

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 June 2014

PENTECOST



God has created each of us to be unique. Of all the billions of men, women and children who have ever populated our earth, there have never been two who were identical in all respects. Even identical twins are very different. Each unique person reflects something of the image and likeness of God to our world. We would have to amalgamate the special gifts of everyone that ever existed to glimpse a picture of our great God – and even then, we would not know God completely!

Following on from our Parish Mission last year, our Parish Development Group has sought ways that we might, as a Parish, continue to better give to God the honour and glory due. The suggestion of 'Stewardship' was made. We didn't know anything about this, so we asked Jim Loughran from Newhouse Parish, Barton, to help us. He introduced Stewardship in his own parish

some years ago and it is still running very successfully.

We know what it means to be good stewards of God's Creation – to look after and care for the gifts and beauty of Creation and to praise and honour God for his gifts to us.

What we are inviting everyone in our parish to do now, is to look at ourselves in a mirror that God holds before us. God wants us to see ourselves in the way he sees us, in the way he has created us. Most of us have received lots of knocks and criticisms in life and may, from time to time, have begun to wonder if we have any gifts at all.

Now is the time, the time of Pentecost, when the disciples of the early Church (there were about 120 we are told [Acts 1/15] who were gathered together, men, women and children) were suddenly overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit. They suddenly became aware of themselves in the way God saw them. They burst open the doors of the upper room and proclaimed to everyone the joy of being a child of God! The people who heard them were flabbergasted. That very day, we are told [Acts 2/ 41], three thousand of the people turned to Jesus and received the Holy Spirit!

To-day, this Pentecost Sunday, we ask the Holy Spirit to overwhelm us and to help us to become aware of the amazing and unique gifts that God has given to each of us.

You will receive a leaflet as you leave church to help you to become aware of your gifts. Don't be fearful – the Holy Spirit overcomes all fear and doubt. Just trust in the goodness of God to you, and begin to acknowledge the many gifts that you have been given.

New items and information

40 Hour Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament (Quarante Ore) – Next Friday, 13th June, at 11.30 am (after Tony Stephenson's Funeral Mass) we will be starting our 40 hours Adoration). We will have the opportunity to spend time quietly with the Lord from 11.30 am of Friday, all day Friday, right through the night until Mass on Saturday morning. Then after the 9.30 am Mass, all day Saturday, until the evening Vigil Mass. Then we will resume adoration from after Mass until 10.00 pm. On Sunday, we will have our last time of adoration which will conclude with Evening Prayer and Benediction at 3.00 pm.

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

In addition, SS Mary & Michael's Conference would like all our parishioners to know that on Saturday, 5th July at 2 pm, we will have our **Annual Mass for Sick and Housebound Parishioners**. Those who are sick or infirm may receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Mass will be followed by tea and cake in the Community Centre. Please do try to join us with some of our parishioners who cannot attend our Sunday Masses. All those who care for the sick, or who pray for them, may wish to receive an Anointing with the Oil of Gladness as we pray that we will always look after our sick and infirm parishioners and relations. This Mass is a lovely service of praise which we hold each year.

A huge Thank You! – The cake/pottery/apron stall raised a fantastic £370 for the Chivuna Community. Thank you for all your support. We have now raised nearly £2,000! *Cathy Place*

Clean & Fair – Traidcraft recently brought out the world's first Fairtrade household cleaning range – good for people and the planet. Along with a wide range of fairly traded goods, these are available from The Mustard Seed in Garstang (open 10 am – 2 pm Thurs, Fri, Sat). For more information on these and on Traidcraft's activities of fighting poverty through trade, see www.traidcraft.co.uk.

Did you know....that last week was *National Volunteers' Week*? A huge 'thank you' to all those volunteering heroes who make CAFOD's work possible. Our amazing volunteers get involved in hundreds of ways. For example, Lesley, a school volunteer from Westminster Diocese says, "I've always known about CAFOD through my parish. The thing I enjoy most is the wonderful feeling that we can all do our little bit for such a worthwhile cause." We welcome new volunteers to join the wider CAFOD team – just get in touch with the CAFOD office in Preston for a chat.

This Sunday during the 10.30 am Mass Joseph Leaver will make his First Holy Communion, as he wasn't able to join the other children two weeks' ago. After this Mass, at 12.15 pm, baby Arthur Hemmings will be baptised.

Next Sunday during the 10.30 am Mass, baby Lily Martha Matura will be baptised.

Previously Published Items

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.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 15th 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 Robert Catterall, who died last Wednesday, 4th June. **May he rest in peace.** Funeral arrangements to be announced shortly. Please pray also for his family, especially for Thomas, his grandson, who is unwell.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Francis Wells, Elizabeth Critchley, Canon David Murphy, Javier Coto, Bridget Cooney, Rose Ward, Matt Pedder, Mary McNicholls, Mary Ball, John Swarbrick, Hylda Wells, Raymond Stopforth, Frances Grayston, Charles Price, Ada Annie Oxby, Joan Billington, Terry Fitzpatrick and Ellen Kelsall. **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, Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, 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 7th – Sunday 15th June 2014

Sat	7 th	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)
Mon	9 th	No Mass	
Tues	10 th	7.00 pm	Bridie O’Connor (Birthday Memories)
Wed	11 th	7.00 pm	Edmund Okroy (Lately Dead)
Thurs	12 th	9.30 am	Gornall Family
Fri	13 th	10.30 am	Funeral Mass for Tony Stephenson
Sat	14 th	9.30 am	George Rowley
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Miss Susan Martin (Wigan)
Sun	15 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	In Thanksgiving for 60 years of Marriage

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	11 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	13 th	11.30 am	Start of 40 hours Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament (Quarante Ore)
Sun	15 th	3.00 pm	Evening Prayer & Benediction

Special Days this Week:

Sun	8 th	PENTECOST
Wed	11 th	St Barnabas
Fri	13 th	St Anthony of Padua
Sun	15 th	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Meetings this Week:

Tues	10 th	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Afternoon Tea in the Presbytery Garden (tickets sold out)
		6.30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
Wed	11 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		8.00 pm	Hummingbirds Management Committee

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	18 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 106	Children: 4	
Sun	19 th	8.30 am	Adults: 65	Children: 7	
		10.30 am	Adults: 97	Children: 18	Total: 295

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,145.73; Shop: £20; Votive Lights: £48.50; World Communications Special Collection: £93.27; Tea Money: £82; Funeral Donation: £200; Donation: £20; Cemetery Fund: £90. ***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.