

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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11th / 12th October 2014

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



"Come to my son's wedding," the king said.
But they were not interested. One went back to his business,
another to his farm.
The king was not pleased...
"But everything is ready," the king pleaded.
The message could hardly be clearer!
The king then goes out and invites all those marginalised
people I spoke of last week – the rejects – and they came willingly,
full of joy at being invited – and the wedding hall was full.
There is room for everyone in the Lord's wedding hall; a
great welcome awaits you, wonderful food and drink is waiting...
But can we be bothered to get dressed up and come?
Am I so familiar with the Lord that this invitation to his
wedding feast is just another everyday irritation? Have I lost all

sense of the enormity of this personal invitation to me?

When I was a student in Paris, on the Feast of St Patrick, the Irish Ambassador to France used to invite all the English-speaking seminarians (a few of whom were Irish) to the St Patrick's Day reception at the Irish Embassy. Champagne and caviar were served in abundance. After a few years, I stopped going, the novelty had worn off. I gave no thought to the generosity of the Irish Ambassador and the respect that he was showing to students for priesthood. As I look back, I feel like the people in the parable of Jesus who just went on with their daily work and ignored the generous invitation of the king.

It is so easy to be self-centred, to think only of oneself. To continually accept the Lord's invitation to celebrate his love for us becomes boring. We lose sight of the extraordinary, unbelievable generosity and honour that the Lord is giving us.

The Irish Ambassador had no need to honour us young and thoughtless seminarians – but he did. He had no need to invite us to mingle with Ambassadors and dignitaries from around the world – but he did.

The least I might have done was to recognise the honour being granted to us students – because we were to be future priests! I deeply regret now my self-centredness!

The Lord sees our regret, and once more, today, invites us to the Wedding Feast of his Son – to our Sunday Celebration of the life, death and resurrection of his Son, and to share in his banquet of his Son's Body and Blood.

New items and information

St Vincent de Paul Society – This weekend there will be a collection for the SVP taken after all Masses. The next meeting of the SVP will be on Tuesday, 21st October, at 7.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.

Next Sunday is World Mission Day – there will be a second collection for APF. There are envelopes for the collection at the back of church if you would like to take one, and return it next weekend.

Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Plessington Chapel from next week for the winter months..

Whist and Domino Drive – This will take place this Monday, 13th October, from 2 – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Come along and have some fun – beginners are welcome, as well as seasoned players!

The North West Children's Support Group and The Travelling Tea Ladies will be running a "pop up" Vintage Tearoom in the Old Grammar School (Garstang Arts Centre) on Sunday 26th October in the afternoon. Please make a note in your diaries to come along and enjoy tea and homemade cakes served on beautiful vintage china, while supporting a much needed charity. *More information next week.*

Garstang Musical Productions are putting on a production of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' from 22nd – 25th October. All performances start at 7.30 pm and tickets will cost £9 (£6 for 16 yrs and under) and are available from Car Care in Garstang, or by contacting Alan Armstrong on 01995 606603. If anyone is able to help with the transportation of parishioners who might otherwise be unable to attend, please ring Pat on 605793.

Harvest Festival – The fruit and vegetables that were used to decorate the windowsills in church at the time of our Harvest Festival Mass were donated to the Lancaster & District Homeless Action Service, and we have received a letter of thanks from them which will be displayed on the notice board at the back of church if you would like to read it.

Michael O'Neill – We have received a donation of £892.89 which is the money collected in memory of Michael at his funeral and which is to go to the Church Roof Fund. We thank Marion very much, and keep her in our prayers.

Did you know.... Pope Francis has released a special video message urging Catholics worldwide to raise their voices on behalf of the hungry? He urges us not to turn away when we see our neighbours going hungry. Pope Francis has issued this message in support of the global Caritas network of Catholic development agencies, of which **CAFOD** is a member, and their work in tackling hunger. Thank you for not turning away from this, but reaching out to your neighbours with compassion.

Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children have issued an invitation to SPUC Lune Valley's 3rd annual fundraiser; afternoon tea at the Cloister Café, Cathedral House, Lancaster, on Saturday 25th October from 1 pm – 3.30 pm.

Cor et Lumen Christi Community – Their autumn conference for the North is being held from 17th – 19th October at St Cuthbert's, The Old Convent, Wigton CA7 9HU. For details see poster at back of church.

Lourdes Pilgrimages – Mancunia are advertising two pilgrimages for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: a one-day pilgrimage on 8th December and a 4-day pilgrimage from 6th to 9th December. Details are on the posters at the back of church; tel: 0161 883 1515, or visit www.mancunia.com.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for October (2) – That World Mission Day may rekindle in every believer zeal for carrying the Gospel into all the world.

Previously Published Items

Vocations Discernment Day – Is God calling you to serve as one of his priests? Come and see at the Vocations Discernment Day on Sunday 19th October 2014 at Our Lady & St Joseph's, Carlisle. See the poster for more details, or contact Fr Darren on 01772 719604 (priest@lancastervocation.org) or Fr John on 01228 521509 (jwmillar1@gmail.com).

Youth Group – We are still looking to recruit some new adult helpers for the group. Please, could you help? No experience is necessary. If you would like more information, please chat to Rachel Cortes, our Parish Youth Worker, on 07508 365 249 or to Paul McCann on 601354. *Thank you.*

SS Mary & Michael's School – Car Park – As you know, the parent/pupil drop-off point was introduced to provide a safe area for children to arrive at school and to allow for a smooth flow of traffic through our often congested driveway. Please will you use this facility safely and drive with care, caution and consideration – especially when children are arriving at school and when they are leaving. Do not overtake cars stopped at the drop-off point, or park on the roundabout, and please help to maintain a safe and respectful school environment.

Brass Cleaning Team – Have you an hour or two to spare once a fortnight to help with cleaning the brasses in church? The Brass Cleaning Team meets every other Wednesday morning to clean the candlesticks etc (quite a lot of etc!), but one of the team has moved away, and they could do with some help. Are you the one to do this? If so, please contact Fr David.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 19th October, 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 Gerald Whittaker who died last Friday, 3rd October. His Funeral Mass will be held here on Wednesday, 15th October, at 10.30 am.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Edward Pyke, Charles Mackenzie, Robert Richmond, Bill Backhouse, Elizabeth Pedder, Connie Acton, Joseph Speight, Isabel Berry and John Dickinson. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, 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, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Wilf Rainford, 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.)*

The Psalm at 10.30 am Mass is "The Lord's my Shepherd" which can be found at the back of your hymn book.

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 11th – Sunday 19th October 2014

Sat	11 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Paul Roggeven
Sun	12 th	8.30 am	Jim and Ann Berry (Golden Wedding)
		10.30 am	Father John Conway
Mon	13 th	No Mass	
Tues	14 th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer & Gospel Reading
Wed	15 th	10.30 am	Gerald Whittaker's Funeral Mass
Thurs	16 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
Fri	17 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
Sat	18 th	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Thomas & Winnie Fleming and Mary Rigby
Sun	19 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Ethel Kenyon

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	15 th	No Rosary	
Sat	18 th	10.00 am	Confessions and Exposition

Special Days this Week:

Wed	15 th	St Teresa of Jesus (Avila)
Fri	17 th	St Ignatius of Antioch
Sat	18 th	ST LUKE

Meetings this Week:

Wed	15 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	16 th	3.00 pm	Churches Together at Garstang Methodist Church

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	4 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 121	Children : 4
Sun	5 th	8.30 am	Adults: 43	Children: 4
		10.30 am	Adults: 136	Children: 38
			Total: 346	

Monies Received: Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,173.89; CAFOD: £348; Donation: £20; Votive Lights: £54.60; Shop: £15; 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 October at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.