

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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The Epiphany of the Lord

5 January 2025

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|-----|----|-----|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat | 4 | G | 6.00pm | Mass | Sheila Richardson <i>anniversary</i> |
| Sun | 5 | S | 8.30am | Mass | Richard & Betty Gornall & Jenny Bottomley <i>RIP</i> |
| | | G | 10.30am | Mass | People of our parishes |
| Mon | 6 | S | 10.00am | Mass | Special Intention [MF] |
| Tue | 7 | --- | | | |
| Wed | 8 | G | 6.30pm | Mass | Fr Bob Horn <i>lately dead</i> [GS] |
| Thu | 9 | S | 10.00am | Mass | Anne & Danny Prentice <i>50th wedding ann.</i> |
| Fri | 10 | G | 10.00am | Mass | Margaret & Patrick Deehan <i>RIP</i> [MP] |
| | | G | 10.30am | Sacrament of Reconciliation | |

The Baptism of the Lord

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|-----|----|---|---------|------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat | 11 | G | 6.00pm | Mass | Eileen Maguire <i>1st anniversary</i> [JW] |
| Sun | 12 | S | 8.30am | Mass | John McNamee <i>RIP</i> [T+S] |
| | | G | 10.30am | Mass | People of our parishes |

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

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

Our churches and grounds. Thank you to everyone who has helped look after and maintain the buildings and the grounds over the past year, those who keep us up-to-date with matters of health & safety, the cleaners and polishers, and to those who help us celebrate Christmas by cleaning the churches, by arranging the seating for Christmas Eve, and by preparing the cribs, the trees, and the floral displays.

Our liturgies. Thank you to everyone who has helped prepare and celebrate the liturgies, especially those who work hard and exercise their various roles and ministries throughout the year.

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

Decorating St Mary & St Michael's

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that work will soon begin on the expanse of wall near the pulpit, where the paint was damaged by water ingress, now resolved.

The flaking paint will be removed, the plaster checked and, depending on how the bare wall looks, it will be repainted.

Work will begin first on the sections of similarly damaged wall in the balcony, to test any new paint before applying it in the more visible area of the church.

This work will be paid for from an anonymous recent donation. Our sincere thanks to the generous donor.

Redecorating the whole church will be a major project. It will need to be planned and executed with great care, and with respect for the historic fabric. A quotation from 2018 was over £100,000. We can assume an increase of 40% on that by now. (We do not have these funds, ... yet.)

I welcome your thoughts on how we might establish a Parish Steering Group to take this project forward. In the meantime, *Happy New Year, Fr G.*

Parish coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Wednesday 15 January**, 10am -12 noon in the Plessington Chapel, Garstang. We'll be raising funds for *Aid to the Church in Need*. Do join us to welcome in 2025. *The Coffee Morning Team*.

Christmas greetings from Japan

Fr Satoru's Christmas card and newsletter is on the noticeboard at the back of St Mary & St Michael's.

Jubilee 2025 : cancel the debt

The Jubilee Year is now underway, and there is a fast-growing campaign calling for action on the new global debt crisis. CAFOD is working with the global church network to campaign for debt justice this Jubilee Year.

A Jubilee or Holy Year is a year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Occurring every 25 years, it involves a period of rest for people and earth; debts are cancelled and land restored to the landless.

To sign the petition: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/161357/petition/1>.

Stella Maris (previously Apostleship of the Sea) update

Stella Maris (previously Apostleship of the Sea) has appointed a new chaplain in Northwest England, reviving its port chaplaincy service in the Northwest after an absence of almost 10 years. Seafarers in Liverpool, Fleetwood, Maryport, Whitehaven, Barrow and Fleetwood will receive support. See www.stellamaris.org.uk and leaflets next to Holy Water stoop in St Mary & St Michael's, for ways you can help. *Thank you*.

Pilgrim's Progress to Rome

Pilgrim's Progress to Rome, an eight-day trek in **Autumn 2025**, is a charity fundraising challenge organised by the charity *Life*.

Life supports women in unexpected and crisis pregnancies and those experiencing pregnancy loss. *Life* is calling all those with "an adventurous spirit and a compassionate heart" to email emilytraynor@lifecharity.org.uk to receive more information.

Drawings of St Mary & St Michael's church

On the noticeboard in the porch at SSMM are some drawings of our church by children in Heron Class (Y 5 & 6) at our school. Do take a look.

SVP : many thanks

Members would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to our work. A total of **£552.50**, including £79.70 from Scorton, was collected. The money will be used to help local families and those in need overseas. Thank you all for your support.

Members wish parishioners a peaceful and happy New Year.

Garstang Parish Draw

Congratulations to Cathy Moss and Vee Bolton who are our December winners, and to Heather Every and Martina Copple who are our Christmas winners. Happy New Year, and thank you all for your support with our parish draw during 2024. If you would like to know more about our it, contact Trish & Kev O'Hanlon via the parish office.

Tuesday morning prayer

Christians from different churches gather at St Thomas' church, Garstang, for Morning Prayer on **Tuesdays**, 8.55-9.25am. *All welcome*.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. Theresa Thompson, Edith Clarkson, Joe Rooney, Kenneth Walsh.

Those who are ill or infirm. Mary Mason, 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, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Caroline Nurse, Yvonne Shaw, Andrew Whipp, Simon Crossley, John Cookson, Peter Holland, Martina Copple, Dorothy Evans, Ian Moran, Nigel Lord, Ewan, Francisca Rainford, Michael Hendry, Kathryn, Lucy & Family.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, John Edwards, Margaret Davis, Fr Arthur Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, Annie Bisby, Mary Alexander Kenyon, Gerard Swarbrick, Vincent Parker, Stephen John O'Regan, Winifred Doyle, Mary Dickinson, Theresa Cole, John Finlay, Frank Higham, Rita Whittaker, Rev Patrick Smyth, Christopher John Newman, Peter Winstanley, Jane Greenall, Beryl Bellamy, Marina Poulton, Monica Elder-Woodward, and Teresa Fox.