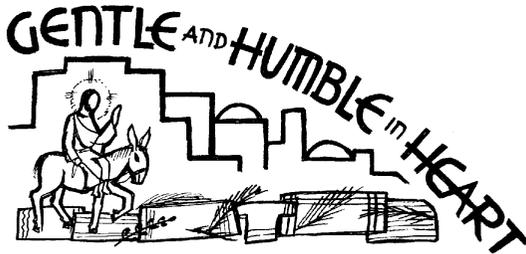


# St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

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)

5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



It's not often that we talk about the Old Testament readings, but today I'm going to say something about the prophet, Zechariah, author of our first reading. (I say author, but scholars think that his prophecies are the work of two

people writing at different times, both in the sixth century BC, and today's reading is from the second Zechariah.)

Now you know that when the twelve Tribes of Israel asked Samuel for a king, he tried to put them off. He told them a king would take their land for his olive groves and vineyards, their sons for his soldiers, their daughters for his own concubines, and anybody left would be taxed out of existence to pay for it all. The only advantage of a king was someone who would make them great by his military deeds.

Zechariah's king isn't like this; victorious certainly, but humble and riding on a donkey. What a surprising coming for the Chosen One, the Deliverer, the King of God's people. This is essentially a non-military concept of kingship. A figure whose accession to the throne is characterised by peace and prosperity, and what's more, this King is "righteous" or "legitimate". He will not exploit his subjects as all other kings if Israel had. In fact, his rule will bring "shalom" – peace.

So Zechariah tells the people that the coming of this King is Good News, and this notion of kingship is like the notion of God known in the person of Jesus the Son, essentially one that is free from the unimaginative canons of conventional wisdom. How could a king arrive on such a strange and lowly beast? The very strangeness of the notion points to the essential ability of God to surprise us and take us unawares.

In living our faith, maintaining the capacity to be surprised by God is a rare and precious gift. Today we learn a little more about it.

*D'arcy*

## New items and information

**Counters** – We have had one volunteer to help with counting the collection after the 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday (every fifth week), but we could do with more volunteers; the more we have, the less frequent the turns come round. Please, could *you* help? If so, please let Father David or Deacon D'arcy know.

**Next Weekend is Sea Sunday** when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There will be a second collection for the Apostleship of the Seas, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain. It provides practical and spiritual support to seafarers visiting our ports. Please give generously to support its important work. For more information about its work, visit [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).

**Stewardship** – Over the past month we have been encouraged to think about our God-given gifts and talents and how we can use these for the benefit of the Parish community. A big thank you to the 32 parishioners who returned the Stewardship 'Offering my time and gifts' leaflet last weekend. The Stewardship group will be collating the results and contacting you over the next few weeks. If you have not already done so, please place completed leaflets in the Stewardship basket at the back of church; any handed in before Mass will be taken up as part of the offertory procession. *Many thanks.*

### *Prayer for Guidance*

*Lord, show me clearly what you want me to do with the Gifts you have given me.  
Grant me the strength that I need to answer your call with courage and love.  
Make me a generous person so that others may experience your love through me.  
Help me always to look to you as the One who will show me the way to live my life. Amen*

**Did you know...** you can give to CAFOD for free? CAFOD can turn unwanted items into cash for the world's poorest people by recycling your old inkjet cartridges, your foreign coins, or even your old car. From mobile phones and inkjet cartridges alone, supporters from Lancaster Diocese have raised over £1,300. That's the equivalent of providing all the materials to build wells, water tanks and reservoirs, and to install and lay pumps, water pipes and taps to provide clean, safe water for **TWO** entire communities! That's amazing – thank you!

**Father David** is on his annual leave for the next two weeks!

## Previously Published Items

**Assisted Dying Bill – Please write to a member of the House of Lords** – The Bill to legalise "assisted dying" – meaning assisted suicide – will be debated in the House of Lords on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014. There will be a free vote because it is not government legislation. If passed, this Bill would place vulnerable people at serious risk. Especially if you have direct experience of caring for a dying person, either as

a family member or as a health or social care professional, please write before 18<sup>th</sup> July to a Peer to tell them your views. For more information, including details of how to write to a Peer, please visit [www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/assisted-dying-bill). It is very important to write as soon as possible, and certainly before 18<sup>th</sup> July.

**St Vincent de Paul Society Appeal for clothing** – especially socks for ex-offenders. Caritas Care in Preston are constantly in need of clothing for both men and women, but particularly men, and their stocks are very low just now. In our recent appeal for clothing, the response was excellent – so again we are highlighting this ongoing need. Do you have socks you no longer wear? You no longer need? Maybe you have socks hiding at the back of your sock drawer? Then now is the time to bring them to church. A box will be provided for this purpose and we are grateful for your generosity. **Thank you. SVP Conference.**

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 13<sup>th</sup> July, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

**Please pray for** Rachael Flood (née Mears), Debbie McCann’s sister, who is having brain surgery this Monday, and she would be very grateful for all your prayers.

**Please pray for** Elizabeth Dilworth who died last week. Her funeral Mass was on Friday. **May she rest in peace.**

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Evelyn Langley, Gerard Wearden, Ruairi Lambert-Heysham, Henry Wearden, Agnes Bamber, Joseph Bugeja, Pat Salles, Robert Spenser, Frederick Lyford, Agnes Bullen and Harry Nickson. **May they rest in peace.**

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Lucia Salcedo, Christopher (of Cenacolo), Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Clive Hammond, Simon Crossley, 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 Davies, 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.)**

**The Response to the Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass**

**Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (59 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary)
Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Lucia Salcedo (Sick)
		10.30 am	Charles and Evelyn Langley (Anniversary)
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Betty Watson
Thurs	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	“ “ “ “
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	“ “ “ “
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Agnes and Ignatius Bullen
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Rev. F. Hickey
		10.30 am	Tony Stephenson

**Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>		No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Confessions

**Special Days this Week:**

Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions
Fri	11 <sup>th</sup>	St Benedict

**Meetings this Week:**

Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
-----	-----------------	---------	----------------

**Last Week’s Attendance:**

Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 109	Children: 4
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 69	Children: 10
		10.30 am	Adults: 107	Children: 24
				Total: 323

**Monies Received:** Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,110.60; Peter’s Pence Special Collection: £155.60; Votive Lights: £60.90; Shop: £30; Donations: £35; Roof Fund: £100; Legacy for Church Maintenance: £25,000.

**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. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.