

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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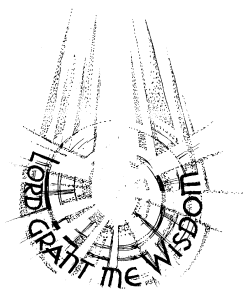
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26th / 27th July 2014

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the parable chapter that we have read over three Sundays. There are three parables (but only an explanation of the last one) and then a conclusion addressed to the disciples.

As in the case of the Sower, which we heard about a fortnight ago, where the field grew everything sown, so the net holds everything it envelopes. The theme of the parable is wisdom, just as the other two are, but of a different sort. This is the wisdom needed for the long haul in Church or Mission. It recognises that life seldom delivers unmixed blessings. The net contains all sorts of fish; fine specimens of recognised species that will get a good price at the auction, but lots of little unwanted ones. The value of the good fish will outweigh the bad, but the sorting can only be done when the net is drawn to shore.

Matthew probably had the Gentile Mission in view in using this parable. We can occasionally romanticise the picture of the early Church by concentrating on Luke's presentation in the Acts of the Apostles, of an ideal community of one mind and heart, persevering in prayer and holding faithfully to the apostles' teaching. Matthew is a great deal more realistic and his Church resembles the one we are familiar with, containing some people of heroic virtue, a majority who try their best, and some that the virtuous might want to write off as no-hopers, weak-willed, unyielding. Matthew here resists any effort to get rid of them. The Wisdom of the Church is not as wise as the Wisdom of the Kingdom, so the final sorting out must wait until the angels undertake it on Judgement Day.

And the Scribe praised for bringing out treasures new and old? Probably directed at the community's teachers who are able to draw on both the traditions of their ancestors and the new experience brought by Jesus, treasures new and old.

D'arcy

New items and information

This 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.

The North West Children's Support Group holiday to Leeds will take place from 2nd to 8th August, and once again we are appealing for cakes for our picnic lunches. The home-made cakes provided each year by the wonderful bakers in our parish are always much appreciated by hungry children and helpers alike!! If you are able to provide any cakes this year, we would be very grateful. Cakes can be left at the back of church, or dropped at 4 Fernleigh Close on Friday, 1st August. Please make sure cakes left at church are clearly labelled "**for NWCSG**". Thank you for your generous support. *Debbie McCann (601354)*.

Friends of Chivuna – The next meeting will take place next Friday, 1st August, at 7.30 pm preceded by Mass at 7 pm.

Counters – Thank you to everyone who volunteered, this is much appreciated. Unfortunately, now we have an odd number of counters, and because they need to work in pairs, we are one short. Is there anyone who would still be willing to volunteer? This would then mean your turn will only come around once every eight weeks.

Monthly Coffee Morning – Due to holidays, this month's coffee morning will not take place. (Aww!) Normal service will be resumed in September. (Hurrah!)

Diocesan Directory 2015 – If anyone would like to purchase a copy of next year's Directory, please would you let the shop know **this weekend** as the order has to go in by next Friday. Standard directories are £3.00; ring-bound are £3.50. Apologies for the short notice.

Did you know....over 35 million people live with HIV? Over 19 million don't know they have the virus. Last week, CAFOD attended the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia. CAFOD's HIV Manager, Georgia Burford, presented to the Conference our work on stigma: "Attitudes and behaviours need to shift. That's where the faith community and faith organisations must be – at the heart of the issue, tackling stigma and discrimination, reducing new infections and reducing AIDS-related deaths." CAFOD partners support faith leaders in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia to reduce stigma in their communities, having a positive effect on people's lives.

Brave of Heart: A Weekend Journey for Men - 12th – 14th September 2014, Cor et Lumen Christi, St Cuthbert's, The Old Convent, Wigton, CA7 9HU. Come and find all that God has prepared for your masculine heart: life-changing talks, extended times of praise and worship, fellowship and sharing with other Christian men, time in the Lake District, Holy Mass, opportunity for Confession, Prayer ministry. Donation only after £5 registration fee. For further information telephone 01697 345 623, or visit www.coretlumenchristi.org or email stcuthbert@coretlumenchristi.org.

Previously Published Items

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.*

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.”

REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH ...

If you wish to nominate your parish as a beneficiary under your will (as a Charity, bequests made to the Church will not attract inheritance tax) you may wish to consider the following wording:

“I give to the *Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (LRCDT)* for the benefit of the Parish of St Mary & St Michael, Garstang, the sum of £xxxx (and in words) free of duty and I declare that the receipt of the Financial Administrator of *LRCDT* at the Finance Office, The Pastoral Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT shall be a good discharge (LRCDT Charity No. 234331).”

By this means your bequest is guaranteed to be solely for the benefit of your parish.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 3rd August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: William Billington, Robert Bilsborrow, Benjamin Gelit, Fred Oxby, Ronnie Johnson, Elizabeth Wardle, Margaret Dickinson, Helen Mary Beale, Stephen Copple, 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: 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.)*

Response to the psalm at 10.30 am Mass :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 26th July – Sunday 3rd August 2014

Sat	26 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tony Hall (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun	27 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Michael Hendry (21 st Birthday)
Mon	28 th	No Mass	
Tues	29 th	7.00 pm	Miss Woodcock
Wed	30 th	7.00 pm	Robert Catterall
Thurs	31 st	9.30 am	Helen Beale
Fri	1 st Aug	7.00 pm	Chivuna Mass – Bill Bamber
Sat	2 nd	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Michael and Anne Ronayne
Sun	3 rd	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Elizabeth Dilworth (Lately Dead)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	30 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	2 nd Aug	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
Sun	3 rd	3.00 pm	Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction

Special Days this Week:

Tues	29 th	St Martha
Thurs	31 st	St Ignatius of Loyola
Fri	1 st Aug	St Alphonsus

Meetings this Week:

Wed	30 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	1 st Aug	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	19 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 82	Children: 4	
Sun	20 th	8.30 am	Adults: 73	Children: 8	
		10.30 am	Adults: 113	Children: 16	Total: 296

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,060.60; Roof Fund: £30; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £51.80; Good Shepherd Fund: £220.98. *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 SS Mary & Michael's. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.