

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 Tom Butler & Rev Deacon D'Arcy Ryan,
Bonds Lane, Garstang, Lanes PR3 1ZB. Tel. 01995 602164
email: ssmm.bonds@btinternet.com
Parish Website: www.ssmaryandmichaels-garstang.org.uk
email for website submissions: parish@ssmarvandmichaels-garstang.org.uk

16th / 17th July 2016

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Abraham at the Oak of Mamre

Each time the gospel of Martha and Mary occurs, it causes slight unease: is Martha misunderstood and presumed upon, working her fingers to the bone while others take their ease in talk? The Old Testament parallel is a famous scene from Genesis, when Abraham receives three mysterious visitors. There also, it is the man who receives them while his wife and servants make the meal for the visitors to eat.

In the latter case, it is not to be judged by today's standards – it was, after all, the patriarchal age. In the case of Martha and Mary, we can say we do not know the circumstances – perhaps Martha was, indeed, trying too hard to impress. *The Liturgy Planner*

“Few [things] are needed, indeed only one.” The Responsorial Psalm tells us what it is: living in the presence of the Lord. Abraham responds to this presence with a prayer: “Lord, do not pass your servant by.” Jesus answers this prayer by accepting the hospitality of Martha and Mary. To offer hospitality to the Lord is to centre ourselves on his presence, rather than on the distracted contents of our minds. Saint Paul acknowledges the purpose of what has been entrusted to him: “to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ”. Christian stewardship demands stillness, silence, and attentiveness before the Presence. To those who choose the better part, God is able “to show all the rich glory of this mystery”. *Magnificat*

New items and information

This weekend we are celebrating Mass for the Feast of St John Plessington – There will be bacon butties served after Mass. We say a big *thank you* to Joyce Bilsborrow and to everyone that helped her; they have worked very hard to organise the food.

This week we welcome two Sisters from Germany who are visiting Father Tom: Sister Theresia and Sister Ulrike, Canonesses of St Augustine.

Whist and Domino Drive – The next meeting is this Monday, 18th July, from 2 – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Everyone is welcome – come and enjoy the fun and the good company!

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting is on Wednesday, 20th July, at 7.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.

A cheerful message: We are all getting older and two of the ladies who for years have washed the purificators every month are no longer able to do so. Purificators are the linen cloths used for wiping the chalice at Communion, and have to be washed separately from your other washing. But they are never ‘dirty’ and the rota is only for a month at a time. Are there two – or more – generous washerpersons out there who would welcome this challenge? Charlotte and Marie, who are retiring, have done their part for many years; surely they must have worthy successors. ***See Bill, D’arcy, or any ex-CWL member.***

Did you know....before the beginning of our *Hands On* project in Kitui, Kenya, the community were at breaking point? There was no water for growing crops, and the little drinking water available often carried disease and took hours to collect. Over the past two years, people in England and Wales have been funding an extraordinary project to provide water for thousands of Kitui residents. It hasn't been an easy task, and has involved a complex combination of tools and training. Water has seeped back into the daily lives of the families in this community and has transformed life for the people of Kitui.

Previously Published Items

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 19th – 26th September 2016 – There are still a few places available on our parish visit to Lourdes in September. The cost is £675 (sharing a room) for seven nights, plus costs for insurance, coach transfer to and from Manchester airport, and two excursions when in Lourdes. Please see poster at the back of church, and if interested contact Jean Andrews (603 802) or Elizabeth Horn (602 024).

Church Shop – A member of our parish has recently visited Fatima and has brought back some articles which are available for purchase in the church shop.

