

New items and information

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

12th / 13th July 2014

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME DAY FOR SEAFARERS



It is an acquired understanding of those of us who are Christians that somehow parables are picturesque ways in which Jesus communicates with ordinary people, but this is not the understanding that verses 10 – 17 of the gospel give us today. Here parables are seen as mechanisms which intentionally obscure matters which might otherwise be plainly spoken about. To the disciples, to those on the inside track, the secrets of the Kingdom are opened. But to everyone else, they are not. The parable is a form that both tantalises and cloaks. It is a statement of the reality of God's secrets in a way that can only be understood when outsiders have become insiders. We may find it quite hard to take on board that the role of parables is to obscure and make complex rather than to give the simple truth about God and his Kingdom.

In seeking a fresh perspective on the parable, we are aided by today's other readings. For Isaiah the issue is essentially one of the absolute necessity of God's Word finding fulfilment on earth. For Isaiah this is predictable as a natural law; just as rain waters the earth, so God's Word accomplishes its purpose, and such purpose is unstoppable. There is no room here for the meddling of an evil one or indeed for the concept of bad or infertile ground. The Word of God not only endures for ever, but is irresistible. St Paul in his letter is confident in the inevitable fulfilment of God's purposes; everything will come right in the end. There may be suffering for a time, but this will pass as God's Word is accomplished.

One of the dangers of encountering scripture in bite-sized chunks as we do on Sundays is that it can breed indifference. Today's gospel reading is so familiar to us that we can fail to appreciate its astonishing strangeness, or be challenged by the wider issues it raises. We fail to be grasped by a remarkably ordinary story because we are given the key for its interpretation in advance. We are taught to think in a particular way about it, and to suppose that this is the natural and only understanding.

It ain't necessarily so!

D'arcy

Today, please welcome Father Michael from Tabor, who is supplying for Father David while he is on holiday.

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This annual collection is absolutely vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. *Thank you.*

For more information on AoS, please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

Ministers of Holy Communion – We welcome eight new and returning Ministers of Holy Communion – Tony Backhouse, Alison Dodd, Patrick Hynes, Roisin McCann, Rebecca Naylor, Caroline Nurse, Kevin O'Hanlon and Margaret Wilcock who have been commissioned to serve the parish for the next three years. Many thanks to Joyce Bilsborrow, Martina Cople, Celia Horn, Doris Richardson, Liz Rowlandson, Anne Stobbs and John Towers who step down after several years of faithful service. New Rotas are now available.

Monthly Whist and Domino Drive will take place this Monday, 14th July 2014 from 2 – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. All welcome.

Good Shepherd Fund – Next weekend, we will be taking a special collection for the Good Shepherd Fund.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for July – “That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth”, and “That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.”

Did you know... 9th July was the third anniversary of South Sudan's independence – but the country is teetering on the brink of catastrophe as it faces its worst food crisis in 25 years, brought about by the ongoing conflict? Nearly four million people are at risk of severe hunger. CAFOD is scaling up its humanitarian response with its local Church partners. *We pray that the international community and all parties to the conflict will redouble their efforts towards the next steps in securing a sustainable, negotiated, peaceful solution to the conflict.*

St Vincent de Paul Society – Very many thanks to those who assisted at the Healing Mass, especially Margaret Lamoury, Celia Lowe and Anne Miller for all their help with the refreshments. Members please note there will be no meeting in July. *The group will meet again on 19th August at 7.30 pm.*

Catholic Directory for England and Wales – Someone asked Father David to get a 2014 Catholic Directory for them. If that person was you, it is in the Presbytery, awaiting collection. Please see D'arcy. *Thank you.*

Emergency Call-outs at RLI – Requests for clergy attendance need to be initiated by the families, and will be passed on by the ward staff. The ward staff will then contact the hospital switchboard who have an 'emergency bleep' to call out the Cathedral clergy. This procedure should ensure that a priest will attend. There are cards at the back of church which you can give when you go into hospital to specify that you want to give the Catholic Chaplain your name and the fact that you are a Catholic.

Previously Published Items

Assisted Dying Bill – Please write to a member of the House of Lords – The Bill to legalise “assisted dying” – meaning assisted suicide – will be debated in the House of Lords on 18th July 2014. There will be a free vote because it is not government legislation. If passed, this Bill would place vulnerable people at serious risk. Especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as a family member or as a health or social care professional, please write before 18th July to a Peer to tell them your views. For more information, including details of how to write to a Peer, please visit www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill. It is very important to write as soon as possible, and certainly before 18th July.

St Vincent de Paul Society Appeal for clothing – especially socks for ex-offenders. Caritas Care in Preston are constantly in need of clothing for both men and women, but particularly men, and their stocks are very low just now. In our recent appeal for clothing, the response was excellent – so again we are highlighting this ongoing need. Do you have socks you no longer wear? You no longer need? Maybe you have socks hiding at the back of your sock drawer? Then now is the time to bring them to church. A box will be provided for this purpose and we are grateful for your generosity. *Thank you. SVP Conference.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 20th July, 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: Pat Salles, Robert Spenser, Frederick Lyford, Agnes Bullen, Harry Nickson, Thomas Wells, George and Mary Pyke, Edwin Seed, Mary Thompson, Mary Wrennall, Patricia Maguire, Agnes Imelda Taylor, Annie Morris, Mary Walmsley, Susan Conway, William Dilworth and John Flemming. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Christopher (of Cenacolo), Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Simon Crossley, 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 Davies, 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.)*

The Response to the Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 12th – Sunday 20th July 2014

Sat	12 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Agnes and Ignatius Bullen
Sun	13 th	8.30 am	Rev. F. Hickey
		10.30 am	Tony Stephenson (Lately Dead)
Mon	14 th	No Mass	
Tues	15 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	16 th	7.00 pm	Robert Catterall
Thurs	17 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Fri	18 th	9.30 am	“ “ “ “
Sat	19 th	9.30 am	“ “ “ “
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tony Stephenson
Sun	20 th	8.30 am	Rev William Joseph Houllihan
		10.30 am	John Flemming (Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	16 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	19 th		No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Sun	13 th	Sea Sunday (Special Collection)
Tues	15 th	St Bonaventure
Fri	19 th	St John Plessington, St John Wall O.F.M, Blessed Thomas Cottam S.J., William Harcourt S.J., William Marsden, George Haydock, John Sandys and George Beesley – Martyrs of Lancashire

Meetings this Week:

Wed	16 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	5 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 77	Children: 4
Sun	6 th	8.30 am	Adults: 79	Children: 14
		10.30 am	Adults: 103	Children: 18
				Total: 295

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,115.15; Hymn Book Dedication: £5; Votive Lights: £53.50; Shop: £20; Donation: £75; Peter’s Pence: £10; Postcards: £1. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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