

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

27th / 28th February 2016
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Disasters are a fact of life. With so many people in the world and so many imponderables in life, something, somewhere, will go wrong. In past times, catastrophes were taken as a sign of God's displeasure – no health and safety concerns for them – a direct intervention to punish sinners, but ones whose faults might not have been at all obvious, and people were keen to know what they were.

We have no record of these contemporary disasters, but Pilate was notorious for his harsh rule and insensitivity to Jewish religious feelings. The first of these otherwise unknown incidents refers to the killing of some Galileans when they were probably offering

sacrifice in the Temple at Passover, and the second was probably a construction accident at the Siloam reservoir in Jerusalem. Jesus' audience were probably disappointed when he said they were not targeted punishments for sin and were no indication of the victims' spiritual life. In the judgement to come, however, those who have been evil will certainly experience disaster. Now is the time to start thinking about this so that at the end of your life you can produce evidence of a life dedicated to the Kingdom. The time may be extended for us as for the fig tree, but ultimately the Judgement will come.

The story of the fig tree is unique to Luke, though Matthew and Mark do have the cursing of the fig tree. The fig tree symbolises Israel. The chosen people have become sterile. It has been suggested that Jesus is the vine-dresser who seeks yet another year to achieve the repentance of the people. It didn't happen as this would have given Jesus a four-year ministry instead of three, but the moral is that it is a statement of belief in a caring God, one who wants the salvation of his people. All we have to do is repent of our self-centred ways.

D'arcy

New items and information

Individual Confession – There are two opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Confession this week: Friday, 4th March, from 7.30 – 8.00 pm, and Saturday, 5th March, from 10 – 10.30 am.

Stations of the Cross – This will be held on Friday, 4th March, at 7.00 pm, followed by individual confessions at 7.30 pm.

Monthly Coffee Morning – Come on, you know you want to! Next Wednesday, 2nd March from 10 am to 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel, come to have a brew, cake (unless you gave it up for Lent, of course!) and a chat with friends, old and new. Lots of fun to be had, and *everyone* is welcome!

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

Service of Reconciliation – In addition to individual confessions, there will be a Service of Reconciliation on Saturday, 12th March at 10.15 am.

Lent Fast Day – Thank you to everyone who donated to the Lent Fast Day collection for CAFOD. You raised a magnificent **£668.21**.

Next Weekend there will be a Chivuna & CAFOD Cake Stall for Mothers' Day, following Masses on 5th & 6th March. We need as many bakers as possible who are willing to donate cakes or biscuits. For further information, phone Vin on 01995 238184.

Also next weekend there will be an appeal for Lancaster & Morecambe City of Sanctuary to support the asylum seekers who are in Lancaster. Please be as generous as you are able.

Year of Mercy Public Lectures – the next lecture for the Year of Mercy at Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre will be on Wednesday, 2nd March at 7.30 pm. The speaker is Jan Graffius, Curator of Stonyhurst College, who will be speaking on Blessed Oscar Romero and the Revolution of Mercy. Jan was appointed to prepare the relics of Oscar Romero for his beatification, including the vestments he was wearing when he was shot dead in El Salvador, and she is a very engaging and interesting speaker. Everyone is welcome, there is free parking available around the chaplaincy centre, and refreshments are available.

Lenten Vigil at Cardinal Newman College on Monday 7th March, with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, from 6.30 pm in the College Chapel, Lark Hill.

Youth Service Lourdes Pilgrimage from 21st – 30th July 2016, promises a great week of faith, service, fun and friendship! For more information, contact the Youth Service – www.castleriggmanor.co.uk; team@castleriggmanor.co.uk; tweet @castleriggmanor; facebook Castlerigg Manor; or telephone 017687 72711. The Youth Service has received a generous subsidy which has enabled them to reduce the cost of the pilgrimage; this is now only £490 per person for coach travel.

Did you know... in a letter to CAFOD, prompted by your campaign actions, Climate and Energy Secretary Amber Rudd recognised the importance of the UN Paris agreement on climate change as a “clear turning point towards a sustainable and low carbon future”. She also highlighted the important role that Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* played in securing an ambitious deal on climate: “I would like to thank CAFOD for the key role they played in helping to communicate the document and look forward to working closely together to build on what was achieved at COP21.” Together, we can make a difference!

Lent Lunches – The next Lent Lunch will be held at Garstang URC on Wednesday, 9th March from 12 noon – 1 pm. All proceeds go to Christian Aid. (Date for the last Lent lunch this year is 16th March.)

Previously Published Items

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.*

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.*

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 6th March can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Josephine Wright, Eileen Fenna, Frank Moreland, Teresa Langley, James Foy, Pauline Lord, Robert Waddington, Richard Dodd, Donald Slater, Ellen Greenall, Martin Mears, Elizabeth Griffin, Jane Brown, Annie Grayston, Maureen Hollis, Mary Ann Smith and John Conway. *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 27th February – Sunday 6th March 2016

Sat	27 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	George Gidlow
Sun	28 th	10.00 am	Vivencio Batula
Mon	29 th	No Mass	
Tue	1 st Mar	12 noon	Ednée Smith
Wed	2 nd	7.00 pm	Fernande Desreux (Lately Dead)
Thurs	3 rd	8.00 am (note time)	Veronica (Ronnie) Regan
Fri	4 th	9.30 am	Baby Edward Berner (Lately Dead)
Sat	5 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Tomas and Ellen Moxham
Sun	6 th	10.00 am	William and Ellen Greenall

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	2 nd	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	4 th	24 hours for the Lord begins	
		2.45 pm	Celebration of God's Mercy (in School)
		7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.30 pm	Confessions
Sat	5 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Tue 1st ST. DAVID

Meetings this Week:

Tues	1 st Mar	6.30 pm	First Eucharist Preparation (Session 2)
Weds	2 nd	10 am – 12 noon	Monthly Coffee Morning
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Property & Finance Committee
Thurs	3 rd	7.00 pm	Hummingbirds Management Committee
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	21 st	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 124	Children: 5	
		10.00 am	Adults: 122	Children: 31	Total: 282

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,085; Shop: £30; Votive Lights: £51.50; Cemetery: £30; Donations: £60. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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