

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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12th / 13th SEPTEMBER 2015

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)



To be a disciple of Jesus is to be totally committed. It is not possible to be a disciple and to be half-hearted. It is all or nothing.

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Over the years, many of us have become lukewarm disciples, we are not totally committed to Jesus. And we don't like to dwell on this. We prefer to be “good-enough disciples”.

The fact is that we are not disciples at all if we are not totally committed.

This is a sobering thought.

The significant words of Jesus are:

“let him renounce himself.”

To “renounce” yourself is to always put yourself second. There is always someone, or something, that must take priority.

Christian marriage is the most obvious example of this – and parenthood. But all of us are called to this same discipleship. There are many teachings of Jesus that we interpret half-heartedly:

“Pray constantly;”

“Love your neighbour as yourself;”

“If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and a servant to all;”

“Anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it;”

“Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor.”

This all looks so impossible – and then we remember Jesus saying:

“For men, it is impossible, but not for God; because everything is possible for God.”

Perhaps we are being called to reconsider our discipleship; perhaps the Lord is inviting us to reflect on what kind of disciples we are.

What kind of disciples do we want to be: true disciples or.....?

This Sunday is the Day of Prayer for Racial Justice.

Year for Priestly Vocations – Next weekend the Lancaster Diocese will begin a Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations. It will run until Mission Sunday 2016. The year will begin with Quarante Ore at St Clare's, Preston, and at St Joseph's, Carlisle. Every parish is asked to have a Holy Hour dedicated to Priestly Vocations each week. Generally, our Holy Hour will be each Friday after the 9.30 am Mass from 10 – 11 am. There will on occasions be variations as this coming Friday when we have a school Mass at 9.30 am. The Holy Hour will be from 10.30 – 11.30 am.

Start of Year Mass – The start of the school year Mass will be this Friday, 18th September, in school at 9.30 am. Please pray for our school, the children, teachers and staff as they begin a new school year.

Next Weekend is Home Mission Sunday; this is the day in the Church's calendar when the bishops invite every member of the Catholic community to pray for, celebrate, and support the work of evangelisation in England and Wales. There will be a second collection; thank you in advance for your generosity. Please help yourself to a prayer card from the back of church.

Liturgy and Spirituality Group The next meeting of this group will be next Friday, 18th September at 4 pm. The Agenda will be circulated early this week.

Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster is holding an Open Evening this coming Tuesday, beginning at 6.30 pm. If you have a child who is of an age to start high school next September, why not go along and see what **Our Lady's** has to offer? There are some 'Invitations' at the back of church, and cards giving further information. **Our Lady's** is in the top 3% of secondary schools for progress last year!

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting is on Tuesday, 15th September, at 2 Brooklands Drive.

Whist & Domino Drive – This Monday, 14th September, from 2 pm – 4 pm. Why not come along and join in the fun? Beginners are welcome as well as experienced players..... Learn a new skill!

Harvest Festival, 26th/27th September – If you have any ideas for window decorations, and/or if you are able to spare a little time on the morning of Saturday, 26th September to decorate the church and fill boxes, or just for more information, please contact Margaret Wilcock on 603 525.

Did you know....as the biggest refugee crisis in recent times grips Europe, CAFOD and our supporter are calling on the Prime Minister to do more to support vulnerable Syrian refugees resettling in the UK? Please join us in calling on David Cameron to ensure the UK resettles its fair share of vulnerable refugees –

www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Other-issues/Refugees-action. CAFOD has also set up an appeal for donations to support our Caritas partners across Europe who are working directly with tired and traumatised refugees. We pray for all the people who are fleeing their country.

Previously Published Items

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for Rachael Flood (née Mears). She has recovered well, and although she still needs further surgery, she has decided to delay this until next year and has recently returned to work. Your prayers and messages of support have been much appreciated.

The McCann Family are taking part in the JWK Colour Dash on 13th September to raise money for St John's Hospice in memory of Jeanette Mears, our beloved Mum and Grandma, who died in St John's five years ago after a short and aggressive illness. If anybody is able to sponsor us, we would be very grateful for your support. There is a sponsor form at the back of church, or you can sponsor us online at <https://jwkcolourdash.everydayhero.com/uk/mccann-family>. *Thank you.*

Traidcraft Autumn Catalogues are available from the back of church for orders or Fairtrade food, gifts, clothing, cards, Christmas items etc. All profits from sales will go, as usual, to Chivuna Clinic. Please consider supporting Fairtrade and Chivuna in this way. *Thank you. Helen Spencer.*

One of our parishioners has been saving his loose change in a gallon-sized whiskey bottle for many weeks...months...years... a long time!! The bottle contained £97 for the church. If anyone else would like to take the bottle (see the bottle at the back of the church) and repeat the generosity of this parishioner by filling it with loose change, we would be very grateful!!

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) – this course is online and starts this month. Details are with Father David for anyone who is interested.

St Paul's Sunday Missal 2016 – If you would like a personal copy of next year's St Paul's Sunday Missal, please put your name on the list in the Church Shop.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 20th September, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Patrick Charles Fraser, who is being baptised on Sunday at 11.30am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joe Rainford, who was a teacher at Cuthbert Maine High School, Fulwood for many years, and who died on Tuesday.

May he rest in peace.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Eve Porteous, Teresa Swarbrick, Winnie Taylor, Mary McKeivitt, Norman Turton and William Eastham. **May they rest in peace.**

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled

parishioners, families and friends, including: Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, 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 placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Response to the psalm at the 10 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 12th – Sunday 20th September 2015

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|-------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Sat | 12 th | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Thanksgiving for a Golden Wedding |
| Sun | 13 th | 10.00 am | Gerald Whittaker |
| Mon | 14 th | No Mass | |
| Tues | 15 th | 12 noon | John Ibison (Lately Dead) |
| Wed | 16 th | 7.00 pm | Mary Rhodes |
| Thurs | 17 th | 9.30 am | The Smith Family |
| Fri | 18 th | 9.30 am | Start of Year Mass in School – Pat Hawkins |
| Sat | 19 th | 9.30 am | All Our Parishioners |
| | | 06.00 pm (Vigil) | Rev. John Horn |
| Sun | 20 th | 10.00 am | Arnold and Monica Hargreaves |

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

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| Wed | 16 th | Rosary | |
| Fri | 18 th | 10.30 – 11.10 am | Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations |
| Sat | 19 th | 10 – 10.30 am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions |

Special Days this Week:

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| Sun | 13 th | A Day of Prayer for Racial Justice |
| Mon | 14 th | THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS |
| Tue | 15 th | Our Lady of Sorrows |
| Wed | 16 th | Sts Cornelius (Pope) & Cyprian (Bishop) |
| Thurs | 17 th | St Robert Bellarmine |
| Sat | 19 th | St Theodore of Canterbury; St Janarius |
| Sun | 20 th | Home Mission Sunday |

Meetings this Week:

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|------|------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| Mon | 14 th | 2 – 4 pm | Whist & Domino Drive |
| Tues | 15 th | 7.30 pm | SVP Meeting (2 Brooklands Drive) |
| Weds | 16 th | 7.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| Fri | 18 th | 7.00 pm | Liturgy and Spirituality Meeting |

Last Week's Attendance:

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|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Sat | 5 th | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Adults: 139 | Children: 5 | |
| Sun | 6 th | 10.00 am | Adults: 115 | Children: 19 | Total: 278 |

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £958.16; Donation: £25; Votive Lights: £46; Shop: £10; Interment of Ashes: £110. **Many thanks to you all.**

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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