A Big ‘Thank You’ to the Monthly Coffee Morning and Whist & Domino attendees for the money they raised which has paid for the new table and two chairs in the Presbytery kitchen. They're great! ***Father Tom.***

Chivuna Knitting – For some years now, a number of parishioners have given of their time and skills, knitting clothing and bedding for the poor children of Chivuna. It is to their credit that they carry out this great work without fuss or identity. At the same time, it renders the task of thanking them difficult, particularly on behalf of those in Chivuna who have benefitted so much from their efforts. Garstang Friends of Chivuna would therefore like to extend their sincere thanks to all these good people and assure them that we know from our contact with Chivuna how deep this appreciation is felt. We would equally like

to thank those who have provided the raw materials and those who have contributed to the cost of sending the goods to Chivuna. Lastly, a special thanks to Margaret Wilcock, without whose untiring dedication to organising the work and sending the finished products to Zambia, nothing would be achieved.

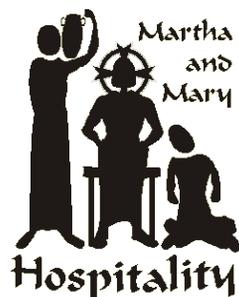
Church re-roofing and associated works – Update – I can confirm that these works will start next week, and, subject to weather and any unforeseen circumstances, are expected to be completed by the end of the year. The works will now include re-roofing of the complete roof to the main body of the Church, improvements to insulation levels at roof level, repair and renewal of lead work, gutters and associated works etc. The most urgent areas of the Presbytery roof will also be re-roofed as well as replacement of the heating system. Being able to carry out these works is a reflection on the strength and generosity of our Parish community and the fund-raising efforts that have been made. Thank you. If anyone has any questions or would like further details, please speak to Father Tom or to me. *Manus Adamson.*

Lancaster LIFE – The Annual General Meeting of the Lancaster Life Group will take place on Tuesday, 19th July 2016 at 7.30 pm in St Bernadette’s Social Centre, Bowerham Road, Lancaster. If anyone is interested in supporting this service in any way, there are volunteer forms at the back of church. The address to which to send them is Secretary, Lancaster LIFE Group, The Lighthouse Centre, 1 Townley Street, Morecambe, LA4 5JQ.

Please pray for Maxwell James Bateson, who was baptised this weekend, Saturday, 16th July.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Annie Morris, Mary Walmsley, Susan Conway, William Dilworth, John Fleming, Marion Waddingham, Edna Reid and George Grayston,. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Chris O’Connor, Craig Smith, Leo Rabbett, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, John Sweeney, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O’Neill, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford and Alison Green. *(When people whose names are on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*



Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 16th – Sunday 24th July 2016

Sat	16 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Hylda Wells
Sun	17 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	18 th	9.30 am (Please note)	Chris O’Connor
Tue	19 th	7.00 pm (Note time)	Brian Hargreaves
Wed	20 th	9.30 am (Note time)	One Lately Dead
Thurs	21 st	9.30 am	The Bullen Family
Fri	22 nd	9.30 am	School Leavers’ Mass – Joan Patterson
Sat	23 rd	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	A Successful Operation
Sun	24 th	10.00 am	Fitzpatrick and Lowe Families

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	20 th	No Rosary	
Fri	22 nd	10 – 10.30 am	Holy Half-hour for Vocations (Exposition)
Sat	23 rd	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Sun	17 th	16 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Tue	19 th	St John Plessington, St John Wall & Companions, Martyrs of Lancashire
Wed	20 th	St Apollinaris
Thurs	21 st	St Laurence of Brindisi
Fri	22 nd	St Mary Magdalene
Sat	23 rd	ST BRIDGET
Sun	24 th	17 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Meetings this Week:

Mon	18 th	2 – 4 pm	Whist & Domino Drive, Plessington Chapel
Wed	20 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice (in church)
		7.30 pm	SVP (Plessington Chapel)

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sun	10 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 132	Children: 6	
		10.00 am	Adults: 118	Children: 26	Total: 282

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,085.45; Shop (2 weeks): £45; Votive Lights (2 weeks): £102; Tea Money: £50; Apostleship of the Sea (Special Collection): £326.

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.