

## 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)

1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



“Are you not worth so much more to your Father in heaven than the birds of the air? Do not worry about what you are to eat, what you are to drink, how you are to be clothed. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts rather on the kingdom of heaven and all these things will be given to you.”

Most of us would probably say: “Thank you Lord, for looking after me. But if you will just excuse me, I need to get to Booths to get something in for tea.”

Just in case the Lord doesn't provide, we make sure that we provide for ourselves. Is the Lord really saying: “Leave it to me – I will fill your cupboards and fridge for you.”? No, of course not.

What the Lord is saying, is that when we can't provide for ourselves, when the chips are down, and when there appears to be no one to care for us – then, if we trust in the Lord, he will provide. This doesn't mean that we don't make sensible arrangements for ourselves. The Lord doesn't provide a back-up social security service. But he *is* always there when we need him, when everything else fails us. He is there when all hope seems to be gone.

From Ash Wednesday, the Lord invites us to begin that personal, spiritual pilgrimage through Lent to Easter. One of the key elements of the traditional mediaeval pilgrimage was to leave the security of home and family and to set off with very few belongings for a distant holy shrine.

Lent is like that. On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge that we are just dust and ashes, that the reality is that we are very weak and needy. We set off through the six weeks of Lent, becoming increasingly aware of our need for our heavenly Father to sustain us, to feed us, to hold us, to forgive us, to care for us, to share his life with us. Many times on this pilgrimage we will need to remind ourselves how much our Father loves us. The devil will be particularly active, trying to discourage us, trying to make us doubt that the Father is there for us. The cry of Ash Wednesday must resonate in our spirits: “Come back to me, with all your heart.”

### New items and information

**Stewardship** – This weekend, on the recommendation of our Parish Development Group, and flowing from our Parish Mission last summer, we launch a Stewardship Scheme which, we hope, will be very beneficial to our Parish and to those we serve. At each Mass this weekend, one of our parishioners, Manus Adamson, will speak for a few moments about Stewardship and what it might mean for us. **There will be a meeting on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm** in the Plessington Chapel for those who may be interested in being part of a group to take this idea forward, or who would simply like to find out more. There are leaflets (on yellow paper) for you to take home after Mass. *Fr David.*

**This Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> March)** is a Day of Prayer for the Unemployed. Please remember in your prayers all those unfortunate enough to be without employment at this time. At **3.00 pm** we will be having **Holy Hour and Benediction**.

**First Reconciliation Preparation** – Session 3 is at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Plessington Chapel.

**The Parish Finance Group** meeting last Wednesday was cancelled in error. The next meeting is on **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 at 7.35 pm**. Please note this date, and if you cannot attend, please let Father David know in good time.

**Monthly Coffee Morning** – Because this coming Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, is Ash Wednesday, our Monthly Coffee Morning is being postponed until **next week, 12<sup>th</sup> March**, in the Plessington Chapel from 10 am – 12 noon.

**Friends of Chivuna** – the next meeting is on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm, preceded by Mass at 7.00 pm.

**Women's World Day of Prayer** is on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. On that day at 2 pm, there will be a service at St Peter's C of E Church in Scorton. Everyone is welcome.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** – As was mentioned in last week's newsletter, during Lent this year the SVP will be collecting non-perishable foods for the various food banks in Preston. Please would you consider donating food during this time? A box will be provided at the back of church from next weekend, 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> March. Please see the insert with this newsletter to get an idea of what is most needed. *Thank you.*

**The Knights of St Columba** – The KSC offers Catholic men the opportunity to be part of a fraternity dedicated to serving God by serving others by working in our Communities and Parishes, by helping young people to grow in their Faith, and by looking after those less fortunate than ourselves. Catholic men are invited to become more involved in the Lay Apostolate by being part of the Knights and to contact: The Knights of St Columba, 75 Hillington Road South, Glasgow, G52 2AE, tel: 0141 883 5700, of visit <http://www.ksc.org.uk>. Bishop Michael has written that he is pleased to offer his support for the KSC current recruitment drive.

