

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 MARCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



By the time Jesus arrived on the scene, the Temple had been in business (except for the Exile) for 1,000 years. Solomon built the first Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant, and to provide a fitting place for the proper worship of God. The Temple was an integral and defining aspect of what it meant to be Jewish. It was an indication of God's continuing presence among his people.

By the time of Jesus, it had become a place of corruption and greed, a place stagnated by a myriad of rules and regulations regarding coinage (only the Tyrian half-shekel could be used for purchases within the Temple, so if you had only drachmas, you had to swap them, hence the money changers), and which animals could be sacrificed and for what.

The burden of these regulations had led to a legalism which was far removed from the worship of God for which the Temple had originally been built. Jesus railed against the greed and desecration of his Father's House. The true temple would no longer be the beautiful building bedecked with gold (which would in a few short years be razed to the ground). It would be replaced by a new sanctuary, the Body of Christ, who would die and be raised again after three days.

Right at the end, we have a strange, apparently unconnected interpolation about Jesus not trusting some of his followers. These would be the people who were beginning to think he might be the Messiah, and be jumping on the bandwagon in case there might be some important jobs going under his new regime. These are the people who saw the signs Jesus worked, but did not realise their significance. What the signs done in Jerusalem were, we don't know, but ancient Jewish literature tells us that God showed his approval of a certain Rabbi's teaching by working miracles through him.

D'arcy

New items and information

Time of Sunday Mass from next Sunday, 15th March:

Sunday Mass Time
10.00 am

After consultation, there was no significant difference between the number of people who preferred Mass at 9.30 am and those who preferred Mass at 10.00 am. As Parish Priest, I therefore had to use different criteria to make a decision. I had become aware that families with a disabled person would not be able to make Mass at 9.30 am because carers only arrive at 9 am on a Sunday; also elderly people would find Mass at 9.30 am particularly difficult to be ready for. Thus I have decided that from 15th March, the one Sunday Mass will be at 10.00am. I know that this does not please everyone. I hope and pray that you will continue to come to Mass in your parish and support the community as we pray for one another. **Holy Hour & Benediction** will take place this weekend, Sunday, 8th March, at 3 pm.

Year of Consecrated Life: Pope Frances announced a Year of Consecrated Life from last December 2014 to December 2015. As a contribution to this, Sister Frances, who is the Vocations Director for the Sisters of Nazareth, will be heard to speak to us after Communion at the Masses next weekend.

Cake and Craft Sale – next weekend, **14th & 15th March** after the 6 pm and 10 am Mass, in the Plessington Chapel. All proceeds will go to the poor overseas – this will be shared between Chivuna and CAFOD. **A call to all bakers and crafts people for donations of cakes, candles, cards, pots etc.** Please leave your "creations" in the Plessington Chapel before Mass. *For further information, please contact Vince Cahill on 01995 238184.*

Lent Lunch – (Soup, bread, cheese) – Friday, 20th March, 12 noon – 1.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Please come and join us for a quiet social lunch break.

Roof Fund – **Our thanks** go to the Retired Cleaners' Coffee Club; the ladies have raised £172.60 towards our Roof Fund. **Also thanks** to the Ladies' (ex-CWL) Group, for their £50 donation towards the Roof Fund.

Our Bishops have asked us to reflect on marriage and family life using scripture. During Lent there will be an opportunity to answer this call. Each Thursday in Lent, from 7pm – 8pm, there will be a prayerful reflection on a particular passage from the Bible.

- **Thurs 12 Mar:** Mary – the Annunciation & Visitation (Lk 1:26-56) led by Fr Luiz Ruscillo;
- **Thurs 19 Mar:** The presentation of Jesus in the temple (Lk 2:22-40) led by Fr Luiz;
- **Thurs 26 Mar:** The wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-12) led by Fr Luiz.

Next weekend, 14th – 15th March sees the start of a revised rota for Readers. Many thanks to Jim Berry, Andy Bhagat-Lowe, Helen Bisby and Richard Harrison, who are stepping down after almost 40 years ministry between them – what a great service they've given to our parish. If anyone is interested in becoming a reader, either on the monthly rota or for particular occasions, eg Easter, Christmas, please contact Anne Miller 604 030. Also this week, we say a huge thank you to the Bhagat-Lowe Family (Sam, Andy, George, Adam and Suzie) and the Peake Family (Karen, Richard, and Harrison) who have been stalwart members of our Refreshment Team after the 10.30 am Mass. The Peake Family moved to Lancaster a few years ago, and have travelled back faithfully every month to brew up for us. What a commitment! Our appreciation goes to Annette Higham and Angela Ashton who have been Ministers of Holy Communion at the 8.30 am Mass, faithfully for many years. Thank you both.

