

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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7th / 8th FEBRUARY 2015 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



24 hours with Jesus! That is what today's gospel gives us.

- Jesus begins his day by going to the synagogue to pray and to listen to the scriptures.
- He then accepts Peter's hospitality to come to his house.
- He is sensitive to the situation in Peter's house – his wife's mother is very ill.
- Jesus deals with the immediate issue and heals Peter's mother-in-law.
- He spent a relaxing day with friends and family.
- In the evening, when it was dark, and the word had got around where Jesus was, a great crowd came to the house, bringing some very sick and disturbed people.
- Jesus had time for each one, bringing healing, even to those who were most disturbed by evil spirits.
- He would have nothing to do with the evil spirits – they had no part in revealing the truth about Jesus. Evil spirits are not interested in the truth – only in lies and deceit.
- Peter's family give Jesus a bed to sleep after a long day.
- Early next morning, Jesus gets up before anyone else and goes out of the house to find a quiet place to be with his Father in prayer.
- By the time Peter got up, Jesus was deep in prayer.
- Peter went to bring Jesus a cup of tea in bed. He wasn't there. They panicked and went out to search for him. They soon found him in the garden.
- "Why didn't you have a lie-in?" they asked him, "We missed you at breakfast; come inside and have something to eat."
- "No," said Jesus, "it's time to move on. There is so much to do, so many people who want to hear my message of love."
- Before Peter could stop him, he was off, on the road to the next village.
- He went straight to the synagogue where people were gathered to have a few quiet moments in prayer.
- And so a new day began....

As we reflect on this 24 hours in the life of Jesus, what perhaps strikes us is the urgency that Jesus communicates. There is no time to waste. The message of Jesus has to be heard today: "God loves you so much; God only wants you to be happy; God takes upon himself all the pains and hurts of life; Jesus, his Son, Takes away our sinfulness and all that separates us from God's love!"

New items and information

This weekend, there will be a special collection taken after all Masses by our **St Vincent de Paul Society**. Please be as generous as you can; everything that is donated goes towards helping the poor and marginalised. **Thank you.**

Also, this weekend we are urged to pray for victims of human trafficking, and for those who are working to combat it.

We have received a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Michael to be read at all Masses this weekend. If you would like a copy to take home with you and study more closely, you will find one on salmon-coloured paper at the back of church.

SS Mary & Michael's School – Welfare – Are you retired, but still feel young, and active? Would a part-time job, working with children suit you? Or are you a stay-at-home parent who would like to be around when your children come home from school, but still have a little extra money to help with life's little luxuries? Our school is looking to employ a lunchtime welfare assistant. The position covers five lunchtime periods a week, from 11.45 am – 1.10 pm, with an hourly rate of £7.85. If you think this may be the very job for you, please contact school as soon as possible.

Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom – Sunday, 15th February, 3.00 – 4.00 pm, Lancaster Cathedral – Bishop Michael, the Cathedral Parish and the Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need have come together to host this event to which all are cordially invited. The vigil will include scriptural readings, guided and silent prayer, as well as a statement of personal witness from an Iraqi Christian. Please join us to offer your prayers for those suffering and persecuted Christians who greatly need our love and support in these extremely difficult times.

Prayer Time and Space Group – The next meeting will be in the Plessington Chapel on Tuesday 17th February, 7.40 pm, after evening Mass. **All welcome.**

National Conference for Rural Catholics Takes place this week from Monday 9th February at 4 pm to Wednesday 11th Feb lunchtime at the Garstang Country Hotel. The programme is available on the internet under 'Catholic and Rural'. Anyone interested please speak to Fr. David.

Table-top Sale, Saturday 21st February from 12 noon – 3.00 pm at Garstang Medical Centre, Kepple Lane. Toys/Clothes/Household Goods for sale. Raffle/Tombola/cake stall/children's activities. All proceeds to help fund urgent medical treatment in the USA for Scarlett, a 10-year-old girl with a brain tumour. (NHS meeting most of the cost, but not all). Please come along and support this good cause. Alternatively if you have donations of goods to sell or for raffle prizes, please leave at the pharmacy on Kepple Lane. **Thank you.**

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday, 6th March at All Saints, Barnacre, at 2.00 pm. All (men and women) are very welcome.

Red Mission Boxes: We have had a letter from APF-Mill thanking us for our total donation of £836.91 in 2014. They are very grateful for our support. **There are still a few mission boxes in the church porch to be collected.**

Pax Christi – We have had a letter from Pax Christi thanking us for our recent donation of £132.21.

Did you know.....CAFOD celebrates the news that Pope Francis has declared Archbishop Oscar Romero a martyr, paving the way for his beatification? **CAFOD**

worked closely with Archbishop Romero during the 1970s, supporting his famous radio broadcasts. A vocal critic of the country's military government, he was assassinated on 24 March 1980, while celebrating Mass. CAFOD's work in El Salvador continues today, striving for peace and justice, in Romero's footsteps. Archbishop Romero is an inspirational figure for staff, partners and supporters at CAFOD, and for millions of Catholics around the world.

Previously Published Items

Parish Safeguarding – Does your role in the parish involve you in activities with children, young people or vulnerable adults? The Lancaster Safeguarding Commission invites you to a **Safeguarding Training Day** at the Cathedral Centre on **Saturday 14th March**. If you are a member of the SVP, a Youth Leader, Catechist, Eucharistic Minister or Musician etc, then this could be for you. You will find more information at the back of Church. Let us know if you are interested in joining us on the day. Ted (604714) or Annette (606702).

Children's Liturgy – There is a real need for more helpers for the Children's Liturgy Team. There is a rota – the more volunteers we have, the less frequently you would have to be involved. There is lots of helpful literature, and volunteers work in teams of two or more, so you would not be alone. *Please could you help?*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 15th February, 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 Ruth Fairey. Her funeral is next Thursday (see back page of newsletter).

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Elizabeth Swarbrick, Martha Horn, Stephen Turton, Winifride Swarbrick, Ted Lydiate, John Bailey, Harry McNamara, Mary Bilsborrow, Joseph Rossall, Walter Donovan, Joan Webster, James Richardson, Margaret Silworth, Mary Pedder, Horn/Brown Families, Agnes Smith and Thomas Dilworth. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Jim Costain, Dina Carter, 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, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Sheila Carrol, 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, Tony Moran, 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, 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 7th – Sunday 15th February 2015

Sat	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Intentions of Joan & Greg Patterson
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	Agnes and Ignatius Bullen
		10.30 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	9 th	No Mass	
Tues	10 th	12 noon	No Mass
Wed	11 th	7.00 pm	Frank Ashworth
Thurs	12 th	10.30 am	Funeral Mass for Ruth Fairey
Fri	13 th	9.30 am	Rose and Joe Murphy
Sat	14 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Thomas Ibison
Sun	15 th	8.30 am	Tony Stephenson
		10.30 am	Family Blessing

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	8 th	3.00 pm	Benediction & Holy Hour
Wed	11 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	14 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Tues	10 th	St Scholastica
Wed	11 th	OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Sat	14 th	STS CYRIL & METHODIUS

Meetings this Week:

Tues	10 th	6.30 pm	1 st Reconciliation Preparation (3) – Children only
Wed	11 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	12 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	31 st	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 126	Children: 8
Sun	1 st	8.30 am	Adults: 51	Children: 5
		10.30 am	Adults: 117	Children: 32
Total:			339	

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,145.54; Catholic Education Services Special Collection: £174.70; Gravestone inscription: £30; Votive Lights: £56.30; Shop: £30; Donations: £20; Postcards: £2; "I Belong" books: £105;. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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