

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 after Christmas

3 January 2021

Liturgies this week

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Sat | G | 10.00am | Mass | Berney Murphy <i>poorly</i> |
| Sun | S | 8.30am | Mass | Pat Henry <i>lately dead</i> [PG] |
| | G | 10.30am | Mass | People of our Parishes |
| Sun | G | 4.30pm | Funeral Vigil : Mary Winstanley | <i>by invitation only</i> |
| Mon | G | noon | Funeral Mass : Mary Winstanley | <i>by invitation only</i> |
| | | c. 12.50pm | Burial Liturgy: Mary Winstanley | |
| Tue | | --- | Mass | For a successful operation |

The Epiphany of the Lord

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|-----|----------|---------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Wed | G | 6.30pm | Mass | Sheila Richardson <i>anniversary</i> |
| | | 7.00pm | Rosary | <i>in our homes</i> |
| Thu | S | 10.00am | Mass | Monica <i>RIP</i> & her family [JW] |

Fri --- **Mass** Carmel Hayden *RIP* [JD]

The Baptism of the Lord

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|-----|----------|---------|-------------|--|
| Sat | G | 10.00am | Mass | Diane Pattinson & Neal Walmsley <i>RIP</i> |
| Sun | S | 8.30am | Mass | People of our Parishes |
| | G | 10.30am | Mass | Fr David Elder <i>RIP</i> |

Tier 4

Our churches remain open for public worship.

Thank you for all your support and understanding during these past months. Let's continue to keep each other safe and keep our churches open:

- **Inside.** Avoid walking around or going to speak to people. Maintain social distance during the procession to Communion and when leaving.
- **Outside.** Keep the exit clear, and take special care that you do not socialise with people from different households in the church grounds, even with social distance.

Christmas & New Year blessings and every good wish ...

... to all parishioners and your families, from *Fr Geoffrey & Deacon D'Arcy*.

Covid-safe. 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.

Our churches and grounds. Thank you to everyone who has helped look after and maintain the buildings and the grounds over the past year, and to those who've helped us celebrate Christmas by preparing the cribs, the trees, and the floral displays. Christmas hasn't been cancelled!

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.

Readers at Mass

Now that we're familiar with the restrictions of our current pattern of public worship, it will be good to have our Readers exercise their ministry at Mass. If you'd like to resume your ministry: for *Scorton*, please contact Catherine Pickering; for *Garstang*, please contact Frank Miller.

This is an opportunity to invite anyone else who attends Mass with us to discern whether you might serve the liturgy as a Reader. If so, in the first instance, please have a word with Fr Geoffrey. Thank you.

It's unlikely that our Ministers of Holy Communion will be able to resume their ministry at Mass any time soon. If you'd like to take a turn serving as a Reader instead, please contact Catherine or Frank.

St Paul Sunday Missal 2021

Covid regulations mean we're unable to have multiple copies of the *St Paul Sunday Missal* available for people to use at will.

If you missed your chance to order a personal copy through the parish, you can still order one for yourself: 0207-828-5582 or <https://stpauls.org.uk/st-paul-sunday-missal-2018.html> . (This is the correct link, despite saying 2018.)

Musings from my hermitage ... Fr Geoffrey

How do we reconcile ourselves with 2020, the year that robbed us of our plans, our holidays, our liberty? We lost time with our loved ones and, for many people, their loved ones died. Can we allow God to bring healing and peace into the depth of our being?

The first reading for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God – New Year's Day – was a blessing. We began the calendar year reminded that God is a God of blessings. The more we grow aware of God's blessing in our life, the more we're able to receive it humbly, and with gratitude. God gives freely; and the more we sense that God shines his face on us and is gracious to us, the more we're stirred to look kindly on others, find ways to be gracious especially to those who don't necessarily expect a kindly face.

The shepherds in the Christmas story were considered outsiders, thought to be low class and dishonest. The blessing for them was that they heard the good news, accepted it, and believed. When they reached Bethlehem, "they repeated what they'd been told about [the child], and everyone who heard it was astonished". The shepherds received a blessing and shared it.

The blessing came to the shepherds while they were at work. I don't imagine they thought that night was going to be special. Certainly they didn't do anything to earn God's blessing. They weren't in a 'holy place'; we're not told they were praying. The shepherds were just doing their job. In the midst of that ordinariness, God blessed them, shone his face on them, and was gracious to them.

God reaches out to us in the very ordinary circumstances of life, even in the challenging circumstances of last year and in the demanding conditions of the coming months. When the gospel tells us that Mary "pondered these things in her heart", the implication is that she doesn't fully understand. So let Mary be a guide for us. Her response encourages us to take things in, reflect on them, and ask God to help us understand.

Christmas collection

In our diocese, the Christmas collection forms a significant portion of the priests' income for the year.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for your many cards, good wishes, and personal gifts. I am very grateful. *Fr Geoffrey*

Phishing, not mending nets

The last several months have seen a flurry of dodgy e-mails invading our inboxes: Amazon Prime renewal, BT cancellation, DHL missed delivery, etc.

Whoever the sender purports to be, check the address inside the < ... >.

Forward any suspicious e-mail to our Government's cyber security agency: report@phishing.gov.uk . Help keep us all safe from the e-bandits.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Fr Jimmy Hook (retired priest of the diocese), Mary Winstanley, Barbara Ellen Crone, Alice Towers, Bob Billington, John Cadden, Pat Henry.

Those who are ill or infirm. Barry Robinson, 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. Eleanor Bolton, Iain Watson, Florence Carter, Edwin Eydman, Peter Ellwood, Sheila Richardson, Thomas Cross, Tom Wallbank, Angela Margaret Beirley, Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, John Edwards, Margaret Davis, Fr Arthur Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, John Edwards, Annie Bisby, Mary Alexander Kenyon, Gerard Swarbrick, Vincent Parker, Stephen John O'Regan, Winifred Doyle and Mary Dickinson.