

New items and information

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

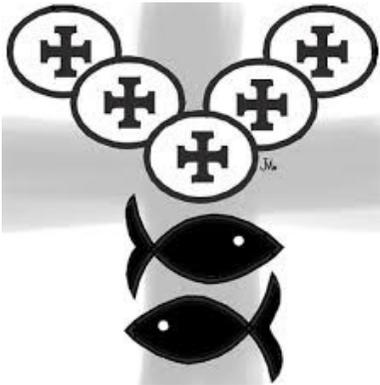
Parish Website: www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

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

25th / 26th JULY 2015

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

Day for Life



John's gospel today is full of Eucharistic terms and references to the Eucharistic actions we repeat so often. Jesus "takes the loaves" – this corresponds to our preparation of the gifts. He "gave thanks" – these are the Eucharistic words "par excellence" – and he did the same with the fish, recalling the moment in the Last Supper account when "after they had eaten he did the same with the cup". The final action at the end of the meal was picking up or gathering the fragments. The "gathering" was one of the earliest names for the Eucharist; the broken pieces another early name for the

fragments of the consecrated bread distributed to the people in the Eucharist, hence their anxiety to lose none of that bread. The twelve hampers suggests the twelve Tribes of Israel or the twelve foundations of the New Testament. It suggests that the Eucharist is the food of the people of God.

The people wanted to make Jesus king. He escaped from them and also from the disciples, and took refuge in the hills by himself. There is a political backdrop to all four gospels. Pressure was constantly exerted on Jesus to force him into a political, military or anti-Roman role. Hence he uses the title "Christ" or "King" or "Messiah" very sparingly. It was too ambiguous, too open to political interpretation. He prefers the less compromising title "Son of Man".

As we celebrate our Eucharist today, let us understand what we are doing. *We* are the people of God, successors of the twelve tribes of Israel, being fed with the food of God's people. Our celebration is a deepening of our baptism. Indeed, it might be true to say that it is not *we* who receive the Eucharist: it is the Eucharist which receives us. As St Ephraem (a Permanent Deacon, Doctor of the Church, and famous for his writings) said: "We eat and drink of you, O Lord, not to consume you but to live by you."

This weekend we welcome Mgr Michael Tully, standing in for Father David, who is on his annual retreat.

This Sunday is The Day for Life, and a special collection will be taken after both Masses. This year, Day for Life focuses on cherishing life and accepting death. It provides an opportunity for people to think about the mysteries of life and death, as well as the Church's teaching on appropriate treatment at the end of life. It also highlights the prayer to St Joseph for a good death. These things can be read on the cards which you will find at the back of church – please take one.

St Vincent de Paul Society – There will be a second collection next weekend for the SVP in our parish. Please be as generous as you are able.

A big "thank you" to *everyone* who helped in any way with the celebration last Sunday after Mass: bakers of cakes etc, makers of bacon butties, brewers of tea, servers, and all who donated the food and other essentials that made the occasion go with a swing! In spite of the weather, which prevented us from being on the Presbytery lawn, a great time was had by all.

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.

Did you know... Award-winning actress and CAFOD supporter, Jo Joyner, is calling for continued support after visiting communities in Nepal who were severely affected by April's earthquake? Jo travelled to Nepal to see how people are coping three months since the devastating earthquake. As a member of the Caritas network of Catholic aid agencies, CAFOD is working with local partners, cooperatives and volunteers to reach some of Nepal's worst-hit areas. To date, we have reached nearly 300,000 people with humanitarian assistance, including food, emergency shelter materials and hygiene kits.

Feast of the Lancaster Martyrs – Day of Pilgrimage – This will take place on 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.

Previously Published Items

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.

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.

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 2nd August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Guy Bevens and Michelle Boulter who are being married here next Friday, 31st July at 12.30 pm.

Please pray for Jessica Rose Haslam who is being baptised here next Sunday, 2nd August, at 11.30 am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mildred Lunn who died last Sunday, aged 104. Her Funeral Mass will be held next Thursday, 30th July, at 10.45 am, followed by cremation at Preston Crematorium at 12.40 pm. ***May she rest in peace.***

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Bill Williams, William Billington, Robert Bilsborrow, Benjamin Gelit, Fred Oxby, Ronnie Johnson, Elizabeth Wardle, Margaret Dickinson, Helen Mary Beale, Robert Berry and Margaret Hine. ***May they rest in peace.***

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Cregeen (Jim Costain's sister), 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 :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 25th July – Sunday 2nd August 2015

Sat	25 th	06.00 pm (Vigil)	William Southworth (Anniversary)
Sun	26 th	10.00 am	In thanksgiving to Mary and Jesus
Mon	27 th		No Mass
Tues	28 th		“
Wed	29 th	7.00 pm	Holy Souls
Thurs	30 th	10.45 pm	Funeral Mass for Mildred Lunn
Fri	31 st	09.30 am	Helen Beale
		12.30 pm	Guy Bevens & Michelle Boulter Wedding Service
Sat	1 st Aug	09.30 am	LISCF
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	Florence Ackroyd
Sun	2 nd	10.00 am	Charles Cartner (Lately Dead)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sat	1 st Aug	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
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Special Days this Week:

Sun	26 th	Day for Life (Special Collection)
Wed	29 th	St Martha
Fri	31 st	St Ignatius of Loyola
Sat	1 st Aug	St Alphonsus

Meetings this Week:

Weds	29 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	18 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 121	Children: 9
Sun	19 th	10.00 am	Adults: 130	Children: 21 Total: 281

Monies Received:

Offertory: £1,059.91 (including Standing Orders); Votive Lights: £53.50; Shop: £15; Donation: £30; Roof Fund: £15.70; Good Shepherd Fund Special Collection: £167. ***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, and in August, here at Sts Mary & Michael. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.