

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](mailto:ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com)

Parish Website: [www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

email for website submissions: [parish@ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](mailto:parish@ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

**13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016**  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**



“The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year of Mercy should also be lived more intensely as a privileged time to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.” (Paragraph 17, Misericordiae Vultus – Pope Francis’ Bull of Indiction announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy.)

Pope Francis emphasises that this Lent be a time “to experience God’s mercy”. Where we find the opportunity to actually know God’s mercy and to experience it is in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of God’s Forgiveness. This Lent our communal Celebration of God’s Forgiveness is on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. But just as

importantly, individual (private) celebration of God’s forgiveness will take place on Friday evening and/or Saturday mornings, during Lent. Pope Francis emphasises how we must really come back to individual confession. Every weekend during Lent I am going to devote my homily to talking about the amazing Sacrament of God’s Forgiveness celebrated individually.

Many of us grew out of the habit of going to confession a lot of years ago – perhaps we haven’t been to individual confession since we were children. Yes, we have been faithful to the Sacrament in our communal celebrations in Lent and Advent. But there is a different and profound experience of God’s mercy awaiting us in the regular celebration of individual confession.

Here, in our church, we stopped using the confessional some time ago. Now we celebrate individual confessions in the Plessington Chapel. We place a screen in the chapel, with a kneeler. The priest sits behind the screen with a chair opposite him. A candle is lit on a small table where there is a copy of an Act of Contrition. You have the choice of kneeling behind the screen and making your confession anonymously, or you can sit facing the priest. More and more people choose the latter option.

Whichever way you decide to celebrate the Sacrament, it is a profound encounter with our loving and merciful Lord, who waits so patiently for us to come to him.

**New items and information**

**Lent 2016** – A time for prayer, reconciliation, and fasting. Here are some Lenten times:

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

**Individual Celebration (Confession)**

Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 – 10.30 am
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	7.30 – 8.00 pm

**Communal Celebration of God’s Forgiveness**

Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup> March	10.15 am
----------	------------------------	----------

**Stations of the Cross**

Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> February	6.30 pm
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30 pm
Friday	18 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00 pm
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am – Good Friday Children’s Stations

**Lent Fast Day, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February** – This Lent Fast day, we have an opportunity to come together as a Catholic community to ensure girls living in the worlds poorest countries are free to change their lives by getting an education. CAFOD is working with local expert organisations around the world to bring water to family homes, so girls who used to spend hours collecting it every day, now have time for school, study and to play with their friends. Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. Collect your Fast Day envelope from church this week. And there is very good news – the UK government has promised to match every pound and penny your give this Lent! Please give as much as you can afford in next week’s collection, so that more girls around the world are able to live lives free from the burden of the long walk for water. **Thank you.**

**“My Day by Day” Lent booklets** – For any children who do not attend St Mary & St Michael’s School, but who would like one of these booklets, there are some at the back of church – please help yourselves.

**“Walk with Me”** – Calendars for Lent 2016 are available for children; if you would like one, they are available from the back of church.

**Whist & Domino Drive** – Who hates Mondays? Hands up! Well, here is something to make Mondays a day of cheer once more. Whist and Dominos takes place in the Plessington Chapel this Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, from 2 – 4 pm. Even if you don’t know your whist from your rummy, why not come along and have a go? Fun is had by all, experts and newbies, and everyone is welcome!

**St Vincent de Paul Society** – Our monthly meeting will take place on **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30 pm, at 2 Brooklands Drive. We do need new members, so please come along if you would like to join us. **Thank you to the mystery person who replaced the large cardboard box at the back of church.** Thank you. Pat. tel: 605793.

