

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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9th / 10th January 2016
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Jesus was brought up in Nazareth, living quietly with Mary and Joseph. Every year for the Feast of the Passover the family travelled to Jerusalem. When Jesus was 12 years old, St Luke tells us of the trauma of Mary and Joseph during their annual pilgrimage, when they discovered that Jesus wasn't with the party as they returned to Nazareth. They found him back in Jerusalem, in the Temple, with the doctors of the Law, discussing the meaning of the texts. He said to his parents: "didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?" Mary and Joseph had, until now,

seen no sign that he was any different to any other child. He went back home with his Mum and Dad and "increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men." He will have worked with his Dad and learnt the trade of carpentry.

He was a carpenter for some 18 years. He seems to have taken over the business after his Dad's death. (We assume that Joseph died during this time as we hear nothing more of him.) Mary must have been wondering what was going to happen to him. Then suddenly, at the age of 30, he seems to have told his Mum that he was leaving home and giving up his job and his means of supporting her. Mary must have been in shock, even though she was expecting something to happen.

He travelled south, down the valley of the Jordan, probably with a party of pilgrims making the regular journey to Jerusalem. This was not to be Jesus' destination. He was rendezvousing with his cousin John by the River Jordan.

John was baptising people. Jesus arrived and he, too, asked to be baptised. It was as though Jesus knew that this was the time for him to appear in public. This was the time for him to leave carpentry and to become a teacher of the ways of his Father in heaven. Here, by the river Jordan, the Father affirmed his mission:

"You are my Son, the beloved.

My favour rests on you."

From now on, his complete life was to be given to proclaiming to everyone: "God loves you all so very much!"

New items and information

First Forgiveness & Eucharist Programme – This starts next Tuesday, 12th January, at 6.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel. If you have a child in year 3 whom you would like to enrol for the First Forgiveness and Eucharist preparation programme, but has not yet been enrolled, please contact Father David immediately.

Monthly Prayer Group – The next meeting of the Prayer Group is Wednesday, 13th January, 7.30 pm, in the presbytery dining room.

SSMM Financial Statement for the year April 2014 – March 2015 – Copies are available on pink paper at the back of church. Please help yourself to one.

Next Weekend is Peace Sunday – In his World Peace Day message this year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on how we can hope for peace without working to challenge the causes of violence and injustice in our world today. Time and again, Pope Francis has spoken of our "throw-away culture" which dehumanises and destroys the human person, whether through war and conflict or economic injustice. On Peace Sunday, which we celebrate on 17th January, we have an opportunity to learn from this message and put our faith into action. Pax Christi aims to support individuals, families and parishes in their own work for peace. Pax Christi does not choose to have the benefit of charitable status, in order that they can have the freedom and flexibility to take action which might otherwise be limited by constraints placed on charities; this makes your support all the more valuable. Prayer cards will be available from the back of church next week, and there will be a second collection for Pax Christi. *Please be as generous as you are able. Thank you.*

St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal – Our appeal for bedding and winter clothing for those in need – men's, women's and children's clothing continues, and we are very grateful for your generous response. The box will remain at the back of church for the time being. Any queries, please ring Pat on 605 793. *Thank you very much.*

Leonard Cheshire Home, Oaklands, are still looking for volunteers who would be willing to drive residents to Sunday morning Mass in one of their small vans, or if they didn't want to drive, to accompany the residents in the van and stay with them during Mass and accompany them back to Oaklands. If we get enough volunteers, a rota could be set up, so that no one would need to commit to every Sunday. If you think you could help in this way, please contact Cathy Openshaw, Volunteer Co-ordinator, email Catherine.openshaw@leonardcheshire.org, or telephone 01995 602290.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Our January meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th, at 2 Brooklands Drive, Garstang. If you are interested in joining us, you would be very welcome. Please ring Pat on 605 793.

Previously Published Items

Lourdes – Possible Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016 – In order to look at the possibility of arranging a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, it would be helpful to know the numbers of people who may be interested. Dates have not been finalised yet, but more

information will be available shortly. If interested, please put your name on the list at the back of church. *Elizabeth Horn.*

Why not join the Choir? – The choir is an integral part of every Christian church. This is not just convention but has evolved over two thousand years because music, singing in particular, is an important part of worship. When we sing we pray in a way which enables us to savour the words we use, giving glory to God more effectively. The ambience of God's house results from many factors, but none is more powerful than that of liturgical music. This requires a choir dedicated to producing a programme of music consonant with church tradition and liturgy. There is far more to this than simply plucking popular tunes out of the air! Good churches invariably have good choirs. If our parish is to remain good, it must sustain a good choir. Please think seriously about joining your choir. It is necessary to have some sort of voice, but despite so many claiming total lack of singing ability, there are very few people who honestly cannot sing. No ageism is involved; all ages are welcome and there are no "screen tests"! All we ask is commitment. These days we see so much half-heartedness and apathy in the Christian faith we should treasure; joining the choir could be the first step in remedying this. *Dr. Carter*

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 17th January can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Mary Alexander Kenyon, Gerard Swarbrick, Vincent Parker, Mary Dickinson, John Finley, Peter Winstanley, Jane Greenall, Beryl Bellamy, Marina Poulton, Monica Elder-Woodward, James Wilson, Winifred Kavanagh, Paul Haslehurst, Leonard Sinar, Jack Rawlinson, Frederick W. Garvey, Greg Eastham, Elizabeth Ellen Pedder and Renee Williams.
May they rest in peace.

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew's Mum), Mrs Jean Parkinson (Jim's wife), Ann and Jackson Wickes, Thomas Lowe (Bert's brother), Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, 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, 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 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 9th – Sunday 17th January 2016

Sat	9 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ethel Kenyon
Sun	10 th	10.00 am	Everyone who needs a prayer
Mon	11 th	No Mass	
Tue	12 th	12 noon	Marina Poulton
Wed	13 th	7.00 pm	Alf Keaveny
Thurs	14 th	9.30 am	Noël Gleeson – Get well soon
Fri	15 th	8.30 am (note time)	Vee's & John's Intentions
Sat	16 th	7.45 am (note time)	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	17 th	10.00 am	Terry Maddock

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	13 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
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Special Days this week:

Sun	10 th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Tues	12 th	St Aelred of Rievaulx
Wed	13 th	St Kentigern
Sun	17 th	Day of Prayer for Peace

Meetings this Week:

Tues	12 th	6.30 pm	First Forgiveness Preparation (Session 1)
Weds	13 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Prayer Group
Thurs	14 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Fri	1 st	Mary, Mother of God	Adults: 78	Children: 3	Total: 81
Sun	3 rd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 118	Children: 6	
		10.00 am	Adults: 114	Children: 21	Total: 259

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,015.84; Shop: £25; Votive Lights: £58.30; Photocopying: £5. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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

Footnote: *At the cake and craft sale a few months ago, someone bought a lemon cake in a "Come to Mummy Mr Cake" cake tin. We hope the cake was tasty, but please could the tin and the plate be returned to Liz at the Presbytery? Thank you.*