

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

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9th / 10th August 2014

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



Jesus reveals in many ways to his disciples that he is not just an ordinary human being, but that he is also divine. He is able to refute the ordinary laws of nature which dictate to us all how we live. The laws of nature were created by God and the Son of God is able to control or override them.

He set up the circumstances of the revelation of his power to his disciples, over some of the

laws of nature in today's gospel. He wanted to show them that no matter what nature and the circumstances of life might throw at them, he would always come to them and be with them, and bring peace and calm to their lives.

The way that he showed them his power over nature couldn't have been more dramatic. The disciples were in the boat. Some of them were very experienced fishermen; they were very used to the squalls that can blow up very quickly as the cool evening air causes dramatic and dangerous conditions over the warm waters of the Sea of Galilee. The arrival of Jesus and response of Peter to join Jesus walking on the water, sets up the dramatic experience of Peter and the disciples – one that they wouldn't forget.

Jesus was revealing himself to be their Saviour – the one who could rescue them from mortal danger and who would bring peace and calm into their turbulent lives. The sign he gave, to teach them to trust him, couldn't have been more dramatic.

Peter's cry as his faith, his trust in Jesus, foundered: "Lord, save me!" was so fundamental to his relationship with Jesus. Jesus was overtly and obviously his Saviour. Jesus held out his hand and caught Peter as he sank and brought him to the safety of the boat. In the boat the rest of the disciples, threatened by the ferocity of the sudden squall, were suddenly surrounded by calm as Jesus and Peter joined them. They were surrounded, in the stillness, by the power of God – this the disciples dramatically recognised: "You are truly the Son of God!"

In the calms after the storms and squalls of life, we find ourselves knowing the presence of Jesus our Saviour. We bow down in adoration and acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Master.

New items and information

Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady into heaven is celebrated this week. It is a day when we have an obligation to come to Mass. Our Mass times here are: Vigil Mass on Thursday 14th August at 7.30 pm and at 9.30 am on Friday 15th August. **Note: there is no 7.15 am Mass.**

Father David is making his annual retreat from Monday 11th August to Tuesday, 19th August.

This Weekend there will be a special collection for the St Vincent de Paul Society after each Mass. The Society helps people in so very many ways; please be as generous as you can. *Thank you.*

St Vincent de Paul Society Appeal for Clothing – Thank you very much to all who have given socks and other clothing. There has been a very good response, and we are grateful for your help for the work of Caritas Care supporting ex-offenders who generally leave prison with very little. We shall leave the box at the back of church for a little while longer. *Thank you. SVP Conference.*

Friends of Chivuna – The minutes of the last meeting are now available.

St Paul's Sunday Missal 2015 – If you would like to order a Missal for 2015, there is a list in the Church Shop.

Did you know.....CAFOD's partners are on the ground in Gaza right now? Islamic Relief, Catholic Relief Service and Caritas Jerusalem are working round the clock, at great personal risk, to provide life-saving aid to families that are injured and homeless because of the conflict. Please contact Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond urging him to help halt the violence. You can do this at www.cafod.org.uk/gaza. CAFOD condemns violence against civilians by *all* sides. Violence as a response to violence only results in more violence. We remember all of the dead with sorrow, and continue tirelessly to pray for peace.

Previously Published Items

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for August – That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights; also that Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all people of that region.

Counters – Thank you to everyone who volunteered, this is much appreciated. Unfortunately, now we still have an odd number of counters, and because they need to work in pairs, we are one short. Is there anyone who would still be willing to volunteer? This would then mean your turn would only come around once every eight weeks.

Our CAFOD Representative, Helen Spencer, is retiring from the post after many years of faithful service. We are looking for a replacement – could that person be you? If so, please see Father David, and he will let Helen know; she will tell you what the job involves. *Thank you.*

Apostleship of the Sea – We have received a letter of thanks for the collection taken on 13th July (£287.70). AoS also ask if anyone has any rosaries, prayer cards,

medals etc that we are not using but would like to pass to others in need; they can be forwarded to their Parish Co-ordinator who will see that they are distributed to the seafarers who ask for them – these items give them comfort when they are away from home for so long, and draw them ever-nearer to the love and trust in God and Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. ***If you have any of these items which you would like to pass on, please hand them in to Liz at the presbytery, and she will ensure they are posted on.***

Cleator Pilgrimage, West Cumbria – Sunday, 7th September. Mass, and blessing of the sick, is at 3 pm. The principal celebrant and preacher is Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. For further enquiries, see poster at back of church, or telephone 01946 810 324.

Brave of Heart: A Weekend Journey for Men - 12th – 14th September 2014, Coret Lumen Christi, St Cuthbert's, The Old Convent, Wigton, CA7 9HU. Come and find all that God has prepared for your masculine heart: life-changing talks, extended times of praise and worship, fellowship and sharing with other Christian men, time in the Lake District, Holy Mass, opportunity for Confession, Prayer ministry.

Donation only after £5 registration fee. For further information telephone 01697 345 623, or visit www.coretlumenchristi.org or email stcuthbert@coretlumenchristi.org.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) – This is a course offered for catechist, teachers and others who may be interested in deepening their knowledge of the Catholic faith. If you are interested in studying this course, please see Father David for course details and an application form.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 17th August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: James Greenall, John Cross, Geoffrey Smith, Terry Murphy, Gerard Rawlinson, Frances & Gerard Wearden, Thomas Jennings, Jane Billington, Francis Purkis, Gladys Mary Stanley and Jack Carr. ***May they rest in peace.***

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled

parishioners, families and friends, including: Joseph Lowe, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Michael O'Neil, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Wilf Rainford, 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 10.30 am Mass :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 9th – Sunday 17th August 2014

Sat	9 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (3 rd Anniversary)
Sun	10 th	8.30 am	Gerald Whittaker
		10.30 am	Thomas & Eleanor Bolton (Wedding Anniversary)
Mon	11 th	No Mass	
Tues	12 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	13 th	7.00 pm	Mass celebrated by Fr. Masaki
<u>Solemnity of the Assumption of our Blessed Lady into heaven</u>			
Thurs	14 th	7.30 pm	Vigil of the Assumption – Bill Bamber
Fri	15 th	No 7.15 am Mass	
		9.30 am	Robert Catterall
Sat	16 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Edward Horn
Sun	17 th	8.30 am	Reverend William Joseph Houlihan
		10.30 am	In Thanksgiving

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	13 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	16 th	No Exposition or Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Mon	11 th	St Clare
Thurs	14 th	St Maximilian Kolbe
Fri	15 th	ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Meetings this Week:

Wed	13 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	2 nd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 109	Children: 5	
Sun	3 rd	8.30 am	Adults: 42	Children: 1	
		10.30 am	Adults: 91	Children: 9	Total: 257

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,067.47; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £43.10; Bequest: £500. ***Many thanks to you all.***

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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