

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
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31st May / 1st June 2014 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



In our first reading according to Luke, Jesus continues and completes his saving work after death. The same Jesus who died is now alive. The same Holy Spirit who was active in Jesus' choice and instruction of the apostles will inspire the apostles' testifying to Jesus as the one who represents the Kingdom of God, a divine role not confined to Palestine, but intended for the whole of humanity. Jesus' being taken up into heaven is an imaginative presentation of his true destiny and of his unique relationship with God the Father, of his divine Sonship which the apostles experience, not for their own benefit but in order to communicate the meaning of the whole of Jesus' career to others. Their role is not to know about the time for the final establishment of God's Kingdom, but, impelled by the Holy Spirit, to bring it about, they are not to look to heaven, waiting passively for Jesus to come, but, as his agents, to represent him on earth.

The message of Jesus' ascension is, however, not exclusively for us personally, but for us as the Church, commissioned to be witnesses of the Risen Jesus throughout the whole world. Jesus' words to the apostles before his departure set the programme for the Church for all time. In Luke's day, we in the British Isles were the end of the earth. So today we have a much larger task on our hands. But we still have hope because of the impelling present of the Holy Spirit promised to us by the ascended Jesus. Luke has presented his message in a highly imaginative way, and even today on the Mount of Olives, pilgrims may be shown marks in the rock alleged to be those of Jesus' feet remaining after his ascension. Indeed, Ignatius of Loyola, returning from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, made a detour to verify the direction in which Jesus was facing as he left the earth. We are dispensed from being concerned about such details while being challenged to look for the real meaning of Jesus' ascension.

D'arcy

New items and information

This weekend we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. It is also World Communications Day, and there will be a second collection after all Masses.

Evening Prayer & Benediction will be held this Sunday afternoon at 3.00 pm, to support Pope Francis' visit to the Holy Land and to pray for peace and reconciliation in these troubled lands. Please come to pray for these troubled countries if you can.

Copies of The Voice are available to collect from the back of church this weekend. Please take one.

St Vincent de Paul Society – there will be a special collection for the SVP next weekend.

Congratulations to St Mary & St Michael's School following their recent Section 48 Inspection (R.E.). The Report shows they were *Outstanding* in all areas. Well done to all the staff and children! St Mary & St Michael's is an outstanding Catholic school.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – At this time of year, we train new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. A number of people have been asked if they will consider this ministry for three years. The first training session is this Wednesday, 4th June, from 7.30 – 9.00 pm. The second training session is Saturday, 7th June, at 10.15 am – 3 pm. Home-made soup and cheese will be provided for lunch on the Saturday. The third session is on Thursday, 12th June, 7.30 – 9 pm.

APF Mission Boxes – Would all who have mission boxes please bring them to church next Sunday so that they can be emptied. *Thank you.*

Stewardship - Over the next month, we will learn more about Stewardship. Through homilies and hearing parishioners speak about their faith, we will seek to discern our God-given gifts. There will be a Ministry Fair, over two weekends, which will highlight the range of talents and opportunities in this Parish. It is hoped that these various activities will help each of us think more deeply about our personal gifts. To guide our thoughts, we are encouraged to use A Prayer for Guidance printed on the small cards available at all Masses.

Monthly Prayer Meeting – Monday, 2nd June at 7.45 pm for 8, at 14 Bonds Lane. All welcome.

Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery Gardens



Tuesday, 10th June, 2 – 4 pm. Tickets are still available for this fun-filled fundraising event! Please try to support us; if you are unable to attend, perhaps you would like to donate a raffle prize, or buy some raffle tickets?

Parish Draw for May – 1st Prize - £80: M Purkis; 2nd Prize - £30: C & M Swarbrick

Did you know...237 families in Sao Paulo, Brazil, have won the right to secure permanent housing after the municipal government signed over £3 million to purchase the Mauá building – their home for the last seven years? The Mauá community faced the threat of eviction on

the eve of the World Cup unless the authorities converted the abandoned hotel into social housing. News of the victory was greeted with jubilation. Huge thanks to the thousands of CAFOD supporters in England and Wales who backed their campaign – the international pressure and solidarity worked.

Lourdes Pilgrimage – The Diocesan Pilgrimage takes place between 18th & 25th July. All are invited; the sick are especially welcome. They are the focus of the pilgrimage, and are known as our VIPs. No person who is seriously ill should be prevented from going to Lourdes by lack of funds. There may be grants available; please ask. If you are interested, please contact **Fr Philip Smith, Director, St Francis Hill Chapel, Horns Lane, Goosnargh, Preston, PR3 2FJ; tel: 07999 640 118; email director@lancasterlourdes.co.uk. The pilgrimage is also on the diocesan website.**

Thank you to all of you who have been praying for Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, whose names were on the sick list. Thanks to your prayers they are getting better, and their names have been removed from the sick list.

Is Britain really a Christian country? – There will be a discussion that includes members of other faiths taking place at Blackburn Cathedral on Thursday 19th June, starting at 6.30 pm.

Previously Published Items

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 8th June, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Horn, who died this week. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Brian Griffin, Wynn Dunn, William Rawlinson, Bernard Holland, Jean Leach, Theresa Bamber, John Dixon, Josephine Barton, George Holt, Alfred Yates, Julia Cowburn, Judith Swarbrick, John Blacklock, Cyril Swarbrick, Francis Wells, Elizabeth Critchley, Canon David Murphy and Javier Coto. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Dorothy Evans, Derek Hutchinson, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth's brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O'Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, 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 (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.)*

The Response to the Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 31st May – Sunday 8th June 2014

Sat	31 st	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Ken Lewis of Garstang (16 th anniversary)
Sun	1 st June	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Janet & Frank Worthington (Ruby Wedding)
Mon	2 nd	No Mass	
Tues	3 rd	7.00 pm	Peter Hankinson (Lately Dead)
Wed	4 th	7.00 pm	Lucia Salcedo (A complete recovery)
Thurs	5 th	9.30 am	Irfam & Jane Karim (Sick)
Fri	6 th	7.00 pm	A Poorly Elderly Lady (Chivuna Mass)
Sat	7 th	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Jean Leach (10 th Anniversary)
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Father John Conway (Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	1 st	3.00 pm	Evening Prayer & Benediction to support Pope Francis' visit to the Holy Land and to pray for peace and reconciliation in these troubled lands
Wed	4 th	6.45 pm	Rosary

Special Days this Week:

Sun	1 st	The Ascension of the Lord and World Communications Day of Prayer (Special Collection for Catholic Media)
Tues	3 rd	Sts Charles Lwanga & Companions
Thurs	5 th	St Boniface
Sun	8 th	PENTECOST

Meetings this Week:

Wed	4 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Eucharistic Ministers Training (1)
Thurs	5 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	6 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	18 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 109	Children: 3
Sun	19 th	8.30 am	Adults: 60	Children: 8
		10.30 am	Adults: 140	Children: 41
			Total: 361	

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,110.00; Shop: £75; Votive Lights (2 weeks): £105.60; Donation: £25. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in June at the Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.