
the same Everlasting Father who cares for you today,  
will take care of you tomorrow, and every day.

Either he will shield you from suffering,  
or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, then,  
and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.

*St Francis de Sales*

### Cenacolo Community

For many years our parishes have financially supported this Community where the "lads" are recovering from drug abuse.

As you may remember, the lads rely on God's Providence for all their needs. Providence comes to them from many sources, and our parishes have been very generous. The money we give provides fresh food, which is taken to the Community every few weeks.

At the present time, because many of us are in lockdown, an alternative arrangement has had to be made to have the food delivered to them. This has been done, and we continue to provide the necessary finance.

So thank you to one and all for your continued generosity.

God bless, *Pat & Jim Costain.*

### Votive lights

Each morning when I go into church first thing, I light votive lamps for all of us at the statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady, and at the shrine of our martyr, St John Plessington.

If you have a particular intention for which you'd like me to light a votive candle for you, please let me know and I'll gladly do so. *Fr Geoffrey.*

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## Supporting our NHS

*NHS Charities Together* is asking people to text “clap” to 70507, which will trigger a £5 donation, along with a message of support.

The *One Million Claps* appeal asks for a million people to donate £5 by text message to fund food deliveries, overnight stays, kits and travel costs.

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## Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

Let's hear it for Thomas. Forever known as The Doubter, I've a soft spot for him. He hadn't been with the other disciples when Jesus appeared in the room with them. When they told him, “We have seen the Lord,” was it that Thomas “refused” to believe? In the depth of his own grief, might it not rather have been that this news was so overwhelmingly *good* that he *couldn't* believe, he *couldn't* take it in; he was incredulous?

In these days of self-isolation and social distancing, it's interesting that Thomas wanted to be able to *touch* the risen Christ to enable his leap of faith. Mary Magdalene in the garden had wanted to *cling* to the risen Christ. We can't touch or cling to our loved ones just now, unless we're already living with them. Those we love, we now keep two metres away from. Phone conversations, video calls, family conferencing on the internet: how blessed are we to have these means of contact? But they're not the same as a hug, are they? or the reassuring squeeze of a hand.

Interesting, then, that Jesus was willing to let Thomas touch him, if that was what he needed to leap in faith. If Thomas wished to have physical proof, he could have it. But there is more at stake: “Do not be faithless but believing.”

There's no indication that Thomas accepted the invitation to touch Jesus. Instead, Thomas accepted the challenge of faith: “My Lord and my God.”

We might think the disciples had it easier than we do. If only we'd seen our risen Lord, then we'd really believe, be totally committed. This Sunday's gospel tells us otherwise.

We don't know Christ in the flesh; and people today in our neighbourhoods, our schools, our homes and places of work, they're not going to get to know Christ in the flesh. But they can encounter the risen Christ in us; glimpse something of his risen life in our life, in our parish communities.

And Thomas The Incredulous? He followed the Jewish trade routes all the way to South India. ... That was some journey in faith.

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## Some good news

The Fairtrade Foundation has renewed our application to be recognised as a *Fairtrade Church*. This certification is the result of work of a number of parishioners, such as ensuring Fairtrade tea and coffee is served after Mass; promoting the Fairtrade message and organising the sale of Fairtrade goods from Traidcraft. Watch out for Fairtrade updates in the bulletin.

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## Mass intentions

Please continue to request Mass intentions: place your intention and offering in an envelope and post through the presbytery letterbox, or e-mail or phone with your request.

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## Please pray for ...

**Those who have died recently.** Ellen Worsley (friend of Pat Costain), Michaela Pickervance, Pat & George Pearce (sister and parents of Trisha Bilsborrow, daughter-in-law of Joyce & Edward); Margaret Gigli; Frances Dickinson.

**Those who are ill or infirm.** Jean Andrews, Roger Bevins, Vin Cahill, Paul Cain, Eileen Cartner, Christine Cobane, John Cookson, Martina Copple, Bob Cross, Simon Crossley, Jean Dunne, Dorothy Evans, Louise Gornall, Michael Hendry, Pat Hickey, Peter Holland, Jessica Holmes & Phoebe, Kevin Horan, Janet Howarth, Keith Jones, Nigel Lord, Graham Markham (Australia), Seamus Martin, Ian Moran, Pat Nickson, Matthew Pearson, Margaret Pendleton, Sarah Preston, Francisca Rainford, Brenda Richardson, Charlie Robinson (3 years old), Wendy Seed, Revd Andrew Shaw, a Sick Parishioner, Teresa Smith, Tony Smith, Colin & Marie Swarbrick, Austin Walmsley, Andrew Whipp, Ann Wicks, Louise Williams, David Winstanley, Mary Winstanley, Ewan, Kathryn, Lucy & family.

**Those whose anniversary we keep.** Winifride Nickson, Margaret Towers, William Rawlinson, Fr Gerald Bilsborow, Jim Walmsley, Ellen Flood, Cecil Clarke, Tom Gorton, Mark Damien Lavelle, William McCall, Jane Ann Wareing, Henry Towers, Harold Rawlinson, Doris Wade, Edith Ellwood, Margaret Horn, Isabel Clarke, Monica Stansfield, Fr Joseph Haydon, Thomas Sheridan, Basil Hibbs, and Fr Geoffrey Cunliffe.