

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, Lanes 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 January 2016
SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)
JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



At the start of a new year, the readings at Mass over the first three weekends present to us three signs of who Jesus really is – the Son of God.

The first Sunday of January we celebrated the Epiphany – even as a baby, Jesus was honoured by the Magi with gifts that were full of symbolism – this child was no ordinary baby!

The second Sunday of the month – last Sunday – the voice of the Father from heaven confirms Jesus' identity as he was baptised by his cousin:

“This is my Son
the beloved;
my favour rests on him.”

Today, in the little town of Cana in Galilee, Jesus gives an extraordinary sign to his new disciples who were guests at the wedding feast. St John writes: “He let his glory be seen and his disciples believed in him!”

At this stages in his public ministry, what better way to impress his female disciples (we presume some were women) than by the way he listened to his mother who had seen the distress of the bride and groom as the supply of wine ran out! What better way to impress his male disciples than by providing an abundant supply of the finest wine!

“You have kept the best wine till now,” the steward complains to the amazed bridegroom. This was to be the key to becoming a disciple of Jesus. We continually find ourselves amazed by the generosity of Jesus. The more we get to know him, the more we find ourselves wondering at the love he has for us. Over and over again he surprises us.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, as we continue to reflect upon the infinite mercy of the Father, we find ourselves deeply touched by God's loving forgiveness of our failings. As we grow older, we become more aware of our wanton disregard of others and of God's creation. God has given us so much and yet we live as if our happiness is our own doing. We fail so often to recognise the signs of the Father's merciful, loving presence all through our lives.

Perhaps in this Year of Mercy we may find ourselves acknowledging more often God's profound and unending love for us. We ask him, and he gives us an abundance of gifts, of fine wines!

New items and information

Today is the Day of Prayer for Peace – The Catholic peace movement, Pax Christi, which facilitates the Peace Sunday celebrations each year, works to secure a peace which is merciful and just. This it does locally by linking together people who are committed to the work of making peace, providing resources, and fostering prayer and reflection regarding the meaning of the Gospel of Peace. But it also works internationally to build trust in troubled areas of the world and to speak out on issues of war and peace on the basis of Catholic ethics. Please consider joining Pax Christi and getting involved in its work. For more details of the work of Pax Christi, see www.paxchristi.org.uk or write to Pax Christi, Christian Peace Education Centre, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY, tel: 0208 203 4884. If joining Pax Christi is not an option for you, then please pray for them and the work they do. Prayer cards are available from the back of church, and there will be a second collection after both Masses this weekend. *Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you.*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18th-25th – As part of the week of prayer, Christians Together in Garstang are encouraged to use the opportunity to pray for the work of each other in our worship services between 17th and 25th January. On Wednesday 20th January there will be an extra evening held in Wesley's Café from 7.00 pm. This will be a time of fellowship and prayer, led by Rev. Keith Borwick. See poster at the back of church. There are also a few booklets “Salt of the Earth” containing reflections, prayers and questions, available from the back of church.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Our January meeting will be held next Tuesday, 19th, at 2 Brooklands Drive, Garstang. If you are interested in joining us, you would be very welcome. Please ring Pat on 605 793.

Whist and Domino Drive – Come and join us this Monday, 18th January, at 2.00 pm for a bit of fun and competition! Even if you have never played before, you are welcome – banish winter blues and come and learn something new!

Liturgy & Spirituality Group – The next meeting is on Wednesday, 20th January, at 4.00 pm.

Parish Youth Group – the next Parish Youth Group meeting is next Friday, 22nd January, in the Parish Centre from 7.00 – 9.00 pm. *All young people are invited to come and support us and have some fun!*

Next weekend and the weekend following, 24th and 31st January, there will be a retiring collection to help the victims of floods in Cumbria through the SVP. Fr. Hugh Pollock, Parish Priest of Kendal, told Fr. David that many people who suffered were not insured. They are the ones in most need at this time. *Please be generous.*

CAFOD Lent Fast Day meeting will be held on Sunday 31st January from 1pm – 3pm at St Mary's Catholic Church, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6SP. All welcome. See poster at back of church.

Father Satoru Kato who used to be a regular attendee at our church and is now a parish priest in Japan, has sent us a letter and Christmas card which you will find displayed on the notice board at the back of church.

The Minutes of the Chivuna meeting on 8th January are now available.

Did you know...one of Africa's most populated and poorest countries, Ethiopia, is faced with frequent droughts and food shortages? Most Ethiopians rely on farming

and cattle-herding to feed their families and make a living. But increasing droughts, irregular rains and poor soil caused by overgrazing and deforestation mean crops and livestock are suffering, and food supply is at risk for over 13 million people. CAFOD is working with partners to improve long-term farming conditions, supporting people living with HIV and community building, providing emergency food rations to malnourished children, pregnant women, and new mothers and supplying herding communities with water and animal feed.

Previously Published Items

St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal – Our appeal for bedding and winter clothing for those in need – men’s, women’s and children’s clothing continues, and we are very grateful for your generous response. The box will remain at the back of church for the time being. Any queries, please ring Pat on 605 793. *Thank you.*

Lourdes – Possible Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016 – In order to look at the possibility of arranging a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, it would be helpful to know the numbers of people who may be interested. Dates have not been finalised yet, but more information will be available shortly. If interested, please put your name on the list at the back of church. *Elizabeth Horn.*

Leonard Cheshire Home, Oaklands, are still looking for volunteers who would be willing to drive residents to Sunday morning Mass in one of their small vans, or if they didn’t want to drive, to accompany the residents in the van and stay with them during Mass and accompany them back to Oaklands. If we get enough volunteers, a rota could be set up, so that no one would need to commit to every Sunday. If you think you could help in this way, please contact Cathy Openshaw, Volunteer Co-ordinator, email Catherine.openshaw@leonardcheshire.org, or telephone 01995 602290.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 24th January can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Renee Williams, David Trevor Orr, Tom Thompson, Thomas Henry (Harry) Horn, Ann Swarbrick, Thomas F McNicholas, Jim Bamber, Belle Metcalf, Thomas Bamber, Hugh Grimbaldston, John Thomas Graham, Richard Hargreaves and John McArdle. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew’s Mum), Mrs Jean Parkinson (Jim’s wife), 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, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, 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 placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 23rd – Sunday 31st January 2016

Sat	16 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	17 th	10.00 am	Terry Maddock
Mon	18 th	No Mass	
Tue	19 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	20 th	9.30 am (please note)	Marjorie Kirkham
Thurs	21 st	9.30 am	Thank you to St Martha for a successful operation
Fri	22 nd	9.30 am	Vee’s & John’s Intentions
Sat	23 rd	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Bro. Geoff Brown
Sun	24 th	10.00 am	Ruth Fairey (1 st Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Fri	22 nd	10 – 11 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	23 rd	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Tues	19 th	St Wulstan
Wed	20 th	St Sebastian
Thurs	21 st	St Agnes
Fri	22 nd	St Vincent

Meetings this Week:

Mon	18 th	2 – 4 pm	Whist and Domino Drive
Tues	19 th	6.30 pm	First Forgiveness Preparation (Session 2)
		7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul Society at 2 Brooklands Drive
Weds	20 th	4.00 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	21 st	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	22 nd	7 – 9 pm	Parish Youth Group (in Parish Centre)

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sun	10 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 146	Children: 11
		10.00 am	Adults: 116	Children: 20 Total: 293

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,054.42; Shop: £20; Votive Lights: £50.50; Donations: £325. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in January at St Thomas’s. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.