

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@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

18th / 19th JULY 2015

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)
Feast of SS John Plessington, John Wall & Companions



“O Jesus, be to me a Jesus,” “O Jesus, be to me a Saviour.”
These were the last words of St John Plessington on the scaffold in Chester Castle on this day, 19th July, in 1679. The man, who was born at Dimples Hall, Dimples Lane, about 1637, was executed because he was a priest who served his people at Holywell, N. Wales, and on the Wirral around Puddington Hall.

Today we honour John's memory as we celebrate the Mass which he kept alive in those savage penal times. With the love and support of the Catholic people of this corner of our country, he helped to keep alive the faith that had been passed down for many generations. He was a shepherd of his flock, secretly celebrating Mass in people's homes and places of work.

Jesus prays that there will always be shepherds of the people, shepherds who are prepared even to offer their lives – as Jesus did – for their people. St John was such a shepherd. He knew that the people needed priests to celebrate Mass for them. He knew how it was in the Mass that we are drawn together into Christ; that it is in the Mass that we find life. Without the Mass our faith will struggle to survive.

The threat today is not from an anti-Catholic government, threatening us with imprisonment and execution. The threat today is our apathy towards ensuring that Mass will actually be celebrated here in Garstang for our children and grandchildren.

Fr John Paul Evans from Great Eccleston has just been ordained a priest for our Diocese. There are three students on the six-year course in seminaries preparing to become priests in the Lancaster Diocese. If all three persevere, we will have three new priests in the next six years. During this time, some eight priests will retire – others may die before retirement. During the next six years at least six parishes, which now have a resident priest, will no longer have a priest to celebrate Mass. Will SS Mary & Michael's be one of those parishes?

Today we intercede with the Lord, through St John Plessington, to raise up willing men who will be prepared to celebrate the Mass for our children and grandchildren in the coming years. “O Jesus, be to us a Saviour,” – “O Jesus, be to me a Jesus.”

New items and information

Today is St John Plessington's Feast Day We are hoping to celebrate the Sunday 10 am Mass on the Presbytery lawn (if the weather permits!) Mass will be followed by bacon butties etc.

Please remember in your prayers Father David, who is away making his own retreat for eight days, beginning on Tuesday.

Good Shepherd Fund – Today is a special collection for the Good Shepherd Fund. **Next Sunday** is The Day for Life, and a special collection will be taken after both Masses.

Assisted Suicide – on Friday 11th September 2015, the House of Commons is debating and voting on a Private Member's Bill to legalise assisted suicide. This will put the most vulnerable people in our society at risk. Please contact your MP, urging them to attend the debate and vote against the Bill. You can send an email to your MP via the Catholic Bishops' Conference website (www.catholicnews.org.uk/assisted-suicide) or send a letter by post, a draft of which can be found, together with a statement for the Catholic Press from Archbishop Smith and Q & A sheets, at the back of church.

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting will be held at 2 Brooklands Drive next Tuesday, 21st July at 7.30 pm. Items for the Agenda to Pat. If you are interested in joining us, please phone 605792.

The family of 14-year-old Richard who had a bone marrow transplant in February, would like to thank all of you who prayed for them at this difficult time. They are delighted at Richard's steady recovery – he is now back at school!

Friends of Chivuna – the minutes of the meeting on 10th July are now available. **Did you know...** as the four millionth refugee flees Syria, your donations to CAFOD are providing life-saving aid to families in urgent need? Many are living in makeshift camps, unfinished or derelict buildings, sheds, or even in the open air. Thanks to your generosity, our local Church partners are working around the clock, delivering life-saving healthcare, as well as food, shelter and emergency supplies to thousands of people who have lost everything. But there is no end in sight to the crisis, and the need is overwhelming, so we need to scale up our work.

Dates for your diary – The Annual Pilgrimage to the Diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Cleator will take place on Sunday, 6th September. The principal celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Brian Noble. Further information will be given nearer the date. **Also**, the young people of our Diocese are invited to walk in pilgrimage from Langdale to Cleator, beginning at Castlerigg Manor on Friday 4th September, arriving at Cleator on Sunday 6th September. The youth can register their interest in joining the walk by contacting Fr Philip at Castlerigg, tel. 01768 772711.

Previously Published Items

St Paul's Sunday Missal 2016 – If you would like a personal copy of next year's St Paul's Sunday Missal, please put your name on the list in the Church Shop.

The Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies to help participants get a better understanding of the Catholic faith, and to increase their practical application of the

faith in their ministry in the Church, provides the means to accurately and effectively communicate the principles of Catholic teaching. For more details about start dates, fees, and your nearest centre, please visit the CCRS website www.brs-ccrs.org.uk, or call 0207 901 1900.

Garstang's Great War Heroes – An interesting forthcoming book by local historian, Paul Smith, and former Courier journalist, Anthony Coppin, details what is known about our heroes from the Great War. Unfortunately, there remain gaps in our knowledge and not all Garstonians who fought have been identified. The posters at the back of church clarify the problem and could lead to important discovery. Please look at them and see if you can be of help.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Workshop – There are three of these, organised by the Diocesan Office for Evangelisation: first on Saturday, 1st August, at St Joseph's Presbytery, Preston; second on Saturday, 12th September at the Education Centre, Lancaster; and the third on Saturday 24th October at Our Lady & St Joseph's, Carlisle. All start at 1.00 pm and finish at 4.00 pm. For further information, see poster at back of church.

Readers' Workshop – There are two of these; one at the Education Centre, Lancaster, on Saturday, 5th September, led by Fr Peter Groody; the second at St Joseph's Church, Preston, on Saturday 26th September, led by Canon Luiz Ruscillo. These both start at 1 pm and finish at 4 pm. For further information, see poster at back of church.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 26th July, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Agnes Evans who died unexpectedly last week. Her funeral Mass will be held at St Mary's, Great Eccleston, next Tuesday, 21st July, at 11 am. *May she rest in peace.*

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of Rodney (Chas) Cartner who died last week. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: William Dilworth, John Fleming, Marion Waddingham, Edna Reid, George Grayston and Bill Williams. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Jasmine Grace Bilsborrow-Jones (1 year old), Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Anne Brockbank, Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, 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, Michael Ryan, 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 18th – Sunday 26th July 2015

Sat	18 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	John Fleming (Anniversary)
Sun	19 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mass in the Presbytery garden (weather permitting)			
Mon	20 th	}	
Tues	21 st	}	
Wed	22 nd	}	No Mass
Thurs	23 rd	}	
Fri	24 th	}	
Sat	25 th	9.30 am }	
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	William Southworth (Anniversary)
Sun	26 th	10.00 am	In thanksgiving to Mary and Jesus

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

None

Special Days this Week:

Sun	19 th	SS John Plessington, John Wall & Companions, Lancaster Martyrs
Tues	21 st	St Laurence of Brindisi
Wed	22 nd	St Mary Magdalene
Thurs	23 rd	ST BRIDGET
Fri	24 th	St John Boste, Bl. Christopher Robinson & Companions
Sat	25 th	ST JAMES
Sun	26 th	Day for Life (Special Collection)

Meetings this Week:

Tues	21 st	7.30 pm	SVP (at 2, Brooklands Drive)
Weds	22 nd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	11 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 147	Children: 4	
Sun	12 th	10.00 am	Adults: 112	Children: 22	Total: 285

Monies Received:

Offertory: £1,079.09 (including Standing Orders); Votive Lights: £54; Shop: £35; Apostleship of the Sea Special Collection: £286.80. *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, at Garstang Methodist Church.