

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

16th / 17th August 2014

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



The clear theme of all the readings this weekend concerns God's universal care and concern for people of every nation. The people of Israel originally believed that their God was the greatest deity among many, but by the time

of the Exile, the belief that there was only one God had begun to develop, put forward in particular by the prophet Jeremiah.

In the Gospel, Jesus initially seems to be saying that God's healing is restricted to the chosen people, as he rebuffs the pagan woman on these grounds; but the woman persists, and she had the cleverness to point out that even dogs are given crumbs and scraps from their masters' table. This display of faith so impresses Jesus that he grants her request.

Some over-serious people have been known to comment that it is never recorded that Christ laughed, but often that he wept. Perhaps we could imagine in this story of Jesus' encounter with a non-Jewish mother, desperate because of the condition of her daughter, that he is amused at being outwitted by her retort, and accedes with good humour to her request. His doing so shows that God's mercy and care are *not* restricted to any particular group, but that any human being has a claim on God's healing power.

As Paul warns his readers, there is a danger that members of any group may consider themselves superior to others (as is happening in the Islamic state of Iraq) and look down on them. The readings for this Sunday challenge the closed mentality of people of three different ages and settings who thought they had an exclusive, or at least privileged place in God's sight. Our Church should be a Pilgrim Church, a Mission Church, not one that seems to be too respectable and has little room for those who do not fit in.

D'arcy

New items and information

NWCSG Children's Holidays – Many, many thanks to the people who supported us by making delicious cakes which we really enjoyed with our picnics and evening snacks. Always something we look forward to – thank you. *Please remember to find your tins at the back of church.*

St Vincent de Paul Society – Thank you all very much for your generosity and kindness when we had our collection last week – a wonderful £292 was raised! *The next meeting of the SVP is on Tuesday, 19th August 2014, at 7.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.*

Thank You very much to the Retired Church Cleaners, who have contributed £200.80 to the Roof Fund.

Cathy Place's Visit to Chivuna

“My visit to Chivuna was a complete eye-opener. I saw the poverty which the other half lived in, yet they were some of the happiest, friendliest people I've ever met. The nuns I stayed with were fairly well off in comparison to the villagers (by which I mean they occasionally had running water and electricity) but the majority of the families lived in small mud huts with around 20 children, and got water either from a dirty hole in the ground, or from the mine, over 5 km away. One of the retired nuns, Sr Teresa, would visit these people and show them how to make the most of what they had, such as making body lotion from plants, as they had next to nothing. The money which we raised went towards helping these people, sponsored 22 orphans for their education for two years and also bought a computer for the basic primary school. *Thank you, from myself and everyone in Chivuna, for your support. Cathy.*

Did you know...CAFOD has committed £25,000 to our Caritas partners in Iraq to respond to the plight of Iraqis forced from their homes, fleeing violence? This money will be used to support the urgent needs of families who now find themselves living in schools, public buildings, churches and mosques. Working under dangerous conditions, our partners report that it is difficult to move around because of the insecurity, but they're doing all they can to coordinate with the Churches and their clergy. The solidarity of Catholics across England and Wales is a source of genuine hope for our brothers and sisters in need.

Castlerigg BBQ and Open Day – This will take place on 13th September 2014 and is for all age groups – children, young people, families and friends of the Manor. The day begins with Mass at 11 am, followed by BBQ and picnics and games and a tour of the house, bouncy castle, raffle – in fact, all the fun of the fair! Free tickets for those who register in advance. See poster at back of church, or for further information, telephone 017687 72711 or email team@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Also,

“The Big Walk” will take place 4th – 6th September 2014; limited places available. £75 per person. Sign up at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.

Previously Published Items

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.*

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

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.

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.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 24th 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: Jane Billington, Francis Purkis, Gladys Mary Stanley, Jack Carr, Mary Bate, Agnes Pyke, William Hall, Jeanette Mears, Les Lunn, Dorothy Richardson and Lilian Barnes. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Rachael Flood (née Mears), 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 16th – Sunday 24th August 2014

Sat	16 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Edward Horn
Sun	17 th	8.30 am	Reverend William Joseph Houlihan
		10.30 am	In Thanksgiving
Mon	18 th	No Mass	
Tues	19 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	20 th	7.00 pm	“ “ “ “
Thurs	21 st	9.30 am	Bernard Ryan
Fri	22 nd	9.30 am	Private Intention
Sat	23 rd	9.30 am	Private Intention
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Catherine Heaton (Lately Dead)
Sun	24 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Jeanette Mears (Fourth Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	20 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	23 rd	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition and Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Wed	20 th	St Bernard
Thurs	21 st	St Pius X
Fri	22 nd	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sat	23 rd	St Rose of Lima

Meetings this Week:

Tues	19 th	7.30 pm	SVP (Plessington Chapel)
Wed	20 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	9 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 110	Children: 4
Sun	10 th	8.30 am	Adults: 53	Children: 6
		10.30 am	Adults: 98	Children: 14
			Total: 285	

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,002.84; Shop: £30; Votive Lights: £43.10; Donation: £20; Photocopying: £5; Tea Money: £80; Roof Fund Donation from the Retired Church Cleaners: £200.80. *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.