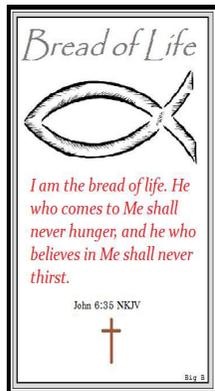


St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church
GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

A Parish of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity, no.234331
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1st / 2nd AUGUST 2015

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)



Last weekend we began hearing gospel passages from chapter 6 of St John's gospel. For the next four weekends the church asks us to reflect more deeply on the teaching of Jesus, the bread of life.

Today, for the first time, we hear Jesus telling us that he is our nourishment, our food and drink; to be fed by Jesus and to have our thirst slaked by his precious blood is to have all that we will every need:

“Anyone who comes to me
will never be hunger
anyone who believes in me
will never thirst.”

At first his listeners seem enthusiastic about what Jesus is offering:

“Sir, give us that bread always!”

It is only when they realise that Jesus is not speaking of Hovis or Warburton's Toaster, that they turn on Jesus. Their eyes and appetites are focused on the everyday needs of life – Jesus is trying to get his listeners to have a very different focus, very different desires in life to what we need to buy in our weekly shop at Sainsbury's or Booths or the Co-op!

Jesus thought that by giving the people an amazing sign of his power when he very publicly fed over five thousand people on a measly five loaves and two fish; he thought that when they were so replete and that there were hampers of scraps left over, that the people would be very open to his new and life-changing plans to feed and nourish them for ever with his own body and blood.

He underestimated our cynicism and our worldliness. He seems to have completely misjudged our inability to find in our everyday lives the signs of God's infinite and gracious love and care for us.

God loves us so much that he gave his own Son to be our very food and drink, to be for us our Bread of Life, our Eternal Salvation.

The mystery of the Eucharist continues to elude us. We must continually come back to Jesus and to ask him to fill our tiny minds and hearts with a new knowledge of his infinite love for us.

“Lord, help my unbelief!”

New items and information

Father David's cousin, Father Michael Donnelly from Co. Sligo, Ireland, will be staying in the presbytery next Friday and Saturday. Please welcome him.

St Vincent de Paul Society – There will be a second collection for the SVP after each of our Masses this weekend. Please be as generous as you are able.

Monthly Coffee Morning – It's that time again! The time for delicious cakes and etceteras, teas and coffees, and friendly chats with friendly faces! Next Wednesday, 5th August, from 10 am – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel. **Everyone** is welcome!

Parish Draw – 1st Prize: T Rigby; 2nd Prize: Mr & Mrs Luke.

Did you know... over the past year and a half, the people of Kitui, Kenya, have been working hard to bring water back to their community? The community have made fantastic progress in restoring a nearby dam. After working on this CAFOD-supported project, the local people are now using the skills, knowledge and techniques they have learnt and are transferring them to their own farms. This is CAFOD's *Hands On* project and it's a great joy to tell you that this CAFOD project is transforming the land for miles around.

REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH...

If you wish to nominate your parish as a beneficiary under your will (as a Charity, bequests made to the Church will not attract inheritance tax) you may wish to consider the following wording:

“I give to the *Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (LRCDT)* for the benefit of the Parish of St Mary & St Michael, Garstang, the sum of £xxxx (and in words) free of duty and I declare that the receipt of the Financial Administrator of *LRCDT* at the Finance Office, The Pastoral Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT shall be a good discharge (*LRCDT* Charity No. 234331).”

By this means your bequest is guaranteed to be solely for the benefit of your parish.

Chivuna Knitting – A great deal of knitted clothing has been sent to Chivuna, Zambia, over the past years. In order for the work to continue at the current pace, we do require donations of wool (leftovers are most welcome) and more willing knitters. Also, it would be wonderful if anyone could help with the cost of postage. At present this is resourced by two very generous parishioners, despite the high costs involved. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Margaret Wilcock. (telephone 01995 603 525.)

Previously Published Items

Feast of the Lancaster Martyrs – Day of Pilgrimage – This will take place next Friday, 7th August, beginning with Mass at the Cathedral at 12.50 pm, followed by a Rosary walk to the Lancaster Martyrs' monument, and ending with a Litany of the English Martyrs. Bring your own picnic lunch. Everyone is welcome. See poster at back of church.

A culture of Safeguarding in our parish “Let us protect with love all that God has given us.” (*Pope Francis*). The Catholic Church is striving towards a culture of safeguarding where all are safe from harm and abuse through the caring, supportive and protective efforts of each parish community. An important, but often neglected,

aspect of creating a safe environment is the completion of a risk assessment by those organising events within the parish. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and a risk assessment can be an important tool in creating a safe environment. Simple guidance and risk assessment forms are available at the back of church.

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.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 9th August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Jessica Rose Haslam who is being baptised here this Sunday, at 11.30 am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cregeen, Jim Costain's sister, who very sadly died last week. *May she rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Robert Berry, Margaret Hine, James Booth, James Birchall, James Rossall, Catherine Elder, Stephen Edmondson and Bert Maddock. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Norah Singleton, Jasmine Grace Bilsborrow-Jones (1 year old), Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 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.)*

Response to the Psalm at 10.00 am Mass :

*I am
the Bread
of Life
John 6:35*



Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 1st – Sunday 9th August 2015

Sat	1 st Aug	06.00 pm (Vigil)	Florence Ackroyd
Sun	2 nd	10.00 am	Charles Cartner (Lately Dead)
Mon	3 rd		No Mass
Tues	4 th		“
Wed	5 th	12 noon	Kathleen and Family
Thurs	6 th	9.30 am	80 th Birthday Mass
Fri	7 th	09.30 am	Bill & Josie Fleming – Golden Wedding Anniversary
Sat	8 th	09.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (Fourth Anniversary)
Sun	9 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	5 th	No Rosary	
Sat	8 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Tue	4 th	St John Vianney
Thurs	6 th	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Fri	7 th	St Edmund Arrowsmith, St Ambrose Barlow & Companions, Lancashire Martyrs
Sat	8 th	St Dominic

Meetings this Week:

Weds	5 th	10 am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning, Plessington Chapel
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Deanery Pastoral Council at the Cathedral

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	25 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 125	Children: 4	
Sun	26 th	10.00 am	Adults: 110	Children: 27	Total: 266

Monies Received:

Offertory: £1,022.91 (including Standing Orders); Votive Lights: £58.30; Shop: Nil; Donation: £30; Photocopying: £5; Day for Life Special Collection: £211.50. *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 Sts Mary & Michael. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.