General Election 2015 – The Bishops have written a joint letter to all Catholics in England and Wales, encouraging us to participate and vote in the election and offering some key issues and questions for reflection on where candidates stand. Copies are available from the back of church, and can be obtained

with other information from the Bishops' Conference website www.catholicnews.org.uk. Please read the letter and encourage others to do the same.

Chivuna Knitting – A great deal of knitted clothing has been sent to Chivuna, Zambia, over the past months. In order for the ministry to continue at the current pace, we do require more willing knitters. Also, it would be wonderful if anyone could help with the cost of postage. At present this is resourced by two very generous parishioners, despite the high costs involved. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Margaret Wilcock. (telephone 01995 603 525.)

A letter has been received by Pat Costain from Caritas Care thanking everyone who gave donations of food, warm clothing and duvets which have been given to the ACE Project. If you would like to read the letter, it is on the "Events" notice board at the back of church.

Vocations Group Update – Stephen Talbutt, one of our Lancaster seminarians, has recently completed a placement at Cleator. Stephen is in the middle of a BA in Catholic Theology at Oscott, and has been invited to apply for the ministry of Lectorate, with institution next week on 10th March. Stephen asks for our special prayers at this stage of his journey towards the priesthood. You may also like to look at the display at the back of Church for 'The Year of Consecrated Life' which highlights some of the religious orders active within the Lancaster Diocese.

Towards a New Pentecost Conference – 20th – 22nd March; speaker: Michelle Moran. We will be exploring the desire of the Church to prepare for a new Pentecost, and to prepare ourselves for the new era of grace in the Church and the world. The weekend includes inspired preaching and teaching, prayer ministry in power of the Holy Spirit, adoration and Holy Mass. Donation only event after £5 registration. Meals included this weekend! www.coretlumenchristi.org or scuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org or call 016973 45623.

Our Lady's Catholic College – Mrs Helen Seddon has been appointed as the next Headteacher of Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster. Mrs Seddon, who herself was a pupil at St Bernadette's and then Our Lady's, has devoted her whole career to the education and care of young people at Our Lady's will take over from Mr Conboy from September. She is looking forward to keeping Our Lady's at the heart of the Catholic Community by further developing the links between the school, our Catholic primary schools and Parishes. The governors, staff and pupils are all delighted with the appointment and look forward to this exciting new chapter in the school's history.

Previously Published Items

Parish Draw – Subscriptions of £20 will soon be collected for the year 2015/16. Those paying by standing order need do nothing. Those who wish to join please leave a message for me at the presbytery or ring 602797. Thank you in anticipation. *Philippa Catterall.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 15th March, 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: The Cookson & Hine Families, Edward Hodgson, Joan McCall, Richard Hogarth, Marie Kelly, Annie Lillian Henderson, Thomas Bolton, Alice Rustridge, Jane Fleming, Sue Tomlinson, Ellen Ryan, John Smith, John Grayston, James Thomas Slater, Agnes Horn, Eddie Walmsley, John Hindle Law, Ellen Wells, John James Dewhurst, Celia Lamoury and Agnes Rossall. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Maurice Iddon, Josie Maddock, 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 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 10.30 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 7th – Sunday 15th March 2015

Sat	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Gerald Vandome
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	Smith & Rawlinson Families of Calder Vale
		10.30 am	Sue Tomlinson
Mon	9 th	No Mass	
Tues	10 th	12 noon	Watson & Knowles Families
Wed	11 th	7.00 pm	John and Elizabeth Corrigan
Thurs	12 th	11.00 am	Marjorie Kirkman's Funeral Mass
Fri	13 th	9.30 am	Eva Carter
Sat	14 th	9.30 am	No Mass – Fr D officiating at a wedding in Langdale
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	John Horn
Sun	15 th	10.00 am	Thomas and Eleanor Bolton (School-led Mass)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	8 th	3.00 pm	Holy Hour & Benediction
Wed	11 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	13 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	14 th	No Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Sun	8 th	3 rd Sunday in Lent
Sun	15 th	4 th Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) – Mothers' Day ; children from our school will help to lead the 10.00 am Mass liturgy.

Meetings this Week:

Tues	10 th	6.30 pm	1 st Eucharist (Session 2) (Children only)
Wed	11 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	12 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	28 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 132	Children: 7
Sun	1 st	8.30 am	Adults: 48	Children: 6
		10.30 am	Adults: 144	Children: 53
			Total: 390	

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,207.79; Roof Fund: £202.60; Votive Lights: £53.80; Shop: £22; CAFOD Harvest Fast Envelopes: £581.30. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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