

**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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19th / 20th July 2014

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today we find again a publicly proclaimed parable followed by a private interpretation. We are told the parables are a revelation of things hidden since the foundation of the world, yet the natural implication of the text is

that the parable is far from a clear and unambiguous way of telling a secret. The disciples still ask Jesus to explain the parable of the weeds as it is not sufficiently clear for them to understand. Once more the interpretation is given in secret to a select group and is not made available to all.

The parable of the leaven also has the idea of something hidden – the woman hides the leaven in the flour. The parable which discloses hidden things is itself covert and hidden, hardly a plain articulation of truth.

These parables of the Kingdom make us feel cautious. We may stand in the Kingdom, but can we be sure who are the wheat and who are the weeds? We may be confident of the triumph of God's Kingdom, but that does not remove our sense of insecurity along the way. The parables and balance give the impression that the Kingdom is unstoppable, yet here and now is in some way provisional and somewhat patchy.

The Kingdom is connected in some way with God's care for us; a care which is contagious, leavening the whole of the flour; a care which reveals, however obliquely, hidden and saving things; a care which one day will enable us to be happy with God for ever. The message we should hear today, is that the Kingdom of God is something of a missionary project and that we should never confuse the present with the end.

D'arcy

New items and information

Please welcome Father Frank from Tabor, who is supplying for Father David this weekend.

Good Shepherd Fund – This weekend, we will be taking a special collection for the Good Shepherd Fund.

Next Sunday we will be celebrating (belatedly) our St John Plessington Mass, and if the weather permits, this will be celebrated outside on the lawn.

Next Sunday is the Day for Life – This is the day in the Church's year dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life. This year young people in particular are called upon to protect and cherish life from conception to natural death. There will be a special collection to support Day for Life. Proceeds will go to the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

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 know what the job involves. *Thank you.*

Evangelium – The next Evangelium session is next **Thursday, 24th July**, at 7.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel. The theme this month is 'Confession and Anointing', and is being led by Father Anthony Keefe. If you have ever had a desire to learn a bit more about your faith, or have ever asked the questions "Why?" or "What?" or "How?", this is a really great way to find out more. The sessions last for only one hour – and it never seems quite long enough!

St Mary & St Michael Youth Club – Invitation!! – You are most welcome to come to the Youth Club Open Evening on **Friday 25th July** from 7 pm – 9 pm, in the Community Centre next to the Primary School, for fun and games, keeping in touch with old friends and making new; snacks, activities, and all sorts! It's open to everyone leaving Year 6. For more information, please contact Rachel (Youth Group Leader) on 07508 365 249.

Ladies of the Parish - You are invited to the CWL Pilgrimage to Ladyewell Shrine on **Saturday, 23rd August**. Mass at St Mary's at noon. Silent procession to Ladyewell. (Take packed lunch – drinks provided). Names to Philippa Catterall (602797) by **15th August** please.

Parish Draw – July 1st Prize: T. Carter; 2nd Prize: E. Helme.

Thank you to everyone who remembered our son-in-law, Simon Crossley, in their prayers. He has recovered well from his operation in February and has this week returned to work! He has really appreciated your support. *Anne & Frank Miller.*

Did you know....El Salvador is the focus country of CAFOD's new education pack for primary schools? A new Geography requirement is that children learn about countries in North, Central and South America. It will introduce children to El Salvador, where CAFOD has worked with partners for many years, supporting communities to build a better life for themselves. CAFOD works with children, young people and young adults in England and Wales to deepen an understanding of the causes of global poverty and injustice, and offers ways to take action to bring about a just and sustainable world.

Previously Published Items

Ministers of Holy Communion – We welcome eight new and returning Ministers of Holy Communion – Tony Backhouse, Alison Dodd, Patrick Hynes, Roisin McCann, Rebecca Naylor, Caroline Nurse, Kevin O’Hanlon and Margaret Wilcock who have been commissioned to serve the parish for the next three years. Many thanks to Joyce Bilborrow, Martina Copple, Celia Horn, Doris Richardson, Liz Rowlandson, Anne Stobbs and John Towers who step down after several years of faithful service. New Rotas are now available.

The Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions for July – “That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth”, and “That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.”

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 27th 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 Sheila Davies, who died last week. She had been a resident of Bowgreave Rise for many years. *May she rest in peace.*

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

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Christopher (of Cenacolo), 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.)*

The Memorare

Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that it is a thing unheard of that anyone ever had recourse to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession and was left forsaken.

Filled, therefore, with confidence in thy goodness, I fly to thee, O Mother, Virgin of Virgins. To thee I come. Before thee I stand, a sorrowful sinner. Despise not my poor words, O Mother of the Word of God, but graciously hear and grant my prayer. Amen.

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 19th – Sunday 27th July 2014

Sat	19 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tony Stephenson
Sun	20 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	Rev William Joseph Houllihan John Flemming (Anniversary)
Mon	21 st	No Mass	
Tues	22 nd	7.00 pm	The Crumbleholme Family
Wed	23 rd	9.30 am	School Leavers & End of Term Mass in Church Edward Horn
Thurs	24 th	7.00 pm	Porfirio Beleno (3 rd Anniversary)
Fri	25 th	8.30 am	Carl Gerard Wilkes
Sat	26 th	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tony Hall (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun	27 th	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Michael Hendry (21 st Birthday) (Mass outside on lawn, weather permitting)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	23 rd	No Rosary	
Sat	26 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament but no Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Tues	22 nd	St Mary Magdalene
Wed	23 rd	St Bridget
Thurs	24 th	St John Boste, Bl. Christopher Robinson & companions, Martyrs of Cumbria
Fri	25 th	St James
Sat	26 th	St Joachim & St Anne

Meetings this Week:

Wed	23 rd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	24 th	4.00 pm	Vocations Group

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	5 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 108	Children: 7	
Sun	6 th	8.30 am	Adults: 65	Children: 8	
		10.30 am	Adults: 101	Children: 17	Total: 306

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,137.42; Votive Lights: £52.90; Apostleship of the Sea: £287.70. *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, also at Garstang Methodist Church.