

St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church  
GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

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**9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



As a child in primary school, I wasn't particularly gifted at sport – but I did try; I grafted. I think because of this I used to be chosen to play football for the school team.

I distinctly remember the joy of being picked for the school team. It didn't matter how often I was chosen, I always felt a sense of pride and joy. It was always a bit of a surprise to me. I can still feel the sense of joy at being

chosen to play football for the school!

As I reflect on this little bit of my personal history, I find myself amazed that I don't have a similar sense of surprise at Jesus' words:

“You did not choose me,  
no, I chose you.”

I think I have taken it for granted that the Lord chose me – a bit like taking it for granted that you would be chosen to play football for the school 1<sup>st</sup> team. As I reflect, I am aware that because I worked hard at earning my place on the school team, I always felt that joy, that sense of elation when my name was on the team list.

Perhaps I have now taken the Lord's decision for granted to choose me to work for him. Perhaps this is why I have lost something of that sense of joy at being picked. Maybe now is the time for me to reclaim that sense of surprise and joy that Jesus should choose me and commission me, as a priest, “to go out and bear fruit, *fruit that will last.*”

It is these last words of Jesus which pull me up with a start. Yes, his call to me, his choice of me to play for his team has borne fruit. As I look back over 47 years of priesthood, I can recognise so much fruit, so many graces, that I have been given in my life. I recognise so many occasions when I know that things have happened that were not my doing – God has been gifting my ministry.

Perhaps each of us might be prompted by today's gospel to reflect on how the Lord has chosen us for the things we have been asked to do in life that have borne so much fruit. Maybe we can find ourselves truly grateful to God for being chosen to play on his side, for his team!

**New items and information**

**Please pray for all our children who are making their First Holy Communion this Sunday.**

**Nepal Earthquake Appeal** – As you know, a powerful earthquake in Nepal has killed thousands of people, and left many more in urgent need. **Please pray for those affected, and please donate to the CAFOD appeal.** Your gift will provide life-saving food, water, shelter and emergency supplies. ***There will be a second collection after both Masses this weekend.***

**Did you know...** CAFOD strongly supports Pope Francis' call to prevent further suffering for migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea? As part of Caritas International, we are calling for open, legal and safe channels of migration to the European Union to ensure that people can migrate without risking their lives, with the reception and protection shared across Europe. Caritas Italy, our sister agency, meets migrants and refugees as they arrive in Sicily, providing them with water, warm clothes, blankets and food, and also offering around 6,000 beds in towns throughout Italy.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** – The SVP meeting for this month will be on **21<sup>st</sup> May at 2 Brooklands Drive**. Please note the change of date. Items for the Agenda to be given to Pat by the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Friends of Chivuna** – Minutes of the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May are now available for collection.

**Date for your diary – Back by popular demand: Afternoon Tea in Father David's garden!** After last year's successful event, it has been decided to repeat the experience on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2 pm – 4 pm**. Tickets will be on sale from Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May; price: £5. ***Everyone welcome!***

**Our Lady's Catholic College presents a Musical Evening for Missio** – Come and enjoy a great evening of music and entertainment on **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 7 pm, in Our Lady's School Hall**. Tickets £5 for adults, £3 for concessions – admission includes a glass of wine/soft drink and a slice of cake. Tickets from Mrs Anna Pendlebury at Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster, tel: 01524 66689, or can be bought on the night.. All proceeds will be going to Missio, in particular their appeal for Nepal.

**Previously Published Items**

**Bluebell Time Again!** at Calder Vale. Teas will be served every Sunday in May from 1 pm – 5 pm in the Village Hall. Proceeds from the teas go towards the Mission Room and village ventures. Come along and enjoy the Bluebell walk through the wood and make the day complete with our famous Bluebell Tea. Local produce – rhubarb, honey, plants etc for sale. Also on **10<sup>th</sup> May** a table-top sale in the Mission Room – tables for sale at £5. To book, ring Nicky on 602 384.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 17<sup>th</sup> May, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

**“The Crossing” from Hynning to Boarbank across the Bay** – For young people between 18 and 35: what are you doing on the weekend of **29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May**? Why not walk with other young people, religious and priests as a way of celebrating the

Year of Consecrated Life? The Cross Bay Walk starts Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30 pm, is about six miles, and takes approximately three hours. Cost is by donation. Registration is essential! For more details and for a full programme, please contact the Booking Secretary at Hyning – [hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk), or phone 01524 732 684. *Also see poster at back of church.*

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of** Freda Horabin who died recently. Her Funeral Service will be held here on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, at 1 pm, followed by cremation at Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium at 2.45 pm. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray also for the repose of the soul of** Sheila Carroll who died on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. Her Funeral Mass will be held here on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, followed by burial here at SS Mary & Michael's. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Mary Speight, Peter Nickson, Sarah Turner, Elizabeth Wrennall, Joseph Grayston, Cyril Lamoury, Ellen O'Brien, Wilfred Swinbourne, Ray Wilcock, William Gillett, Mary Agnes Mackenzie, John Barnacle and Dick Helme. *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, 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, Antonio 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.)*

**CAFOD PRAYER – Love your neighbour**

Jesus, friend and brother,  
 you know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.  
 You know the plight of the stranger who is made  
 unwelcome.  
 You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.  
 We pray that by welcoming migrants in our world  
 we may show love for our neighbour, and draw closer to  
 you.  
**Amen.**

**Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>– Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

|       |                  |                              |                                   |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat   | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 6.00 pm (Vigil)              | Betty Ibison RIP                  |
| Sun   | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 am                     | Ethel Kenyon                      |
| Mon   | 11 <sup>th</sup> | <b>No Mass</b>               |                                   |
| Tues  | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 12 noon                      | A Sick Person                     |
|       |                  | 1.00 pm                      | Funeral Service for Freda Horabin |
| Wed   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 am                     | Funeral Mass for Sheila Carroll   |
| Thurs | 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>8.00 am (Please Note)</b> | Gerard Cain (Lately Dead)         |
| Fri   | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am                      | Sarah O'Connor                    |
| Sat   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 9.30 am                      | All Our Parishioners              |
|       |                  | 6.00 pm (Vigil)              | Grayston & Rossall Families       |
| Sun   | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 am                     | Gerald Whittaker                  |

**Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

|      |                  |               |            |
|------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Weds | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Rosary        |            |
| Fri  | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10 – 10.30 am | Exposition |
| Sat  | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Confessions   |            |

**Special Days this Week:**

|       |                  |                                 |
|-------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sun   | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Sixth Sunday of Easter          |
| Tue   | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Sts Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras |
| Wed   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Our Lady of Fatima              |
| Thurs | 14 <sup>th</sup> | ST MATTHIAS                     |
| Sun   | 17 <sup>th</sup> | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD       |

**Meetings this Week:**

|       |                  |         |                                |
|-------|------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Tues  | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 7.40 pm | Prayer Group                   |
| Weds  | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30 pm | Choir Practice                 |
|       |                  | 7.30 pm | Property and Finance Committee |
| Thurs | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 7.15 pm | Journey in Faith               |

**Last Week's Attendance:**

|     |                 |                 |             |              |            |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Sat | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Adults: 145 | Children: 1  |            |
| Sun | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 10.00 am        | Adults: 118 | Children: 30 | Total: 294 |

**Monies Received:**

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,028.54; Votive Lights: £52; Shop: £20; 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Ties; Roof Fund Donation: £1,000. *Many thanks to you all.*

**Churches Together in Garstang & District**

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