

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 Holy Family

31 December 2023

Sat	30	G	6.00pm	Mass	Anthony Ingleby <i>anniversary</i>
Sun	31	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Margaret <i>anniv.</i> & Joe Walmsley <i>RIP</i> [AC]
Mon	1	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD – New Year's Day			
		S	10.00am	Mass	Michael Hoyle <i>anniversary</i>
Tue	2	--			
Wed	3	G	6.30pm	Mass	For successful surgery [co]
Thu	4	S	10.00am	Mass	Almond & Sweeney families <i>RIP</i>
Fri	5	G	10.00am	Mass	Agnes Gallagher <i>RIP</i>
		G	10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
		G	11.30am	Funeral Liturgy : James Parkinson	

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sat	6	G	6.00pm	Mass	Margaret Samitier <i>lately dead</i> [JW]
Sun	7	S	8.30am	Mass	People of our Parishes
		G	10.30am	Mass	Michael Crosson <i>lately dead</i> [G+RM]

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 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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place on the following dates in the New Year: **7 January**, 4 February, 3 March, 7 April

"We are still a small team of catechists and would welcome and support any volunteers for this ministry." If you're able to help, please contact Nancy Walbank, directly or through the parish office.

Tea & coffee ...

... will be served after 10.30am Mass next Sunday, **7 January**.

Parish coffee morning : many thanks

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the coffee morning by baking, attending, and spending. A total of **£299** was raised and will be sent to Cafod in response to their Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

Check the newsletter early in 2024 for the next coffee morning date. Thank you all. *The Coffee Morning Team*.

Christmas greetings from Tokyo

On the noticeboard at the back of church in Garstang is a Christmas card and letter from **Fr Satori Kato and his family**.

Hear Angels Cry

The *Friends of the Holy Land* have produced a Christmas song, endorsed by Pope Francis, to inspire prayer for peace in the Holy Land: *Hear Angels Cry*. All monies donated by purchases e.g. on Amazon, downloads, and streams will help bring relief to Christians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Please select *Hear Angels Cry* from the menu when you visit:
<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>.

Readers & Welcomers

We could do with more **Readers** for the Masses at Garstang. If you'd like to serve the liturgy in this way, please let me know. I'll gladly offer some preparation; you won't be left to sink or swim. Many thanks, Fr Geoffrey.

Likewise, at Garstang more **Welcomers** would be appreciated for the Saturday & Sunday Masses, and for funerals.

My thinking and hope is that if more folk are familiar with the ministry of welcoming at the weekend and what it involves, we'll likely have more cover for our funerals.

If you'd be willing to take a turn, please let Frank Miller know, either directly or through the parish office. Thank you.

Christmas greetings from Chivuna

Dear Father and all Parishioners of Ss Mary and Michael's church, Warm greetings this Christmas.

It is my prayer and hope that all of you are fine. May the birth of Christ bring each one of you peace, love and joy. Merry Christmas.

We are fine and started receiving regular rainfall last week and the people's hearts are joyful because it has been so dry, and fear of hunger in the coming year was so high.

We are really grateful for your prayers and financial support. The clinic managed to procure a gear box and it was brought to Chivuna last week awaiting fixing. It was quite difficult to find this spare part. It was bought from Malawi as we couldn't find it in Zambia. The Landcruiser will be handy during this rain season.

Wishing you joy, good health, and all blessings in the New Year. *Sr Mutinta*

St Vincent de Paul Society

Thank you all so much for the generous response to the recent SVP collection. A total of £615 was given, including £54 from Scorton. We will be making good use of the money early in the New Year to help local families in need, as well as supporting the SVP baby feeding programme in Sudan. With blessings and sincere thanks for your kindness. *SVP Garstang & Scorton*.

Garstang Parish Draw

Congratulations go to Heather Every and Celia Lowe who are our December winners and Mrs Winnie Parker and Philip Wood who are our Christmas winners. Happy New Year and thank you all for your support with our Parish Draw during 2023.

If you would like to know more about our Parish Draw contact Trish & Kev O'Hanlon via the parish office.

Please pray for ...

Those who have died recently. George Williams (Bowgreave Rise), James Parkinson.

Those who are ill or infirm. Pat McKenna, Joe Rooney, Bert Lowe, Vicki Doherty, Deacon D'Arcy Ryan, Carley Cowburn, Noreen Hargreaves, Mary Purkis, Harold Jepson, Frank Davis, Federico Lema, Mary McCann, Fr Bob Horn, Pat Errington, Rita Whittaker, Margaret Brocklehurst, Rory Montgomery, Mary Jo Counsell, Theresa Thompson, Caroline Nurse, Philippa Haynes, 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, Jessica Holmes.

Those whose anniversary we keep. Jim O'Brien, Margaret Walmsley, Frank Piel, 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, Eleanor Bolton, Iain Watson (10th anniversary), Florence Carter, Edwin Eydmann, Peter Ellwood, Sheila Richardson, Thomas Cross, Tom Wallbank, Angela Margaret Brierley, Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, John Edwards, Margaret Davis, Fr Alfred Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, John Edwards and Annie Bisby.