

New items and information

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 May 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) GOOD SHEPHERD AND VOCATIONS SUNDAY



St John, in today's gospel, describes how Jesus uses two images that were very familiar to his listeners. He uses the image of the Good Shepherd to describe himself – and he also uses the image of the gate to the sheepfold to describe himself.

We are not very familiar with the context of these images. The farming practice of keeping sheep (and goats) was that there were two people responsible for a farmer's sheep: the shepherd and the gatekeeper. During the day, a shepherd led the sheep for which he was responsible. He didn't drive them ahead of him, using sheep dogs and quad bikes as we do now. The sheep knew the shepherd and *followed* him. He led them to where he knew there was good grazing on the common land of the countryside. He led them to "quiet waters" – still pools in the mountain streams and beck.

As the evening came, he would lead them to a sheepfold, an enclosed area of stone walls. There was only one gate into the sheepfold and this was guarded by a gatekeeper who did the night shift. Several different shepherds would use the same sheepfold. The gatekeeper would have a fire or a number of fires at the gate and around the sheepfold to ward off wild animals.

In the morning, the shepherd would return and go into the sheepfold and call out his own sheep and lead them through the gate, off to graze.

The prophets often referred to the leaders of Israel as lazy and indulgent shepherds who failed to care for their sheep. The early Church was often troubled by false leaders who led the people away from Jesus.

In calling himself "the gate", Jesus is telling us that the sheep must pass *through* him to come to life, just as the sheep must hear the shepherd's voice and come through the gate to find green pastures and still water. Jesus called himself "*the Way*, the Truth and the Life". We can only find true happiness – food and drink – *through Jesus*.

Today, Vocations Sunday – these images vividly remind us that today the Church needs good pastors who will lead the people through Jesus, the gateway, to the food and drink of the Eucharist and to the happiness of being with our heavenly Father.

At the Deanery Pastoral Council on Wednesday this week, we were given some very disturbing facts about our Diocese. These are available on pink paper if you are interested. We have a Vocations Group in our parish. You are welcome to join. The purpose of the group is to find different ways of keeping to the forefront of our minds the urgent need to pray for and to promote vocations to the priesthood and to religious life in our parish.

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and Vocations Sunday – Pope Francis encourages us all to pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life on Good Shepherd Sunday. The National Office for Vocation has prepared resources to enable each of us to engage with God's call and pray that more will consider a life of prayer and service in the priesthood or religious life. For inspiration, visit www.ukvocation.org/vocations-sunday-2014. There will be a second collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund – Reports available at back of church.

Pastoral Letter on Vocations from Bishop Michael This letter will be read at all the Masses this weekend and is available on salmon-coloured paper for the housebound and those who would like to read it again.

We have been informed that the milk bottle top collection has now ceased, thank you to everyone for your help. More information next week.

First Holy Communion Preparation – Session 7 will take place this coming Tuesday, 13th May, starting at 6.30 pm.

Evangelium – the next session is being presented by Fr Anthony Keefe, at 7.30 pm next Thursday, 15th May, in the Plessington Chapel. (see posters in church)

Friends of Chivuna – the minutes of the last meeting on 2nd May are now available for collection.

Cake Sale for Chivuna – There will be a cake sale after the 6.30 pm Mass on 24th May and after the 10.30 am Mass on 25th May. The proceeds will go towards helping those in Chivuna, Zambia. There will also be aprons for sale, which were made by the people of Chivuna, and pottery for sale, which was kindly donated by a parishioner. Any donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated; please could these be dropped off before Mass. *Thank you – Cathy Place.*

Novena for the Papal Visit to the Holy Land – At St Patrick's Church, Marshside Road, Southport, from 16th – 24th May 2014, there will be 12 noon Mass followed by Novena prayers and Exposition from 12.45 pm – 4 pm. On 24th May, Exposition will start from 10 am with 12 noon closing Mass celebrated by Archbishop Patrick Kelly.

Whist and Domino Drive – The next date is Monday, 19th May, from 2pm – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Everyone welcome; beginners and accomplished alike. £2 entrance fee includes refreshments of tea/coffee and cake.

Loaves and Fishes around Morecambe Bay – Bishop Michael Campbell will participate in an ecumenical Blessing on the Beach on Monday 9th June at 12 noon in which church leaders from around Morecambe Bay will bless freshly caught fish and newly baked bread and join together with local people in a picnic on the foreshore and promenade. CAFOD will be there and hope you can join them for this unique occasion. You can email the organisers on loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to participate.

CAFOD warmly invite you to a CAFOD Campaigns Energiser Day in Preston on Saturday 28th June at Fulwood Methodist Church (2 Watling Street Road, Preston, PR2 8EA) from 10.30 am – 4.00 pm. Organised and presented by CAFOD's Campaigns Team, this day will outline the next major CAFOD campaign, focusing on the effects of climate change. Guest speaker is Anthony Mbandi, Director of CAFOD partner Caritas Kitui in Kenya. He will share a first-hand account of some

of the challenges the people in his diocese face in the light of climate change. Workshops are also available. A simple lunch is provided. There is no charge for the day. You can book a place at <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/campaign-events>, or you can let Rosa know directly on 01772 733310.

Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster – There is a day conference entitled “Young People in the Church: Challenge and Hope” to be led by Simon Steward, Neal Gilbride and James Budzynski-Seymour, at the Cathedral Social Centre, Lancaster, on Saturday 7th June from 10 am – 3.30 pm. For further information see poster at back of church, or contact 01772 715 495 or 01253 733 985.

Previously Published Items

Date for your Diaries: Tuesday, 10th June from 2 pm – 4 pm – An Afternoon Tea Fundraiser will be held in the Presbytery Garden. Further information will be given nearer the date.

Counters – We are appealing for new counters to join the rota. It would involve counting the collection after 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday; at the moment it would be once every five weeks, but the more volunteers we have, the less frequently they would need to serve. Please speak to Father David if you feel that you could help in this way. *Thank you in advance.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 18th May, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please remember in your prayers our young people who are about to start their GCSEs and A-Level exams.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Peter Nickson, Sarah Turner, Elizabeth Wrennall, Joseph Grayston, Cyril Lamoury, Ilen O’Brien, Wilfred Swinburne, 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: Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth’s brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O’Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, Antonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, 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 Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass can be found at the back of the hymn books:
“The Lord is my Shepherd”

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 10th – Sunday 18th May 2014

Sat	10 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Arnold and Monica Hargreaves
Sun	11 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Ethel Kenyon (Anniversary)
Mon	12 th	No Mass	
Tues	13 th	12 noon	Agnes Robinson
Wed	14 th	7.00 pm	Bill Bamber
Thurs	15 th	8.00 am	Reverend Francis Carr
Fri	16 th	9.30 am	Joseph and Ann Helena Grayston
Sat	17 th	9.30 am	LISCF
		12.30 pm	Wedding Service for David Pinington and Adelle Raby
		6.30 pm	Miss Susan Martin
Sun	18 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Bernadette Paton

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	14 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	16 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	17 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions
Sun	18 th	10.30 am	First Eucharist

Special Days this Week:

Sun	11 th	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
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Meetings this Week:

Tue	13 th	6.30 pm	First Eucharist Preparation (Session 7)
Wed	14 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	15 th	7.30 pm	Evangelium

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	3 rd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 117	Children: 0
Sun	4 th	8.30 am	Adults: 54	Children: 13
		10.30 am	Adults: 121	Children: 23
			Total: 328	

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,117.11; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £55.10. *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.