

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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**12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**



The Pharisees judged the woman and condemned her. Jesus judged her and forgave her. The Pharisees were all sinners themselves, judging a fellow sinner and condemning her. Jesus had never sinned. He judged a sinner but did not condemn her.

You would have thought that sinners, like the Pharisees, would understand a fellow sinner; you would have thought that sinners who knew that they themselves deserved to be punished, would be lenient with a fellow sinner. You would have thought that Jesus, who had never sinned, would lack understanding as to what it was like to be a sinner,

and would be harsh in punishing a sinner.

But, no!

Jesus is without sin, yet understands the woman perfectly. What he does is to call her to sin no more. He asks her to change – and he doesn't do this by punishing her, *he does it by forgiving her.*

This is how he calls us to change, calls us to repentance. He calls us to change by forgiving us! How do we respond to this amazing love and compassion? By going out and sinning again, falling back into our habits of sin!

How we need the Sacrament of God's forgiveness! How we need to hear the Lord say to us: "Neither do I condemn you." We need the constant experience of the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness, the experience of hearing the priest say – with the voice of Jesus – "I absolve you", "I forgive you of your sins" – "I do not condemn you. I welcome you back into my merciful love", "I hold you in my arms – you are my dearest daughter, my dearest son; I love you". We know how we have just confessed the same old sins again. We know it's only a few weeks since we last came to confession and here we are again, confessing the same old habits. And yet Jesus tells us with as much love as he has always had for us: "I do not condemn you, I forgive you, I absolve you. Go and sin no more?"

And, with God's help we go from the Sacrament with hope.

**New items and information**

**Holy Week Services** Please take a leaflet (on dark green paper) with the times of all the services during Holy Week

**Guild of St Stephen** – Congratulations to the 11 children who have served faithfully on the altar for the last two years, and who have qualified for the Guild of St Stephen Certificates this Saturday at the 6 pm Mass: Juan Banchemo, Adelaida Banchemo, Jack Bilsborrow, Caitlin Billingsley, Georgina Horn, Tessa Ann Joseph, Cameron McAleese, Hannah Wilkinson, Matthew Dodd, Jia Tejada and Conor Brooks. Thank you to all of you, and well done!

**St John Vianney's Icon** is with us and is on display for one month, until the end of March. During this month, please would you take some time to pray before the Icon for vocations to the priesthood, especially in our Diocese? If you wish, there are prayer cards on the altar rail to help you. The prayer is also printed on the back of this newsletter.

**Whist & Dominoes** – On Monday, we have the Whist & Dominoes Drive from 2 – 4 pm. Everyone is welcome – come along and have a bit of fun! Experience *not* necessary!

**Liturgy & Spirituality Group** – The next meeting is on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, at 4.30 pm, in the Presbytery. (Note earlier time).

**Stations of the Cross** – Next Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, at 7.00 pm, followed by individual confessions at 7.30 pm.

**Parish Draw** – Subscriptions of £20 are due – first draw 10<sup>th</sup> April. I am very grateful to Kevin and Trish O'Hanlon who have taken over the running of this important and fun (for winners: prizes of £80 and £30 monthly, and £100 and £35 at Christmas.) fund raiser.

*Philippa Catterall*

**SVP Conference:** our monthly meeting will be this Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm at 2 Brooklands Drive. We need new members so if you would like to join please ring Pat 605793.

**Hummingbirds Sale** of good as new toys and baby equipment Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 11 am to 2 pm in the school hall. Entrance fee £1 which will entitle you to a raffle ticket. There will also be cakes and refreshments on sale.

**Lent Lunches** – The last Churches Together Lent Lunch will be held at Garstang URC next Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March from 12 noon – 1 pm. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

**CAFOD and Chivuna Cake Stall** – A big "Thank you" to everyone who supported us, baking and buying, last weekend. We raised a magnificent £200 for Chivuna and CAFOD. God bless you all.

**Discernment Day – Advance Notice** – for those thinking about priesthood. Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Ladywell Shrine, Preston, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm. To book a place or for more information, contact Fr Darren Carden on 01772 719 604, mob 07552 795 060, email [priest@lancastervocations.org](mailto:priest@lancastervocations.org).

