

St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church
GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

A Parish of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity, no.234331
Fr David Elder & Rev Deacon D'Arcy Ryan,
Bonds Lane, Garstang, Lancs PR3 1ZB. Tel. 01995 602164. Fax 602548
email: ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com
Parish Website: www.ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk
email for website submissions: parish@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

31st JANUARY / 1st FEBRUARY 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus taught the people “with authority” – he cast out demons “with authority”. How did the people recognise that Jesus had this authority?

They were struck by the honest and genuine way he spoke, and how his actions and behaviour reflected his words – it all fitted together. They heard others speak of him, and his reputation matched exactly their experience of him.

It is very rare that we meet someone who shows such integrity – and the people were impressed by Jesus – this integrity is what gave him his authority; this was why they listened to him, this was why they followed after him and wanted to hear more and more.

People were hungry for the truth. It affected them at a deep level. It is as though all of us come to life when we are in the presence of such truth. The truth of Jesus struck a vital chord in his listeners – it made them feel whole, feel valued and complete. Somehow, in the presence of Jesus, they felt more human.

This is what happens to us as we come into the presence of Jesus. His perfect humanity clothing his divinity draws the best out in us.

In his presence, as we celebrate Mass, allow the Lord to touch you with his truth and transform you.

As St Paul says – we must let our hidden selves grow strong.

New items and information

This Sunday is Education Sunday – There will be a second collection for the Catholic Education Services after all Masses.

Monthly Coffee Morning – Are you looking for a way to alleviate those winter blues? We have the very thing! A morning of chat, tea or coffee, and cake (mmm..., the cake!), meeting friends, and making new ones. And we're not just for ladies, either – gentlemen are very welcome! If this is for you, come along from **10 am – 12 noon, next Wednesday, 4th February, in the Plessington Chapel.**

Bereavement Support – A second workshop for anyone interested in providing Bereavement Support will take place in the Plessington Chapel next Saturday, 7th February, from 11 am for approximately two hours. We will be looking at stages of grief using our listening skills! Do come along if you are interested.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Next weekend, there will be the two-monthly special collection in aid of our SVP's projects for the poor.

SS Mary & Michael's School – Welfare – A vacancy has arisen for a lunchtime welfare assistant. This position is to cover 5 lunchtime periods a week, from 11.45 am – 1.10 pm. Hourly rate £7.85. If you are interested, please contact school as soon as possible.

Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom (Sunday, 15th February) – Please join Bishop Michael, the clergy of Lancaster Cathedral and the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (CAN) in a **Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom at the Cathedral on Sunday 15th February at 3.00 pm.** The vigil will last no more than one hour and will give us all the chance to learn about, reflect on and pray for all of those Christians around the world who are currently suffering terrible hardships because of their faith.

Did you know....it's less than 100 days till the General Election? As people of faith, we are encouraged to pray for and question those who represent us on the issues that stand at the heart of the Gospel. When we speak out together as a Catholic community, we have a louder voice. This is why **CAFOD** is joining **CSAN**, the social action agency of the Catholic Church in England, to ask candidates what their parties are doing to end poverty at home and abroad. Visit CAFOD's website at www.cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/100-days-election-questions for your election guide.

Previously Published Items

Sunday Mass Times – For some time now, the bishop has been encouraging parishes to reduce the number of Sunday Masses as the availability of priests decreases with retirement. When Bishop O'Donoghue instructed that the 8.30 am Mass at Calder Vale be discontinued he didn't expect us to transfer that Mass to Bonds. He asked that it be reviewed in 12 months with a view to discontinuing. Bishop Michael has asked me on a couple of occasions what the outcome of the review has been. Our Liturgy & Spirituality Group did this review before Christmas,

and at their most recent meeting recommended a change. From **Sunday 15th March**, therefore, there will only be one Mass on a Sunday morning at 9.30 am. Please note this. There is Mass at 9 am at Claughton, and 10.30 am at Scorton, if occasionally you need an earlier or later Mass.

Parish Safeguarding – Does your role in the parish involve you in activities with children, young people or vulnerable adults? The Lancaster Safeguarding Commission invites you to a **Safeguarding Training Day** at the Cathedral Centre on **Saturday 14th March**. If you are a member of the SVP, a Youth Leader, Catechist, Eucharistic Minister or Musician etc, then this could be for you. You will find more information at the back of Church. Let us know if you are interested in joining us on the day. Ted (604714) or Annette (606702).

Children's Liturgy – There is a real need for more helpers for the Children's Liturgy Team. There is a rota – the more volunteers we have, the less frequently you would have to be involved. There is lots of helpful literature, and volunteers work in teams of two or more, so you would not be alone. *Please could you help?*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 8th February, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ruth Fairey who died on Thursday, 29th January. Her Funeral Mass will be held here on Thursday, 12th February at 10.30 am. *May she rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Agnes Evans, Tony Derbyshire, Elizabeth Cook, Harold Harwood, Molly Walmsley, David Anthony Pyke, Hannah Marie Swarbrick, James Carter, Bill Jennings, Mary Whiteside, Ernie Bayman, Elizabeth Swarbrick, Martha Horn, Stephen Turton and Winifride Swarbrick. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Jim Costain, Dina Carter, Richard (aged 14, has had a bone marrow transplant), Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Alison Green and Tim Park. *(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Response to the psalm at the 10.30 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 31st January – Sunday 8th February 2015

Sat	31 st	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Agnes and Joseph Rossall
Sun	1 st Feb	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Robert and Elsie Tomlinson
Mon	2 nd	No Mass	
Tues	3 rd	12 noon	Ann O'Sullivan and Family
Wed	4 th	9.30 am(note time)	Special Intention (SR)
Thurs	5 th	9.30 am	Peter Corrigan
Fri	6 th	7.00 pm	Holy Souls (Chivuna)
Sat	7 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Intentions of John & Greg Patterson
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	Agnes and Ignatius Bullen
		10.30 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	4 th	No Rosary	
Fri	6 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	7 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions
Sun	8 th	3.00 pm	Benediction & Holy Hour

Special Days this Week:

Sun	1 st Feb	Education Sunday (Second Collection for Catholic Education Services)
Mon	2 nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas)
Thurs	5 th	St Agatha
Fri	6 th	SS Paul Miki and Companions

Meetings this Week:

Tues	3 rd	3.45 pm	Vocations Group
		6.30 pm	2 nd Reconciliation Preparation with Parents (Session 2))
Wed	4 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Deanery Pastoral Council (at Cathedral)
Thurs	5 th	3.00 pm	Churches Together in Garstang (URC)
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	6 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna (preceded by Mass at 7pm)

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	24 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 130	Children : 9
Sun	25 th	8.30 am	Adults: 45	Children: 3
		10.30 am	Adults: 111	Children: 23 Total: 321

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,333.05; A B Grace Trust: £2,300.00; Roof Fund: £55; Votive Lights: £42; Shop: £20; Donations: £50. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in February at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.