

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.ssmariandmichaels-garstang.org.uk
email for website submissions: parish@ssmariandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

12th / 13th April 2014
PALM SUNDAY (YEAR A)



We begin Holy Week by watching Jesus come into the Holy City, riding on a donkey. We sing “Hosanna” with the crowds. We hold our palm crosses on high.

By the end of the week we are shouting “Crucify him!” In today’s gospel, we shout “Let him be crucified!” How fickle we can be! How quickly we can be persuaded to turn against Jesus, how quickly we can be tempted to sin!

Jesus, the Son of God, the one who had the power to give back sight to a man who was born blind, the one who had the power to raise a man who was dead and buried back to life – this same Jesus allowed himself to be arrested, condemned by a Roman appointee, treated like a common criminal by sadistic guards, and hung pitilessly from a wooden cross until life was drained from him – this Jesus, Son of God, died because of my sinfulness, my fickleness – our sin.

This week, let us commit ourselves to following Jesus who went through all this in order to give us life from the death of sin. Let us come to the celebrations of each moment of his suffering, death and resurrection, beginning on Thursday evening in the upper room. All the times are in the yellow leaflet.

New items and information

Holy Week

- Posters to be displayed visibly in the windows of our homes.
- Palms to be blessed before each Mass this weekend.
- Green indoor plants needed for the Altar of Repose – by Thursday morning, please.
- List for watching with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane (Altar of Repose).
- Please pray for Tammy McAleese who is to be baptised into the new life of Christ at the Easter Vigil
- **A real determined effort to come to *all* the services of the Triduum.**

Easter Flowers – As you no doubt know, flowers are very expensive, especially at this time of year, so there will be a collection this weekend, to help with the cost. Whatever you are able to give will be very welcome. We also need greenery, which can be left in the church porch. *Thank you.*

Flower arranging will take place on Good Friday from 9 am in the Plessington Chapel. All are welcome to come and help, even if it is just with the clearing up. The more, the merrier!

Instruments of the Lord's Peace – Reconciliation Wednesday – Are you searching for a pathway to peace with another person, or for a situation close to your heart? Bring this need to prayer on the Wednesday of Holy Week – 16 April 2014 from 6 - 8 pm. On Reconciliation Wednesday, we will gather with Catholics from all over the Diocese to pray for the peace and Reconciliation that our Lord can give when we offer ourselves as instruments of that peace.

Marriage Encounter Weekend Many of our parishioners gained a great deal from making Marriage Encounter Weekends years ago. There is now a new opportunity. Is your marriage important to you and your family? We invite you to experience a **Marriage Encounter Weekend at Minsteracres 9 – 11 May 2014**. It is a unique way for you to revitalise your marriage away from the distractions of life. Weekends funded by donations. For more information and booking contact Harry & Muff Wilde 01538 385802 or go to our website www.wwme.org.uk.

Friends of Chivuna – The minutes of the last meeting of 4th April are ready for collection from the back of church.

Whist and Domino Drive – The next session is this Monday, 14th April. Would you like to learn a new skill? Then do come along and have some fun – everyone is welcome, including complete beginners!

2014 Offertory Envelopes – There are still a number of boxes of envelopes at the back of church which have not yet been collected. If you normally give your donations by the envelope scheme but have not yet picked up your box, please do so.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Please note that this month our meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, 15th April in the Plessington Chapel at 7.30 pm.

Did you know....CAFOD is part of *The Climate Coalition*, over 100 organisations representing more than 11 million people across the UK dedicated to taking action on climate change and limiting its impacts on the world’s poorest communities? God has given us an abundant world, yet all over the world we have failed to protect our planet, and consequently, our sisters and brothers. We call on politicians to

tackle climate change for the love of everything we care about, and we invite you to join us. See www.cafod.org.uk/fortheloveof.

Thank you for your generosity to the **CAFOD** collection for Lent Fast Day – a wonderful £534.50 was raised.

Traidcraft – Many thanks to all those who placed Traidcraft orders or purchased items through the Church Shop. We were able to send £93.66 to the Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. *Thank you again. Helen Spencer.*

Society of African Missions – we have had a thank you letter from Rev Rob Morland, thanking us for the generosity of our parishioners (£659.73 was raised) and for the hospitality and kindness offered to Fr Sylvester while he was here.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 20th April, Easter Sunday, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Previously Published Items

Gift Aid – A gift aid tax reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify me if you are no longer a tax payer or you paid insufficient tax during 2013/2014 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year, at the present standard rate of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1 donated. *Colin Swarbrick.*

Please continue to remember in your prayers Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old) who has leukaemia and is still fighting for her life.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Rose Skillen, Bob Miller, Kevin Kavanagh, William Barnes, Anthony Atherton, Thomas James Horn, Nellie Swarbrick, Winifride Nickson, Margaret Towers, William Rawlinson, Fr Gerald Bilsborrow and Jim Walmsley. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth's brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O'Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, Antonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley (Brian's brother), Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Davies, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Paula Nicholson, 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 12th – Sunday 20th April 2014

Sat	12 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Bill Bamber
Sun	13 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Tony Hall
Mon	14 th	No Mass	
Tues	15 th	12 noon	Walter & Marjorie Drake
Wed	16 th	12 noon (note time)	Ellen (U.S.A.)
Thurs	17	11.30 am 7.30 pm	Chris Mass at the Cathedral Canon David Murphy
Fri	18 th	3.00 pm	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy
Sat	19 th	8.00 pm (Easter Vigil)	Terry Murphy (Birthday Memories)
Sun	20 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Kevin Kavanagh Bill Bamber

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Tues	15 th	7.30 pm	Ecumenical Holy Week Service at the United Reformed Church
Wed	16 th	6 pm – 8 pm	Reconciliation Wednesday – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
Fri	18 th	6.00 am	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross – procession to Greenhalgh Castle

Special Days this Week: (See yellow Holy Week Leaflet for details)

Sun	13 th	PALM SUNDAY
Thurs	17 th	HOLY THURSDAY
Fri	18 th	GOOD FRIDAY
Sat	19 th	HOLY SATURDAY
Sun	20 th	EASTER SUNDAY

Meetings this Week:

Tues	15 th	7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul (Plessington Chapel)
Wed	16 th	8.00 pm (note time)	Choir Practice (in the Dining Room)

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	5 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 106	Children: 6	
Sun	6 th	8.30 am	Adults: 51	Children: 7	
		10.30 am	Adults: 109	Children: 33	Total: 312

Monies Received: Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,044.81; Roof Fund: £518.56; Cemetery: £40; Votive Lights: £38; Shop: £10. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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