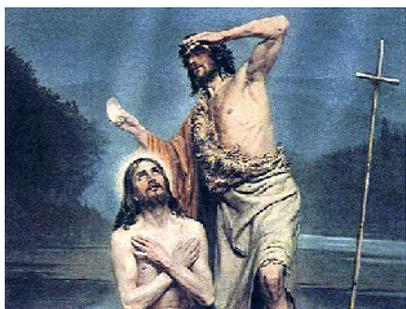


St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church
GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

A Parish of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity, no.234331
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10th / 11th JANUARY 2015
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Christmastide is the season of the year when God our Father begins to reveal to us in a dramatic way, what his plans for humanity have been from the beginning of time.

God wants to be very close to women and men and he wants us to be intimately united with him in love. So God reveals the mystery of the love we have seen at the crib,

between Jesus and Mary and Joseph. Now, today, we see more of this mystery of the love between Jesus and his Father, bonded as one by the Holy Spirit.

“You are my Son, the beloved.”

“My favour rests on you.”

So God the Father tells Jesus how much he is loved – and he does this as Jesus is plunged into the cool, clean waters of the River Jordan.

Love is often associated with water. The experience of a Mum and Dad as they bath their baby is one of wonder and tenderness and love. The simple act of giving a drink of water to a really thirsty person can be an act of caring and love. Just as water is essential for life, so too is love essential to make life complete.

The Baptism of Jesus, reminding us at the beginning of 2015 of our own baptism, marks the new year as holy, as a journey into holiness. Holiness is that action which brings together the God of love with his people who need love in order to be whole. Life will never be satisfying, it will never be complete, without love.

Today, as we see Jesus being introduced to his people by the Father, we are being reminded that the year we are starting, will only be a truly fulfilling year if we invite Jesus to walk with us in love wherever we go.

New items and information

Father David thanks everyone for their generous Christmas offerings; the total was £1,305.84.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist – Soon we will be starting our First Forgiveness & Holy Communion programme. Letters to parents have been sent out, but if you have a child in Year 3, who does not attend SS Mary & Michael's School, but who would like to be included and make his/her First Holy Communion in 2014, please speak to Father David as soon as possible.

Synod of Bishops 2015 – There will be a second session of the Synod this autumn, with the theme “The Call, The Journey, and The Mission”. If you have any views on marriage and family life which you would like to be considered, please talk to Father David.

Liturgy & Spirituality – The next meeting is next Tuesday, 13th January 2015.

Prayer Time and Space – Tuesday 20th January at 7.40 pm (after evening Mass) in the Presbytery dining room. This will be a time for Praise, Scripture and quiet Prayer for no longer than one hour. All welcome.

Whist & Domino Drive and Monthly Coffee Mornings – Between them, these two on-going events have raised £200, which has been used for the purchase of a Dyson Vacuum Cleaner for the use of the Church Cleaners. *Thank you very much to all our supporters!*

Whist & Domino Drive – the next session is on Monday, 19th January, from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. All welcome.

Catholic Women's League Members – The next branch meeting is on Saturday, 31st January, at the Crofters Hotel, beginning with lunch 12 noon. Subscriptions (kept at £19) are due; as are 200 club subs (£4). Please let me know if you hope to attend. *Philippa Catterall.*

A Vocations “Discovery/Discernment” Weekend for males aged 15+ who wish to deepen their faith and discern God's will for their lives, is to be held from Friday 30th January to Sunday 1st February at Our Lady & St Joseph's, Carlisle. Transport can be provided for anyone from our parish who may be interested in attending this weekend. There is a poster at the back of church giving more information; everything is provided, accommodation, meals and transport to and from Carlisle, and there is no cost. If you would like more information, contact Fr Darren on 01772 719604, mobile 07552 795 060, or Fr John 01228 521509.

Previously Published Items

St Vincent de Paul Society – Appeal for warm clothing – now that winter is here we have replaced the box at the back of church, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks, duvets, etc will once more be gratefully received, and they will be taken to Caritas Care who work with ex-offenders and homeless people in Preston. *Thank you very much – your help is very much appreciated. SVP Conference.*

Peace Sunday – This month will see the 48th World Day for Peace celebrated here in England and Wales on Sunday, 18th January. There will be a second collection on that day to support Pax Christi who, with only four staff members, and some wonderful volunteers, are working very hard for the abolition of slavery, and to promote peace in our world. Last year, Pope Francis reminded us that many people think slavery is a thing of the past, but this social plague remains all too real in today’s world, and he describes slavery as ‘an open wound on the body of the human family – a running sore on the flesh of Christ’. Please support Pax Christi, who see slavery as being linked to issues of poverty, indebtedness and conflict, as many people are forced by the violence of war to leave everything behind and seek refuge elsewhere. *Thank you.*

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2015 Youth Section applications close at the end of January. Coach and flight options available. Fundraising opportunities available to help. Sign up at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 18th January, 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 Wilf Rainford (Vee Bolton’s cousin), who died last week, and Deacon John Ferguson of Coatbridge, (Paul McCann’s cousin) who died on 31st December. *May they rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: John Finley, Peter Winstanley, Jane Greenall, Beryl Bellamy, Marina Poulton, Monica Elder-Woodward, James Wilson, Winifred Kavanagh, Paul Haslehurst, Leonard Sinar, Frederick W. Garvey, Greg Eastham, Elizabeth Ellen Pedder, Reece Williams, David Trevor Orr and Tom Thompson. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Joan Fishwick, Richard (aged 14) (needs 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, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, 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 3rd – Sunday 11th January 2015

Sat	10 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Richardson (Anniversary)
Sun	11 th	8.30 am	Monica Elder-Woodward (3 rd Anniversary)
		10.30 am	Eleanor and Thomas Bolton
Mon	12 th	No Mass	
Tues	13 th	12 noon	Marina Poulton (6 th Anniversary)
Wed	14 th	7.00 pm	Bill Bamber (Birthday)
Thurs	15 th	9.30 am	Holy Souls
Fri	16 th	9.30 am	Almond Family
Sat	17 th	9.30 am	NO MASS
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Winifred Joyce Madden
Sun	18 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Watson & Knowles Families

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	14 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	16 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	17th	No Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Sun	11 th	The Baptism of the Lord
Sat	17 th	St Anthony
Sun	18 th	Day of Prayer for Peace

Meetings this Week:

Tues	13 th	4.00 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality
Wed	14 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	15 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	5 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 129	Children : 6
Sun	6 th	8.30 am	Adults: 51	Children: 3
		10.30 am	Adults: 109	Children: 26 Total: 322

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,163.32; Roof Fund: £60; Votive Lights: £56.20; Diaries: £3.60; Shop: £65; 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.