**Fairtrade Fortnight** started last Monday. There is still a week to go! Please consider if you could swap to regular purchase of any fair trade products when you shop, and watch out for a small selection of Traidcraft and edible items for sale through the Church shop. A wider selection of items can be ordered through the Traidcraft catalogues currently in the Church porch. *Thank you. Helen Spencer.*

**For anyone who may be concerned** about the safety of the nuclear power stations at Heysham, in view of rising sea levels, there is an hour Vigil of Concern at 12 noon at Heysham Nuclear Power station on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Please meet at 10 am at the Friends Meeting House, Lancaster at 10 am for briefing and refreshments. See poster (yellow)

**‘Step into the Gap’** – A year-out experience for 18 – 30 year-olds is being offered by CAFOD and the Society of the Holy Child Sisters. Locally a placement is offered with the Chaplaincy Team at St Mary’s Catholic College in Blackpool, but there are other placements available in other parts of the country. During the 10 months, young people will visit grassroots development projects run by CAFOD, they will explore and promote global justice issues while developing their leadership skills and influencing others to act for change. The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. For more information, see poster and leaflets at the back of church, speak to Simon Stewart at St Mary’s Catholic College on 01253 442591, or go to [cafod.org.uk/stepintothegap](http://cafod.org.uk/stepintothegap) for an application form.

**For several months**, we have included Jackson Wicks, a member of the URC, in our prayer list. We have received a ‘thank you’ card and letter from him and his wife, saying that he is now recovering from a major operation, and that prayers have given them great strength, and they have been “honoured and comforted” knowing that they were on our prayer list.

**Parish Website** *The Parish Website goes live this Monday!*

The website address is: [www.ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](http://www.ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

What you will see is the starting point for our website as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014. It will be an organic, growing website which will try to communicate something of the life and enthusiasm of the parish and which will depend for its development on the contributions, photos and information provided by you the parishioners. The newsletter will be posted on the site each Monday. Any photographs that you submit, please ensure that you have parental consent for photographs of children to be published. Please send material to:

[parish@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](mailto:parish@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

**Please pray for** Charlie Bevins who is being baptised at 12.15 pm this Sunday.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Pauline Lord, Robert Waddington, Richard Dodd, Donald Slater, Ellen Greenall, Martin Mears, Elizabeth Griffin, Jane Brown, Annie Grayston, Maureen Hollis, Mary Ann Smith, John Conway, Alice Ann Lydiate, Ellen Moxham, The Cookson & Hine Families, Edward Hodgson, Joan McCall, Richard Hogarth, Marie Kelly and Annie Lillian Henderson. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled**

**parishioners, families and friends, including:** Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O’Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, Anthonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley (Brian’s brother), Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Davies, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Paula Nicholson, 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 the 10.30 am Mass**

## **Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	William & Ellen Greenall
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Mary Helen Miller (Lately Dead)
Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	4 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Jeanette Mears (Birthday Memories)
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
		9.30 am	Benefactors of SS Mary & Michael’s
		7.00 pm	Richard Hogarth (Anniversary)
Thurs	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mary Ann Smith
Fri	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	(Chivuna) Ellen Moxham
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tim & Helen Forshaw
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Tony Hall
		10.30 am	Sue Tomlinson

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

Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.00 pm	Benediction
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Thurs	6 <sup>th</sup>	5.45 pm	Celebration of First Reconciliation (I)
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	Celebration of First Reconciliation (II)
			(Confessions)
		2.00 pm	Rite of Election at the Cathedral

### **Special Days this Week:**

Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday
Sun	9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b>

### **Meetings this Week:**

Tues	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (Session 4)
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		8.00 pm	Hummingbirds Committee
Thurs	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

### **Last Week’s Attendance:**

Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 122	Children: 6	
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 53	Children: 14	
		10.30 am	Adults: 99	Children: 22	Total: 316

**Monies Received:** Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,161.38; Votive Lights: £51.40; Shop: £20; Funeral: £600; ‘I Belong’ books: £10. *Many thanks to you all.*

### **Churches Together in Garstang & District**

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