

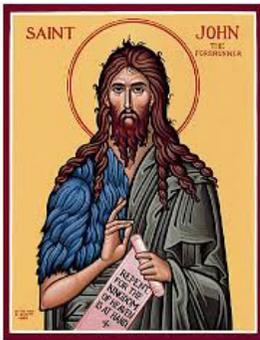
St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church  
**GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE**

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)

**6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)**

**"Prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight ."**



Advent, as we celebrate it, is not part of the bible, but the theme of waiting for God to come certainly is. Today's first reading is the beginning of the message of Second Isaiah (there are three Isaiahs), the anonymous prophet of the exile. Preaching around 540 BC, he stresses the dimension of hope for his depressed countrymen. The opening verse strikes this hopeful note in the setting of the Heavenly Council, where, conferring with his advisors, the Lord calls for a crusade of comfort and consolation. A new period is now unfolding. The punishment is over, the sin is

forgiven, and this takes the form of a march through the desert that combines the Exodus experience with the pagan processions of the Babylonian Temple. The Lord will lead his people out of Babylon, and Jerusalem proclaims the good news that fear is out of place because of the Lord's presence. In ancient Middle-Eastern thought, 'shepherd' is a typical image of the King.

All this is spoken by Second Isaiah, a prophet; and we think of a prophet as one of a small number of extraordinary people. Isaiah speaks of God's presence, but we never regard ourselves as indicators of that presence; yet through baptism we become prophets, spreaders of God's message, and discoverers of God's presence because that is what prophets do. The audience of Isaiah had ceased yearning for God's presence. It had been so long since they had been able to offer sacrifice in the Temple that they were giving up; yet the Prophet was able to discover the presence of the Lord in the very midst of that depression. His message of comfort and consolation alerted people to long-forgotten dimensions of their God. His image of the Tender Shepherd reawakened old dreams.

Prophets provoke God's presence. Will we, baptised as prophets, cause God's presence to be seen by others this Advent?

*D'arcy*

**New items and information**

**Christmas Masses and Services Booklets** – These are at the back of church for anyone who would like to take a copy on green paper.

**Primary Schools Carol Services**

**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am KS1 (Infants) at St Thomas.**

**Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, at 10 am KS2 (Juniors) at SS Mary &**

**Michael's.**

**Garstang Academy Carol Concert** will be held here on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm at SS Mary & Michael's.

**St Vincent de Paul Society –**

- **This weekend, there will be a second collection for the SVP.**
- Our SVP Conference will be coordinating the Christmas Tea Party next **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December** from 2 – 4 pm in the Community Centre. Do come for tea, chat and festive entertainment enjoyed with friends. We especially want to welcome some of our fellow parishioners who maybe can't get to Mass on Sundays. All welcome. If you need transport, please call Pat on 605793.
- **Appeal for transport** – Following our appeal last week, we have had two volunteers. However, we could do with some more offers just in case of need. If you would be able to help once in a while, please contact Pat on 605793.
- **Appeal for warm clothing** – now that winter is here we have been prompted by a parishioner to replace the box at the back of church for this purpose, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks etc, also duvets, will again be gratefully received and they will be taken to Caritas Care who work with ex-offenders and homeless people in Preston. *Thank you very much – your help is very much appreciated. SVP Conference.*

**Next Sunday, during the 10.30 am Mass, we will have the Rite of Acceptance** – This is the first of the Rites of Initiation of Christian Adults (RCIA). The people of the parish will be asked if they will accept as a firm candidate to become a member of the Church, **Yvonne Thompson**, who has requested that she become a Catholic. It is very important that Yvonne knows that she has the prayers and support of the people of our parishioners.

**Golf Ball and Cake Sale** takes place after 10.30 am Mass, this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Matthew, Daniel & Robert Tomlinson's dog Tess has collected a lot of golf balls from the river near Garstang Golf Club!

**Hummingbirds Christmas Fair** – A wonderful £806.16 was raised. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, and to everyone who spent money, bought raffle tickets, etc.

**Whist and Domino Drive** – December's Drive is taking place a week earlier than normal. It will now take place on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014**. *All welcome.*

**CAFOD – Did you know...** going strong after ten years, our World Gifts collection has raised over £12 million for people living in poverty? Each World Gift is a real example of CAFOD's work. So when you choose a gift, you help to transform the lives of people in developing countries, and your loved ones get a beautifully

illustrated card and a warm glow on Christmas morning. See <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Give/World-Gifts> for more details. Thank you for spreading the real message of Christmas this year, both at home and across the world.

### Previously Published Items

**Christmas Cards** – these are on sale in the church shop along with Advent calendars, cribs and many more gifts and cards, including Christmas Mass Bouquet cards; all at very reasonable prices.

**Farmers Christmas Concert 2014** – This will take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm at Lancaster Auction Mart. The proceeds are split between Farm Crisis Network and Wyresdale Children's Home in India. Tickets £4 available by phoning 01524 791090, 01524 791506, 01524 791935, or from Lancaster Auction Mart.

**A Musical Celebration of Christmas** by the June Baker Singers will take place here in church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. Please book the date, for a very enjoyable evening. All proceeds to the L'Arche Community in Preston for their new development. Tickets available soon.

**Journey in Faith (RCIA) 2014 – 2015** – The new Journey in Faith programme has started. Meetings are every Thursday at 7.15 pm in the presbytery behind the church. We are here to welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic and who wants to find out more about the Catholic faith, and any enquirers are invited to come along to the meetings.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 14<sup>th</sup> December, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

**Please remember in your prayers** Imelda Newsham who died last week. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** William Norman Nixon, Winifred Storey, John Skillen, Marie McGrath, Thomas Moxham, Catherine Mary Andrews, Aidan Fleming, John Gavin, George Cowburn and Annie Gregson. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Joan Fishwick, Richard (aged 14) (needs a bone marrow transplant), Gerald Vandome, Sheila Murphy, Elaine Lamoury (Henry's sister-in-law), Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, 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, 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 the 10.30 am Mass :**

### Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	<b>PLEASE REMEMBER NEW TIME</b> Bill Bamber (First Anniversary)
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Gerald Whittaker
Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Sarah Ferns
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.30 am</b>	Marjorie Addison
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Brian Hargreaves (Sick)
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Joe Traynor (Lately Dead)
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Eve Graham (Anniversary)

### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am 6.45 pm	Primary Schools KS2 Carol Service Rosary
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	<b>Celebration of God's Forgiveness</b>
Sun	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	<b>Rite of Acceptance during the 10.30 am Mass</b>

### Special Days this Week:

Mon	8 <sup>th</sup>	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	St Lucy

### Meetings this Week:

Tues	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Confirmation Preparation (Session 4)
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey In Faith
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	SVP Christmas Party (in Castle Lane Centre)

### Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 117	Children : 10
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 64	Children: 6
		10.30 am	Adults: 102	Children: 29 Total: 3328

**Monies Received:** Offertory: £1,304.03; Votive Lights: £44.50; Shop: £70; Advent Donation: £131; Headstone: £30. *Many thanks to you all.*

### Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in December here at Sts Mary & Michael's. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.