

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

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4th / 5th JULY 2015

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)



In our second reading today, Paul speaks of a “thorn in the flesh” which has been given to him by Satan. This weakness of Paul’s, and we have no idea what it is – and it doesn’t matter – stops him “from getting too proud”.

He is clearly beset by some kind of temptation or sinfulness. He prays continually for this to be taken from him, and the Lord makes it clear to him that the weakness will never be taken from him.

All of us suffer from habitual sin – sin which has been around for us for a long time, that has troubled us over many years; it may be pride, or a quick temper, or a resentment against a particular person. It may be something sexual, or a habit of being untruthful, especially in circumstances that make us not appear in a good light to others. Whatever is our besetting sin or sinfulness, these experiences of St Paul can be for us a great encouragement: “my grace is sufficient for you,” the Lord tells us.

No matter how the devil tries to persuade us that we are unlovable, that we are rubbish, the Lord is whispering more and more persistently: “I love you,” “I will always love you,” “You will never die a sinner, with me at your side, loving you as my dearest child; I will be there at the moment of your death, waiting to carry you safely into the arms of your loving Father in heaven.”

In the meantime, we must keep trying to find more and more time for prayer; to read and listen to the scriptures – the Word of God – and to celebrate the Eucharist, receiving the nourishment of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Our world will only be changed by people who want to be like Jesus, who want to be united with him in all we do.

The Spirit of the living God came into the prophet Ezekiel to change him and to persuade him to persevere at the impossible (that is to Ezekiel) task of bringing the Israelites back into friendship with their God. The same Spirit fills us with the love and joy needed to bring a real change into our world of selfishness and pain.

Proclaim 15 – Last December, Cardinal Nichols launched a key evangelisation initiative to support, inspire and encourage new expressions of parish evangelisation. Next Saturday, three of our parish catechists are attending a National Conference in Birmingham. This autumn, ‘Proclaim 15’ gatherings will be held in our parish. Much more to come!

Next Sunday is Sea Sunday – There will be a second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea which is the official maritime welfare and mission agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain. They serve and support more than one million seafarers arriving in our ports each year. It is a vitally important mission to a hidden group of people, many of whom are Catholic. For every £1 given to AoS, 72p goes directly on seafarers’ welfare, 4p is spent on governance and administration, and 19p is spent on generating more funds to continue their work. If you pay tax, would you consider using the Gift-Aid envelopes provided at the back of church? That way AoS can claim back the tax you have already paid on your donation. For more information about the work of AoS visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk. *Please give generously to support this important work.*

St John Plessington’s Feast Day is in two weeks’ time – 19th July. We are hoping to celebrate the Sunday, 10 am Mass on the lawn outside of church (if the weather permits!) followed by bacon butties etc. Volunteers are needed to help put out chairs, help with food etc. There will be more details next week, but if you think you could help, please put your name on the list at the back of church.

Pope Francis’s Groundbreaking Encyclical Laudato Si’ – If you would like a copy of this very interesting Encyclical, they are now available from our Church Shop, priced at £4.95 each.

Friends of Chivuna – the next meeting is on Friday, 10th July at 7.30 pm, preceded by Mass at 7 pm.

“For the love of....” Workshop – A climate change workshop to prepare for the UN Summit in Paris next December is being held on Thursday 9th July from 7 – 9 pm at the Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre, Lancaster, LA1 4YW. If you are interested, see poster at back of church or tel. 01772 733310. To book a place, visit www.fortheloveofworkshop.eventbrite.com.

Christians Together in Garstang – an effort is being made to find out which Ecumenical Events are wanted in our community, and to help with this, Rev Keith Borwick of the Garstang Methodist Church has compiled a little ‘tick list’ for us to complete. Please could you spare a little time to do this? Then return the forms (on yellow paper at back of church) to Fr David, and they can be passed on to Rev Keith.

Calder Vale Bluebell Teas – Many thanks to all who supported, and hopefully enjoyed, our delicious teas and walks in Calder Vale. We raised a fantastic sum of £3,360. This money has been divided between the Mission Room, Recreation Field, over-60s Village Outing, Festival and many more village ventures. *Once again, thank you very much for your support.*

Did you know...Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world? Doutchi, a town in the west of Niger, suffers from drought, floods, and invasions of pests such as locusts regularly, and families often struggle to find just one meal a day. CAFOD is focussing on a life-changing project that aims to make four communities (532

households directly) food secure, and reach the stage where each family involved can be sure of three meals a day, every day. Thousands of individuals will benefit immediately, and with the knowledge and training being passed on, the benefit will spread even further.

Previously Published Items

Garstang's Great War Heroes – An interesting forthcoming book by local historian, Paul Smith, and former Courier journalist, Anthony Coppin, details what is known about our heroes from the Great War. Unfortunately, there remain gaps in our knowledge and not all Garstonians who fought have been identified. The posters at the back of church clarify the problem and could lead to important discovery. Please look at them and see if you can be of help.

Ss Mary & Michael School – All parishioners have had an invitation to the annual Open Day, which will take place on Friday 10th July. Visitors are welcome for tours of the school and grounds from 9.30 – 11 am, and 1.30 – 2.30 pm.

Ss Thomas and Elizabeth – The parishioners of that parish are organising a Musical Garden Party on Sunday, 12th July, in aid of CAFOD and Help for Heroes charities. It will be held at Mrs Delia Hoyles' home, Norbreck House, Cockerham Road, Bay Horse, LA2 0HE. Tel: 01524 791213. See poster at back of church.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 12th July, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Bill Jennings; Evelyn Langley; Gerard Wearden; Ruari Lambert, Heysham; Henry Wearden; Agnes Bamber and Joseph Bugeja. *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 Hickey, Rod (Chas) Cartner, Maurice Iddon, Richard (aged 14, has had a bone marrow transplant), Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford and Alison Green. *(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 am Mass :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 4th – Sunday 12th July 2015

Sat	4 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Agnes and Ignatius Bullen
Sun	5 th	10.00 am	Charles and Evelyn Langley
Mon	6 th	No Mass	
Tues	7 th	12 noon	Henry Gornall
Wed	8 th	7.00 pm	The Wilding Family
Thurs	9 th	9.30 am	Eileen Hall
Fri	10 th	7.00 pm	Friends of Chivuna Mass – Auntie Bridget
Sat	11 th	No 9.30 am Mass	
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Rev John Horn (Anniversary of Ordination)
Sun	12 th	10.00 am	Stella McVey (80 th Birthday Remembrance)

Youth-Led Mass

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	8 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
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Special Days this Week:

Mon	6 th	St Maria Goretti
Thurs	9 th	St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions
Sat	11 th	ST BENEDICT
Sun	12 th	Day for Seafarers – Special Collection for Apostleship of the Sea

Meetings this Week:

Weds	8 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	9 th	4.00 pm	Full Governing Body (School)
Fri	10 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	20 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 126	Children: 4
Sun	21 st	10.00 am	Adults: 106	Children: 19 Total: 255

Monies Received:

Offertory: £1,005.80 (including Standing Orders); Shop: £20; Votive Lights: £46.50; Peter's Pence: £171.10. *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, at Garstang Methodist Church.