

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 Presentation of the Lord

2 February 2025

Sat	1	G	6.00pm	Mass	Patrick O'Hanlon <i>RIP-90th birthday</i>
Sun	2	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Diane Pattinson <i>anniversary</i> & Neal Walmsley <i>RIP</i>
Mon	3	S	10.00am	Mass	Special intention [PC]
Tue	4	--			
Wed	5				St Agatha <i>virgin, martyr</i>
		G	6.30pm	Mass	David Pyke <i>anniversary</i>
Thu	6				Ss Paul Miki <i>religious, missionary, martyr</i> & his companions <i>martyrs of Japan</i>
		S	10.00am	Mass	Fr Tim Sullivan <i>RIP</i>
Fri	7	G	10.00am	Mass	Kathleen & Harold Smith <i>RIP</i> [HF]
		G	10.30am		Sacrament of Reconciliation
		G	2.00pm		Schools Ecumenical Prayer Group <i>all welcome</i>

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	8	G	6.00pm	Mass	Mary Agnes Ibison <i>RIP</i>
Sun	9	S	8.30am	Mass	John McArdle <i>anniversary</i> & family <i>RIP</i> [DR]
		G	10.30am	Mass	People of our parishes

Schools ecumenical prayer group

An ecumenical group meets regularly to pray for the schools in our town. St Mary & St Michael's is hosting the group, **Friday 7 February**, 2.00pm, in the Plessington Chapel. *All welcome.*

First Holy Communion 2025

If your child was born before September 2017 and you'd like to help them prepare for their First Holy Communion, please request an application form from our parish school office or e-mail the presbytery.

Please return your completed application form to the presbytery by the evening of **Monday 10 February**. Thank you. *Fr Geoffrey & Mrs Archibald.*

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Tuesday 11 February marks the patronal feast of our diocese. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at 12.15pm in the cathedral, at which the choir from the cathedral primary school will sing. He will also celebrate Evening Prayer of the Church (Vespers) at 6.00pm. All welcome.

Scorton presbytery conversion

Following last year's very successful renovation & renting of the upstairs floor of the presbytery, it has been decided also to renovate the downstairs: this will become a one-bedroom apartment, with the parish retaining one room to function as an office, meeting room, etc.

These works may well start towards the end of February. There are several 'traditional furniture' items which would need to be removed before then, so these are offered to you, as parishioners, should you so wish.

A viewing has been arranged following 8.30am Mass, **Sunday 16 February**. We hope you can all attend & avail yourselves of this opportunity.

Parish Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 19 February**, 10.00am – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel, Garstang. Funds raised will be for CRY, *Cardiac Risk in the Young*, which offers heart screening for youngsters.

January's event raised £90 for the Ukraine appeal of *Aid to the Church in Need*. Thank you to everyone who supports these get-togethers, which are a great way to raise money for charity and meet old and new friends. We look forward to seeing you. *The Coffee Morning Team.*

Listed places of worship grant scheme : update

Heritage Minister, Sir Chris Bryant, has announced that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will be extended for one year from March 2025.

The scheme - which has run since 2001 - allows listed places of worship of all faiths to reclaim VAT on essential repair works, and we have benefitted very much from that.

However, the extended scheme will operate with a reduced overall budget and a funding cap of £25,000 per place of worship. The total funding limit for the coming year is £23 million, down from the £29 million last year.

Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop Paul invites you to join him on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, **23-30 July**. Booking forms are available at the back of our churches, or to download on the diocesan Lourdes website: www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk. Alternatively, contact Joe Walsh Tours, 0161-8208790. More information from Linda Wisdom, operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk.

There is also a poster advertising the Youth Group pilgrimage. Bookings made for this **before 11 February** will receive a £100 grant from the diocese. For more information, please contact Katie O'Donnell, youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk.

Lenten lunches for Christian Aid

Many thanks to Brenda Price, for taking over co-ordination of our contribution to Garstang's Lenten Lunches.

Calling all soup-makers: prepare to make soup for **Wednesday 12 March**. Thank you. Philippa C.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne & Holy Island

From Bishop Paul: As part of our diocesan celebrations of the Centenary, I will be leading a pilgrimage to the sites associated with St Cuthbert, co-patron of our Diocese, **21-23 May**. The three-day pilgrimage will take in Holy Island and Bamburgh and Durham Cathedral, and we will be staying at the historic former seminary of the North of England, Ushaw College.

The cost of the pilgrimage is £310 for shared accommodation and £340 for single rooms, all inclusive, with coach pick-ups at Workington and Carlisle. To request a booking form, email info@christ-the-good-shepherd.co.uk.

A Year of Hope : introduction to the Jubilee Year

How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching this video from Cafod. <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

It features Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, and CAFOD Director Christine Allen. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

Garstang Parish Draw

Congratulations to our January winners: Beryl Bradley and Mary & Tom Ibison. If you have changed your contact number or removed your landline, please update us by contacting Trish & Kev O'Hanlon via the parish office.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Joyce Bilborrow, Robert Ball, Mary Mason.

Those who are ill or infirm. Joseph Hardacre, Deacon Jim Maguire, Liz Boden, Deacon Michael Dolan, Bob Tomlinson, Fr Tony Walsh, Steve Masterman, Rita Marley, Bob Cookson, Pat Stockdale, Jim Costain, Fr Michael Murphy, Pat McKenna, Bert Lowe, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Margaret Brocklehurst, Mary Jo Counsell, Caroline Nurse, Yvonne Shaw, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Peter Holland, Martina Cople, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Agnes Evans, Tony Derbyshire, Elizabeth Cook, Harold Harwood, Ernest Cecil Clark Firth, Molly Walmsley, David Anthony Pyke, Kathleen Myerscough, Marino Habeishy, Carmen Christancho, Enrique Escobar, Marino Lemos, Hannah Marie Swarbrick, James Carter, Bill Jennings, Mary Whiteside, Angela Mary O'Regan, Eric Bayman, Stephen Sartin, Alice Wells, Nora Bernadette (Berney) Murphy Smith, Martha Horn, Stephen Turton, Winifride Swarbrick, Elizabeth Swarbrick, Ted Lydiate, Richard (Dick) Bernard Gornall, Fred Dagger.