

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

2nd / 3rd August 2014

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

The news that his cousin, John the Baptist, had been killed by King Herod in a most gruesome way, came to Jesus. He heard about the drunken Herod, his flirting with the young Salome, and his crazy oath to give her anything she wanted.

Jesus was deeply hurt by the way that people treated human life so lightly; he just wanted to grieve quietly with his close friends. So he took a boat and crossed over the Sea of Galilee to a lonely place where he could pray and cry and mourn the pointless loss of his cousin.

He wasn't allowed this simply privacy. Word spread like wildfire that Jesus was in the locality. Thousands of men, women and children came out of the villages nearby to meet him. Jesus put his own needs on hold, he saw the spiritual longing of the crowds to simply hear Jesus tell them how much God loved them. His compassion for them was overwhelming; he listened to them, he healed those who were sick or who were in need, maybe some of them were grieving the loss of a loved one as well; they just needed to talk to Jesus.....

The time passed. The sun was going down. The people needed to get home and have some supper. The disciples saw this and tried to persuade Jesus to leave the people. "They're all very hungry and tired, they won't go until you stop listening to them and helping them," begged the ever-practical disciples. Jesus' reply stopped them in their tracks – "Feed them yourselves."

"That's impossible; all we have between us are five small loaves and two smoked fish!"

"Tell them all to sit down."

He took the food, and in everyone's sight and hearing, he blessed the bread and fish, and then told his disciples:

"Feed, my wonderful people!"

The disciples, fearful in public of seeming to disagree with Jesus, reluctantly did what he said.

The food kept going round more and more people as they tucked in to the freshest bread and the tastiest fish. Over 5,000 men, women and children were fed. What a party to end the day!

Jesus' personal grief for his cousin John had to wait. Perhaps in the early morning, before the others were awake, he would quietly sob in the presence of his Father....knowing that he had first of all shown once again his unselfish and total love for his dear people.

New items and information

Evening Prayer of the Church and Benediction is being held this weekend, Sunday, 3rd August, at 3.00 pm.

Next Weekend there will be a collection for the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Society helps people in very many ways, so please be as generous as you are able. *Thank you.*

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for August – That refugees, forced by violence to abandon their homes, may find a generous welcome and the protection of their rights; also that Christians in Oceania may joyfully announce the faith to all people of that region.

Did you know....the World Health Organisation estimates that 786 people have been infected by the Ebola virus, 729 have died, making it the largest outbreak of Ebola ever known? There is no vaccine and no known cure, but by following a few key practices, its spread can be relatively easily stopped. **CAFOD** is working with partners to ensure that the right messages reach the most vulnerable through community leaders they trust. In Sierra Leone **CAFOD** is launching a programme of training and sensitisation for religious leaders, enabling them to share accurate information widely in remote rural areas.

Tabor Carmelite Retreat House – at the back of church you will find copies of the programme listing the events taking place at Tabor between September and December this year. If you are interested, please take one. If there are none left, please let Father David know.

Cleator Pilgrimage, West Cumbria – Sunday, 7th September. Mass, and blessing of the sick, is at 3 pm. The principal celebrant and preacher is Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. For further enquiries, see poster at back of church, or telephone 01946 810 324.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) – This is a course offered for catechist, teachers and others who may be interested in deepening their knowledge of the Catholic faith. If you are interested in studying this course, please see Father David for course details and an application form.

Apostleship of the Sea – We have received a letter of thanks for the collection taken on 13th July (£287.70). Part of the letter says: "Your support goes a long way to helping us continue our good work in caring pastorally for the seafarers who come to our shores. The plight for some of these good people can really be heart-breaking. Loneliness is a very big factor as they miss out on family life and children miss seeing their parent for so many months at a time." They also ask if anyone has any rosaries, prayer cards, medals etc that we are not using but would like to pass to others in need, they could be forwarded to the AoS Parish Co-ordinator who will see that they are distributed to the seafarers who ask for them – they say these items give them comfort when away from home for so long, and draw them ever-nearer to the love and trust in God and Stella Maris, Our Lady Star of the Sea. ***If you have any of these items which you would like to pass on, please hand them in to Liz at the presbytery, and she will ensure they are posted on.***

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 10th August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper. The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church. Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph.

Previously Published Items

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 would only come around once every eight weeks.

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 what the job involves. *Thank you.*

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.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Robert Berry, Margaret Hine, James Booth, James Birchall, James Rossall, Catherine Elder, Stephen Edmondson, Bert Maddock and James Greenall. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Joseph Lowe, 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 2nd – 10th August 2014

Sat	2 nd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Michael and Anne Ronayne
Sun	3 rd	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Elizabeth Dilworth (Lately Dead)
Mon	4 th	No Mass	
Tues	5 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	6 th	7.00 pm	Catherine Elder (Anniversary)
Thurs	7 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
Fri	8 th	9.30 am	The Smith Family
Sat	9 th	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (3 rd Anniversary)
Sun	10 th	8.30 am	Gerald Whittaker
		10.30 am	Thomas & Eleanor Bolton (Wedding Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	3 rd	3.00 pm	Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction
Wed	6 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	9 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Mon	4 th	St John Vianney
Wed	6 th	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD
Thurs	7 th	St Edmund Arrowsmith, St Ambrose Barlow & Companions, Lancaster Martyrs
Fri	8 th	St Dominic
Sat	9 th	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Meetings this Week:

Wed	6 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	26 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 99	Children: 2
Sun	27 th	8.30 am	Adults: 72	Children: 15
		10.30 am	Adults: 105	Children: 28
				Total: 321

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,153.17; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £46.10; Day for Life: £80. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday 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.