**Previously Published Items**

**Gift Aid Coordinator including envelope scheme organiser** Colin Swarbrick has fulfilled this role faithfully and efficiently for many years. We owe him a great debt of gratitude. Thank you, Colin. We need to find someone who could take on this very important role. Could you help? Please contact Fr. David or D'arcy.

**FREE to all our Readers** – In these days of B.O.G.O.F. and half-priced sofas etc, we have felt obliged to move with the times and make an offer which we hope parishioners will find irresistible. The holder of the Parish Purse Strings has reluctantly agreed to offer **FREE** membership for admission to the Old Codgers Grounds Maintenance Team (O.C.G.M.T.) for one year only. Young Codgers (ie, under 65s) are also urgently needed, and as an extra incentive will be offered an additional 25% discount on the free membership fee. Membership will entitle the holder to **FREE** use of the sit-on mower and all mowing and gardening equipment (within the church boundaries). How can you possibly turn down this offer? Over the past few years, we have referred to passages from the Gospels, used poetry, and even enlisted the help of Tom Jones to whet peoples' appetites; nevertheless, the number of members of the O.C.G.M.T. continues to dwindle. If you can afford just, say, three hours per month to help to keep the churchyard and its surrounds in reasonable order, please come and join us. Come and work as a member of a team. You may even enjoy it! For more information, please contact either D'arcy on 603090 or Peter Brown on 605205.

**Traidcraft** – Spring Catalogues are now available at the back of church. Traidcraft works to end poverty through trade, and, since we have an account, we receive a discount on orders which we donate to Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. If you can, please consider purchasing fair trade food, gifts, clothing, cards etc, and make a difference to some of the poorest people in the world, whilst raising money for Chivuna. *Helen Spencer.*

**Wednesday Word** for the weekend Mass of 19<sup>th</sup> March can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

**Please pray for Charles Joseph Kenyon**, who is being baptised at 11.30 am this Sunday. Please pray also for **Hattie Louise Roberts**, who is being baptised at 11.30 am next Sunday.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of** Maureen Ingleby who died last week. Her Funeral Mass was held this Saturday. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Alice Ann Lydiate, Ellen Moxham, The Cookson & Hine Families, Edward Hodgson, Joan McCall, Richard Hogarth, Marie Kelly, Annie Lillian Henderson, Thomas Bolton, Alice Rustidge, Jane Fleming, Sue Tomlinson, Ellen Ryan and John Smith. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Rita Whittaker, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann 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, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, 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 on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

**Response to the Psalm at 10 am Mass on Sunday:**

**Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Sat	12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Jane Fleming (Anniversary)
Sun	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Brian and Stella McVey
Mon	14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tue	15 <sup>th</sup> <small>Note</small>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Monica Carefoot
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup> <small>Note</small>	<b>8.00 am</b>	Agnes Mary Rossall
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Sue Tomlinson (Anniversary)
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup> <small>Note</small>	<b>9.00 am</b>	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Carl Gerard Wilkes
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Frank Fox

**Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	16 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
		7.30 – 8.00 pm	Confessions

**Special Days this week:**

Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup>	ST PATRICK
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	ST JOSEPH
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup>	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**Meetings this Week:**

Mon	14 <sup>th</sup>	2 – 4 pm	Whist & Dominoes
Tues	15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	First Eucharist (Session 4)
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

**Last Week's Attendance:**

Sun	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 112	Children: 5
		10.00 am	Adults: 177	Children: 90
			Total: 384	

**Monies Received:**

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,140.97; Shop: £30; Votive Lights: Cemetery Account: £80. *Many thanks to you all.*

**Churches Together in Garstang & District**

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in March at Garstang U.R.C. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church, until the end of March; then due to lack of attendance, the Service will cease.

Lord God, provider of all our needs, we, your faithful people of the Diocese of Lancaster, ask you to send labourers into your harvest, to give us holy and zealous priests after your own heart. Grant courage to those you are calling to the priesthood to respond to your call, and continue to guide those who are discerning their vocation.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

We call upon you, St John Vianney, to watch over our priests, that they might always be faithful to their sacred calling. We also seek your intercession, with the Lord of the harvest, to stir up in the hearts of the men of our diocese the desire to answer the Lord's call to the priesthood. Amen.

*St John Vianney, pray for us.*

*Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.*

**Lancaster Diocese Year of Priestly Vocations 2015 - 2016**