**VSO Nepal** – I would like to thank everyone who came to my Fairtrade coffee morning or donated towards my fundraising for Voluntary Service Overseas. I raised a fantastic **£381.70**. I was overwhelmed by the generosity and messages of support I received from the parish - I will keep you updated with how I get on in Nepal! **Hannah Spencer.**

**Traidcraft** – Spring Catalogues are now available at the back of church. Traidcraft works to end poverty through trade, and, since we have an account, we receive a discount on orders which we donate to Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. If you can, please consider purchasing fair trade food,

gifts, clothing, cards etc, and make a difference to some of the poorest people in the world, whilst raising money for Chivuna. *Helen Spencer.*

**Church Shop – URGENT APPEAL** – we desperately need more volunteers to help with the church shop after the 10 am Mass on Sunday mornings. It's a simple task and would only require a commitment once every few weeks. Any help would be very much appreciated. If interested, please call Jen on 602 341. *Thank you.*

**Ladies' Ecumenical Service** – this will be held at the United Reformed Church THIS Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 2.00 pm. If you would like to attend, please let Philippa Catterall know on 602797.

**Castlerigg Manor** – This Easter, they are having their annual Easter Weekend Retreat (24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March) for young people in Year 9 and over. If you are interested in joining other young people on this retreat, or if you are interested in joining the Castlerigg Team, please see the posters at the back of church, or visit [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk), or contact Castlerigg on 017687 72711.

**Blessed are the Merciful – Public Lectures** – Lord David Alton will be speaking on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, at 7.30 pm, at the University of Lancaster Chaplaincy Centre (LA1 4YW) on the theme of “Mercy to the Multitudes – Where mercy and public policy meet”. Lord Alton is a cross-bench peer, professor and longstanding human rights campaigner. All welcome, donation only. Refreshments available.

**Lent Lunches** – You are invited to Garstang URC for five Lent Lunches (it was originally six, but we received the notice too late for you to attend the first!): 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> March (all Wednesdays) from 12 noon – 1 pm. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

#### **Previously Published Items**

**Parish Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2016 – Update** – The date has now been finalised, commencing on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September for 7 nights, returning on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Fr Jerome Ainsworth will be the pilgrimage chaplain. The cost, including full board at the 3\* Hotel Agenda will be £675 plus additional charges for insurance (£25 up to age 85) and UK transport to/from Manchester Airport. (Amount to be confirmed.) For those interested in going, there will be a planning meeting shortly. (Date to be announced.) If you are interested and have not yet put your name(s) down, please add them to the list at the back of church. *Thank you.*

**Wednesday Word** for the weekend Mass of 21<sup>st</sup> February can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

***Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:*** Margaret Dilworth, Mary Pedder, Horn/Brown Families, Agnes Smith, Thomas Dilworth, Tony Hall, Lillian Williams, Bill Ainsworth, Dennis Bolger, Ann Horn, Ann Cookson, Elsie Tomlinson, Mary Miller, Winifred Carr, John Horn, Thomas Ibison and Marjorie Edge. *May they rest in peace.*

***We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:*** Maureen Ingleby, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew's Mum), Jean Parkinson, Ann and Jackson Wickes, Thomas Lowe (Bert's brother), Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford and Alison Green.

*(When people whose names are on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

**Sung Response to the Psalm at 10 am Mass on Sunday:**

#### **Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Tony Hall (Second Anniversary)
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	May Boyle
Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	}	
Tue	16 <sup>th</sup>	}	
Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	}	<b>No Mass</b>
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	}	
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.00 am (note time)</b>	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ted Richardson (Birthday)
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

#### **Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	17 <sup>th</sup>	No Rosary	
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.30 pm	Confessions
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	No Confessions	

#### **Special Days this week:**

None

#### **Meetings this Week:**

Mon	15 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm – 4 pm	Whist & Dominos (Plessington Chapel)
Weds	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
		7.30 pm	SVP Meeting (at 2 Brooklands Drive)

#### **Last Week's Attendance:**

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 118	Children: 12
		10.00 am	Adults: 123	Children: 17 Total: 270

#### **Monies Received:**

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £999.69; Shop: £15; Votive Lights: £53.90. *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.