

## New items and information

# 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](mailto:ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com)

Parish Website: [www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](http://www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

email for website submissions: [parish@ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk](mailto:parish@ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk)

**29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**



Today's story of the man born blind was one of the three principal New Testament texts taught to the Catechumens of the early Church as they drew closer to their baptism at the Easter Vigil. (The other two were last Sunday's Samaritan woman at the well, and next Sunday's raising of Lazarus.) In the early Church, the Sacrament of Baptism was often referred to as Illumination. To be washed free from sin was to pass from darkness to light,

from confusion to truth, and from distorted vision to clear. Jesus as the Light of the World not only gives sight, but also insight. His disciples are enabled to see not only out, but in.

This double illumination is clear in the healing of the man born blind. He sees out in that he can now see the beauties of nature and the splendour of the Temple, but also in, to see Jesus as the promised Messiah. The gospel reading underscores that 'Siloam' where the blind man receives his sight means 'sent'. Those who can now see are sent into the world for its illumination; *they* can now be the light to the world's darkness which can mean shedding light on the world's disbelief; that is why the story which might have ended happily with the cure of the blind man's disability continues with the sad story of disbelief among the Pharisees in which even the cured man's parents get caught up. To be light for the world is not something that the world always appreciates.

The eye cannot see itself, even when it is functioning perfectly. The only way that disciples can see themselves is through the eyes of the community of Faith, the community that is the Body of Christ, the Light of the World. The Church is not an adjunct to salvation history, but essential to the continuing conversion into Christ to which all are called in the Sacrament of Baptism; in which all are empowered in the Sacrament of Confirmation; and from which all are nourished in the Sacrament of the Eucharist – the three Sacraments of Initiation that the Catechumens will receive at the Easter Vigil.

*D'arcy*

The School-led liturgy at the 10.30 am Mass will take place at a later date.

Saturday Vigil Mass – Having consulted parishioners and sought the approval of the Bishop, the time of the Saturday Vigil Mass will be brought forward to 6 pm. This will happen later in the year, after the summer, probably at the beginning of Advent.

First Eucharist Preparation – Session 4 is at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April in the Plessington Chapel.

A Lenten Penitential Service will be held here at SS Mary & Michael's on **Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, at 10.15 am.**

Reconciliation Wednesday – The Healing Grace of Prayer - This Lent, Catholics from all over the Diocese are responding the "The Light is on for you" initiative and come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation after being away from the Church for many years. Imagine the sense of welcome and hope they would experience if they walked into a church filled with people praying and meditating in silence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us on the Wednesday of Holy Week, **16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 from 6 – 8 pm** for quiet prayer as we pray for people who are seeking to reconcile with God and with the Church.

Stations of the Cross during Lent, are at 6.30 pm Each Friday.

2014 Offertory Envelopes are ready for collecting at the back of church.

Friends of Chivuna – The next meeting of the Friends of Chivuna will be held next **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April**, at 7.30 pm, beginning with Mass at 7 pm.

St Vincent de Paul Society – this week is the final week for collecting foodstuffs for the various food banks in Preston. The collection ends next Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April. So many people will be helped through your generosity, so please put your contributions, however small, into the box which is at the back of church.

Hummingbirds Car Wash Morning- Hummingbirds Nursery are holding a **car wash morning this weekend, on Sunday 30th March** in the School yard during the 10.30 am Mass. Washing will start from 10 am, so if you fancy a bright sparkling car for Mothers Day then pop your car along. At £5.00 per car, it's a bargain you should not miss!

Our next Monthly Coffee Morning will be held **next Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 10 am – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel**. Come along and enjoy coffee/tea, cakes and biscuits, and a thoroughly good time! All are welcome.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped in any way with the North West Children's Support Group Auction last Saturday; especially to those of you who made sandwiches and cakes! These were very much appreciated! A total of £1,500 was raised. *Thank you all for your generosity.*

Did you know....CAFOD is working to improve the health and wellbeing of mums with HIV, and working to prevent them passing on the virus to their children? When Mihret Mehari, a 32-year-old mum from Ethiopia, discovered she was HIV positive, she started antiretroviral drugs and joined an HIV support project – supported by CAFOD. Mihret now attends a monthly coffee ceremony which provides information, and enables people living with HIV to share experiences. She has even started her own small business. With the right knowledge, support and funding, women like Mihret can have healthy children and care for them.

**Garstang Theatre Group** are performing “The Sound of Music” from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April at Garstang Academy. Tickets available from Debbie and Roisin McCann. Please see poster at back of church for more details.

**A week’s holiday at Villa Palazzola, Rome** from 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014, is being organised by Fr Michael Murphy. The cost is £825 per person (£930 en suite). If you are interested, or just want more details, see poster at back of church, or ask for details and booking form in our Presbytery, or contact St Mary’s Presbytery at Fleetwood on 01253 873 331.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

### **Previously Published Items**

**SS Mary & Michael’s School Association** needs your support for their “School Race Night” on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 gold!) If you are able to help, please contact the school office (603 023). *Thank you.*

**Parish Draw** - £20 subscriptions are due for renewal. Agents will be collecting them from those who do not pay by standing order. A list of 2013/2014 winners is displayed at the back of church. Do you wish to become a member and help raise funds for the parish - £1,350 this year. Ring Philippa Catterall on 602 797. *Thank you.*

**Please continue to remember in your prayers** Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old) who has leukaemia and is fighting for her life.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Fleetwood Carter, Alice Helme, Marie Calvert, Mary Horn and Aileen Dearn. *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 (2½ 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.)***

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 23 The Lord’s my shepherd – see back of Hymn Book

### **Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Sat	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Tony Hall
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Eve Graham (Birthday Memories)
		10.30 am	David Pyke (Lately Dead)
Mon	31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	12 noon	Claire and Finton McManus
Wed	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm	Shauna Carmel Spedding
Thurs	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>8.00 am(note time)</b>	Special Intention
Fri	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	(Chivuna) Special Intention
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.00 am(note time)</b>	Rev Canon William Joseph Houlihan
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	John Kirkman (Anniversary)
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	George Clarey (Lately Dead)

### **Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Exposition</b>	
		06.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Confessions</b>	

### **Special Days this Week:**

Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday in Lent
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	Fifth Sunday in Lent

### **Meetings this Week:**

Tues	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharist Preparation (Session 4)
Wed	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.35 pm	Finance Committee
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

### **Last Week’s Attendance:**

Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 113	Children: 5	
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 58	Children: 12	
		10.30 am	Adults: 112	Children: 36	Total: 336

**Monies Received:** Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,060.71; Votive Lights: £44; Shop: £15; African Missions Collection: £646.79. ***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. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.