

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

26th / 27th April 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)



In today's first reading, Luke's aim is to present an idealised past (which possibly never existed) which could serve as a model for what actual communities, his audience, should be striving for. It is a sort of check-list against which disciples can measure themselves. There is the stress on the common elements of being a Church for they have a common teaching to which they must be loyal; they have a common set of concerns for those around them; and they must have a real common experience in gathering for a common meal. Then, as this Church, they have a recurring structural feature which gives the identity. They gather in their homes for the breaking of the loaf (probably better than saying 'bread') which is a single tangible reality that is shared, not just many individuals having the same kind of food. In most depictions of the Last Supper Jesus is shown breaking what appears to be a bread roll, but the flat unleavened cake that Elaine baked for our Maundy Thursday celebration is probably nearer reality. Then, of course, it was pieces of the broken loaf that were taken after Mass to the housebound to symbolise that they were still sharers in the life of the community. Luke's Eucharistic Theology is not that of bread and wine as specific food materials, but that the baptised participants are united in Christ through each having as their food what is a portion of a single loaf and a single cup.

In Saints Mary & Michael's, we share a common cup at each Mass, but for convenience use individual mini-loaves for the host, which loses some of the significance. Nevertheless it is around the Eucharist that every other aspect of our discipleship is organised.

Today in the liturgy, the Apostles are again assembled in a house, and again experience the Risen Christ, and it is in that context that we have to understand the words addressed to Thomas. It is (us) those disciples who must encounter Jesus sacramentally in the assembly – without the visual encounter – who are the blessed ones, those who encounter Jesus in the Eucharist in our weekly assembly.

In the time of Thomas, as it is today, this is what makes for the life and religious identity of our Christian Community. We come to Mass on Sunday semi-automatically, not stopping to think, 'Wow! What an occasion! Here am I, one of those specifically blessed by Jesus, and I'm publicly going to an assembly to show how much I love him!'

D'arcy

New items and information

Catherine Place will introduce herself at all the Masses this weekend. She is going to work in Chivuna, Zambia, for seven weeks this summer. She is looking for sponsors and would greatly appreciate the support of our parishioners. Please support Cathy in her fundraising efforts. All proceeds will go to Chivuna; Cathy's personal expenses are quite separate.

First Holy Communion Preparation – This week we begin again our preparations for First Holy Communions. Session 5 will take place this coming Tuesday, 29th April, starting at 6.30 pm.

Friends of Chivuna – Next meeting is Friday, 3rd May, preceded by Mass at 7 pm.

Roof Fund – Next weekend we will be providing an update on this, together with new Gift Aid envelopes which may be another useful way of donating where this method is appropriate to you. Due to the hard work and generosity of many people, and based on recent estimates, we are now over halfway towards being able to carry out the first phase of the repairs.

Next Sunday, 4th May, there will be Benediction and Holy Hour at 3 pm.

Parish Draw – Prizes for the first draw of the new year went to Dr M Thomson (£80) and Mrs J Andrews (£30). Thank you to all who renewed membership, and to the wonderful ladies who collect the subscriptions.

Fig Tree News (Garstang's Fair Trade Café & Visitor Centre situated in the Council Office Building) : **Chocolate Workshop training – 7 pm Wednesday, 30th April** - workshops for schools, which include 'Bean to Bar' making are more popular than ever. We are in need of more volunteers to help with running the workshops, so this workshop training evening will be held at the Fig Tree. **Fairtrade 8 Walks – Sunday 18th May**. The Friends of Garstang Walking Festival invite you to take part in the Fairtrade 8 Walks. Two half-day walks, both incorporating Fair Trade interests and supporting local producers, will start and finish at the Fig Tree on Sunday 18th May. Loop 1 sets off at 8.30 am and finishes at 12.15 pm. Loop 2 sets off at 1 pm and finishes at 5 pm. Why not do both? Both loops are 7 miles long and cost £3 (£2 concessions). To book, call in at Visit Garstang Centre, Cherestanc Square, Garstang, or tel: 01995 602 125.

Previously Published Items

Marriage Encounter Weekend – Is your marriage important to you and your family? We invite you to experience a **Marriage Encounter Weekend at Minsteracres 9 – 11 May 2014**. It is a unique way for you to revitalise your marriage away from the distractions of life. Weekends funded by donations. For more information and booking contact Harry & Muff Wilde 01538 385802 or go to our website www.wvme.org.uk.

