

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.ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

email for website submissions: parish@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

20th / 21st February 2016

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



If we are to come to the Lord in the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness this Lent, as Pope Francis has asked us, then we must come to the Lord in prayer.

"Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray." In Lent we try to give time to prayer. Jesus gave us the example.

Mountains, the high places, were seen in antiquity, to be places of prayer, perhaps because you went upwards, towards heaven. Prayer requires certain practicalities. The first and most important is to make

the Time. The time we give, no matter how short, is a precious gift we give to God. We say "time is precious" – that is why God should be given a bit as a priority.

The prayer needs *a Place.* In today's scripture, the place is Mount Tabor. For us, we need to choose and create a prayer space, a special place where we can be on our own. (Not easy when you have a family!) Our prayer space may be in our bedroom, where we can light a candle, have a crucifix or icon, something beautiful. Then we need to choose our *Posture*, do we sit, or kneel, or use a prayer stool, etc. The disciples were probably sitting in prayer on Mount Tabor, as they were falling asleep.

The next thing for prayer is to know ourselves to be in the *Presence of God*, to place ourselves in the Presence of God. The disciples knew in a very dramatic way this Presence as Jesus was transfigured and Moses and Elijah were present.

The fourth helpful requirement for prayer is to *Pick* a passage of scripture to read and to pray with. This should only be a short passage, a few lines. For the disciples Moses and Elijah with Jesus reminded them of how the old Law was fulfilled by Jesus.

The last and most important thing we need to do is to *Pray*, and that simply means to remain in God's presence and to give our hearts and minds and self to him.

You may have noticed that the five requirements for prayer: *Place, Posture, Presence, Pick* a Scripture Passage and *Prayer* all begin with the letter 'P' – the "Five P's"! Perhaps this Lent we might begin to get into the habit of giving this structure of the "5 P's" to our prayer time.

New items and information

Mission Boxes – Will you please bring boxes ready, for emptying, to church next weekend. There are still some calendars for those who wish to take one. A novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th to 18th March when Masses will be celebrated to pray for the intentions of all who support the work of the society. Donations from our parish during 2015 amounted to £985.59. Thank you from Missio.

Lent Lunches – The next Lent Lunch will be held at Garstang URC on Wednesday, 24th February from 12 noon – 1 pm. All proceeds go to Christian Aid. (Dates for the next lunches are 9th and 16th March – all Wednesdays.)

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday, 4th March, 2 pm at St Tomas's Church, Garstang. Refreshments will be served after the Service. All are very welcome.

Parish Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2016 – Update – The date has now been finalised, commencing on Monday 19th September for 7 nights, returning on Monday 26th September. Fr Jerome Ainsworth will be the pilgrimage chaplain. The cost, including full board at the 3* Hotel Agenda will be £675 plus additional charges for insurance (£25 up to age 85) and UK transport to/from Manchester Airport. (Amount to be confirmed.) For those interested in going, there will be a planning meeting at 2 pm on 5th March in the Plessington Chapel. If you are interested and have not yet put your name(s) down, please add them to the list at the back of church. *Thank you.*

Floods Donation – We have received a letter from Raymond Daley of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Kendal, thanking us for the very generous donation of £1,402.04 which was raised here at SSMM. A copy of the letter will be posted on the notice board at the back of church, explaining how all the donations were distributed.

Previously Published Items

Lent 2016 – A time for prayer, reconciliation, and fasting. Here are some Lenten times:

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Individual Celebration (Confession)

Wednesday	24 th February	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Friday	4 th March	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Saturday	5 th March	10.00 – 10.30 am
Friday	18 th March	7.30 – 8.00 pm
Wednesday	23 rd March	7.30 – 8.00 pm

Communal Celebration of God's Forgiveness

Saturday	12 th March	10.15 am
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Stations of the Cross

Friday	4 th March	7.00 pm
Friday	11 th March	6.30 pm
Friday	18 th March	7.00 pm
Friday	25 th March	10.00 am – Good Friday Children's Stations

Church Shop – URGENT APPEAL – we desperately need more volunteers to help with the church shop after the 10 am Mass on Sunday mornings. It's a simple task and would only require a commitment once every few weeks. Any help would be very much appreciated. If interested, please call Jen on 602 341. *Thank you.*

“My Day by Day” Lent booklets – For any children who do not attend St Mary & St Michael's School, but who would like one of these booklets, there are some at the back of church – please help yourselves.

“Walk with Me” – Calendars for Lent 2016 are available for children; if you would like one, they are available from the back of church.

VSO Nepal – I would like to thank everyone who came to my Fairtrade coffee morning or donated towards my fundraising for Voluntary Service Overseas. I raised a fantastic **£381.70**. I was overwhelmed by the generosity and messages of support I received from the parish - I will keep you updated with how I get on in Nepal! *Hannah Spencer.*

Traidcraft – Spring Catalogues are now available at the back of church. Traidcraft works to end poverty through trade, and, since we have an account, we receive a discount on orders which we donate to Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. If you can, please consider purchasing fair trade food, gifts, clothing, cards etc, and make a difference to some of the poorest people in the world, whilst raising money for Chivuna. *Helen Spencer.*

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 28th February can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jackson Wickes of the United Reformed Church, who died last Sunday. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: John Horn, Thomas Ibison, Marjorie Edge, Henry Gornall, John Silworth, Mary Gillett, Margaret McKeivitt, Marjorie Kirkham, James Houlihan, Robert Winder, Samuel Smith, Grace Barton, Frank Richardson, Tom Rawlinson, Josephine Wright, Eileen Fenna, Frank Moreland and Teresa Langlely. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Maureen Ingleby, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew's Mum), Jean Parkinson, Ann 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, 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 on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Response to the Psalm at 10 am Mass on Sunday:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 20th – Sunday 28th February 2016

Sat	20 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ted Richardson (Birthday)
Sun	21 st	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	22 nd	No Mass	
Tue	23 rd	12 noon	Marjorie Kirkman
Wed	24 th	7.00 pm	Zac (Lately Dead) and his Parents
Thurs	25 th	9.30 am	Samuel and Mary Ann Smith
Fri	26 th	No Mass	
Sat	27 th	No Mass	
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	George Gidlow
Sun	28 th	10.00 am	Vivencio Batula

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	24 th	6.45	Rosary
		7.30 – 8.00 pm	Individual Confessions
Sat	27 th	No Confessions	

Special Days this week:

None

Meetings this Week:

Tues	23 rd	6.30 pm	First Eucharist Preparation (Session 1)
Weds	24 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	26 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 144	Children: 10
		10.00 am	Adults: 125	Children: 17 Total: 296

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,102.70; Shop: £15; Votive Lights: £54.60; Donation: £30; A B Grace Trust: £2,000. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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