

## 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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**27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**



The Gospel today makes more sense if we know something about the context, which is the dispute about Jesus' authority and the Jewish leaders' rejection of John the Baptist. Jesus has refused to answer the challenge of the Chief Priests and the Elders about the source of his authority unless they answer his question about the origins of John's baptism. They find themselves on the horns of a dilemma: to answer that it was from heaven would leave them open to the further question of why they rejected it; if they brand it as a merely human undertaking, they run the risk of alienating popular opinion which considered John a prophet.

Jesus then refuses to divulge the source of his authority and tells the parable of the two sons. The point is straightforward: the son who did the will of his father, despite his initial refusal, proves to be the true son, and Jesus then applies the parable to the way in which the people responded to the baptism

of John. The tax collectors and prostitutes, stock examples in the Gospels of public sinners, responded to John; the religious professionals did not.

Apart from problems about their lifestyles, tax collectors and sinners were commonly seen to be in some way collaborators with the Roman occupiers. The religious authorities would have denied that *they* were in collusion with the regime, but they were in a more political way that allowed them to keep their hands clean. They not only resented John for his religious message that had little place for temple piety, but they also feared the political consequences of popular movements like his. By setting this Gospel reading in the same context as Ezekiel's teaching on personal responsibility, it seems to suggest that the parable of the two sons can be read as another example of the appropriate response to the Word.

*D'arcy*

### New items and information

**Harvest Festival Mass** – This weekend at the 10.30 am Mass, we will be celebrating a Harvest Festival Mass. The church will have been decorated, and small gifts will be taken out to the sick and housebound parishioners.

**This Weekend** there will be a second collection for the Bishop's Administration Fund.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.** It is a stark fact that one in eight of us will go to bed hungry tonight. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – Harvest Fast Day – CAFOD is asking you to make a place at your table to help our sisters and brothers in the world's poorest countries get enough nutritious food to eat. Your Fast Day envelopes are available in church this week. Please give as much as you can so that hunger isn't a fact of life for the world's poorest people. There are also some prayer cards with Harvest Prayers for you to take.

**Today, the Holy Father** has asked that the whole Church pray for the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which begins next Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, to treat the topic "The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation".

**Diocesan Education Mass 2014** – All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Michael Campbell OSA at the annual Diocesan Education Mass to be held at the cathedral on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, at 7.00 pm. This invitation extends in a special way to all those involved in education and faith formation; priests, deacons, catechists, youth ministry, children's liturgy, those in seminary and teachers outside of the Catholic sector. The Mass is offered in thanksgiving for the Church's mission in education and asks for a blessing on her work throughout the coming year.

**Chivuna** – This weekend, an etching by Barbra Cropper, who is an award-winning Lakeland Artist, will be at the back of church at all Masses. We are asking if you would like the chance to own it by choosing a number 1 – 200 (not already chosen) and in doing so pay £1 (or more if you can). The winning number will be announced after 10.30 am Mass this Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, providing that all the numbers have been sold. The funds raised will greatly help our friends in Chivuna. Thank you in advance for your support. The etching has a value of £200 and has been generously given by Barbra Cropper.

**Monthly Coffee Morning** will be held this Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October from 10 am – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel. This will be in aid of **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**. Entrance/Ticket £3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits. **CAKE AND PRODUCE STALL** (all contributions gratefully received). *Thank you.*

**Chivuna Photos** – Displayed at the back of church, these interesting items have been provided by Cathy Place and show well the Zambian countryside. We can also see the people of Chivuna, how they live and how they appreciate our having provided for them an AIDS/HIV centre. Please see for yourselves, and perhaps feel inspired to continue in your generous support for Chivuna.

**Brass Cleaning Team** – Have you an hour or two to spare once a fortnight to help with cleaning the brasses in church? The Brass Cleaning Team meets every other Wednesday morning to clean the candlesticks etc (quite a lot of etc!), but one of the team has moved away, and they could do with some help. Are you the one to do this? If so, please contact Fr David.

**Stewardship** – Many thanks to all who took part in the Stewardship Initiative. The team was very pleased with the response and interest shown. We trust parishioners who volunteered their time and gifts have been contacted by now. If not, please contact Frank Miller (01995 604 030). We hope to revisit the Stewardship Initiative in three years' time.

**Cenacolo Community UK** is part of the world-wide Cenacolo family which seeks to help disaffected young people often recovering from drug or alcohol addiction. The Trustees of this Registered Charity seek to appoint a volunteer ADMINISTRATOR to work with the

trustees handling day-to-day matters. Out-of-pocket expenses paid. For more details visit [www.cenacolouk.org](http://www.cenacolouk.org).

**“The Company of Voyces”** are holding a concert here at SS Mary & Michael’s on Friday, **10<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30 pm in aid of the Church Roof Fund. Tickets cost £10, and are available from Richard Harrison on 01995 606 213 or on the door.

**Garstang Musical Productions** are putting on a production of Gilbert & Sullivan’s ‘Iolanthe’ from **22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October**. All performances start at 7.30 pm and tickets will cost £9 (£6 for 16 yrs and under) and will be available soon from Car Care in Garstang, or by contacting Alan Armstrong on 01995 606603. *Do come along for a really enjoyable evening!*

#### Previously Published Items

**Ruth Walbank**, 16, is looking for a lift to Salford (Quays), Manchester, Monday – Friday. Her working hours are between 9.00 am – 6.00 pm at MediaCity. Tel: 07837 274 160.

**Youth Group** – We are looking to recruit some new adult helpers for the group. No experience is necessary. If you would like more information, please chat to Rachel Cortes, our Parish Youth Worker, on 07508 365 249 or Paul McCann on 601354.

**Church Shop** – We are looking for some new helpers at the 6.30 pm and the 8.30 am Masses. If you are able to help, please contact Jen Horn 01995 602341.

**Date for your diary** – “The Company of Voyces” are holding a concert here at SS Mary & Michael’s on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm in aid of the Church Roof Fund. Tickets cost £10, and are available from Richard Harrison on 01995 606 213 or on the door.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 28<sup>th</sup> September, 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:** Bernard Joseph Swarbrick, Jack Delaney, Eleanor Woodhams, Joseph Speight, Hannah Wheatley, Mary Gertrude Green, Francis Eastham, William Greenall, Arthur Conlong, John Towers and Jenny Jackson. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, 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 27<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Sat	27 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Reverend John Horn (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Birthday Intentions
Mon	29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Liturgy of the Word & Morning Prayer
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	7.00 pm	Two Very Elderly Aunts
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>8.30 am</b>	Mary Ibison’s Intentions
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Gerald Whittaker
		7.00 pm	Diocesan Education Mass (Cathedral)
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.30 am</b>	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	William & Ellen Greenall (Anniversary)
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Ellie Higham & Stephanie Croston (going away to University)
		10.30 am	Michael O’Neill

#### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	No Confessions or Exposition	
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Benediction

#### Special Days this Week:

Mon	29 <sup>th</sup>	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL
Tues	30 <sup>th</sup>	St Jerome
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Holy Guardian Angels
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	St Francis of Assisi

#### Meetings this Week:

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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#### Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 112	Children : 10
Sun	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 59	Children: 9
		10.30 am	Adults: 95	Children: 30 Total: 315

**Monies Received:** Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,031.47; Votive Lights: £50.70; Shop: £18; Home Missions Special Collection: £68. *Many thanks to you all.*

#### Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in September at St Thomas’s, and in October at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.