Counters – We are appealing for new counters to join the rota. It would involve counting the collection after 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday; at the moment it would be once every five weeks, but the more volunteers we have, the less frequently they would need to serve. Please speak to Father David if you feel that you could help in this way. *Thank you in advance.*

Garstang Musical Productions are producing “The Awards Show” from **30th April – 3rd May at 7.30 pm at Garstang Community Academy.** Tickets £8. Contact 01995 606603, or Mary Bateson (604203). See poster at back of church.

SS Mary & Michael’s School Association needs your support for their “School Race Night” on **Friday 9th May 2014.** They are asking for sponsorship for the races which can be given either by taking out an advertisement for your business in the programme (£30 for full page or £20 for half-page) or by sponsoring a race (£50). There are eight races in total – full screen horse races. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01995 603 023. Also, if you are able to provide a bottle of alcohol as an additional prize, all donations are gratefully received! Please come along for a great night out. Tickets available from school.

In addition, the School Association are asking for donations of help and materials for the Whit Festival Float. These would include large quantities of chicken wire, old newspapers, wallpaper paste, red rope, red carpet, adults willing to sew, and gold car paint (if anyone has a care body repair workshop, we will be looking for a 9 ft papier maché Oscar to be sprayed **Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on the 4th May, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper. gold!) If you are able to help, please contact the school office (603 023). *Thank you.*

Castlerigg Manor – There are always events for our young people at Castlerigg Manor. There are some leaflets at the back of church to look at, and to find out more, call 01768 772711, email team@castleriggmanor.co.uk, or visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.

Please pray for Jessica Holmes (2½ years old) who has leukaemia. She was home for Easter, but had to go back into the Royal Manchester Children’s hospital last Tuesday.

Please pray for Aden Montalbo who is to be baptised at 12.15 pm on Sunday, 4th May.

Please also pray for Bernadette Paton who died recently. Her Funeral will be here at SS Mary & Michael’s next Thursday, 1st May, at 10 am. *May she rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Jack Swarbrick, Charles Bisby, Fr Bernard Cochrane, Bert Wrennall, Jane Rossall, Sarah Banks, Robert Pegg, Fr A Richardson, Monica Hargreaves, Fr Edward Bilsborrow, Emma Seery and Tom Cassidy. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth’s brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ 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 26th April – Sunday 4th May 2014

Sat	26 th	8.00 pm (Vigil)	In Thanksgiving
Sun	27 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Bill Hesketh (Lately Dead)
Mon	28 th	No Mass	
Tues	29 th	12 noon	A Private Intention
Wed	30 th	9.30 am	Class Mass in School
		7.00 pm	Parish Mass – Isabel Dorothy Catterall
Thurs	1 st May	10.00 am	Funeral Mass – Bernadette Paton
Fri	2 nd	9.30 am	Start of Term Mass in School Hall – Francis Gornall
		7.00 pm	All Our Parishioners (Friends of Chivuna Mass)
Sat	3 rd	9.30 am	LISCF
		1.00 pm	Wedding Service for Simon Fairbairn & Alison Miller
		6.30 pm	Ian Cookson (Birthday Memories)
Sun	4 th	8.30 am	George Clarey
		10.30 am	Agnes and Joseph Rossall

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	30 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	3 rd May	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions
Sun	4 th	3.00 pm	Benediction & Holy Hour

Special Days this Week:

Mon	28 th	St George
Tues	29 th	St Catherine of Siena
Fri	2 nd May	St Athanasius
Sat	3 rd	Sts Philip & James

Meetings this Week:

Tues	29 th	4.00 pm	Feedback to Governors & staff from the RE Inspector of SSMM School, following RE (Section 48) Inspection on 1 st April.
		6.30 pm	First holy Communion Preparation (Session 5)
Wed	30 th	3.00 pm	Admissions Policy Governors’ meeting
		7.30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	1 st May	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	2 nd	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	19 th	8 pm (Vigil)	Total:	108		
Sun	20 th	8.30 am	Adults:	86	Children:	26
		10.30 am	Adults:	248	Children:	76
			Total:	544		
Holy Thurs	17 th	7.30 pm	All:	110		
Good Fri	18 th	11.00 am (Stations of Cross)	Adults	81	Children	30
		3.00 pm (Solemn Liturgy)	All:	104		

Monies Received: Votive Lights: £38.10; Holy Places: £234.90; Whist Drive: £150. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in April here at SS Mary & Michael’s, and in May at St Thomas’s. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.