

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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13th / 14th August 2016

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Today, the readings for the Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses are different, but we only have one edition of the newsletter, and writing about the dogma of the Assumption tends to be a bit florid, so I'm going to say something about the first reading of Sunday from the Book of the Apocalypse. (Page 331 in your St Paul's Missal.)

The Book of the Apocalypse sets out to disclose secret information, and was composed during the early years of Christianity to try to keep alive hope in God among a people who were being oppressed by the Romans due to their refusal to accede to Emperor worship. It reminds them that God, not any temporal ruler, is in final control of history. Today's vision, where we hear of God's care for the woman who has given birth in dangerous circumstances, illustrates this.

The readers are assured that just as the woman was cared for, we too, despite experiencing misfortunes, will be looked after if we are committed to God. The author assures us that in the competition between the powers of creation and destruction, the forces of creation will always prevail.

The story can be seen as a combat between Imperial Rome (dragon) and God. The dragon is an ancient symbol of chaos, and often portrayed as God's enemy in the Old Testament. However, on a deeper interpretation, it can be seen as a description of the origin of evil, Satan's rebellion resulting in his being cast out of heaven with his followers. The dragon here is the serpent in the Garden of Eden, and the woman the people of God. Once born, the child is immediately brought to God, symbolising the ultimate victory of Christ: the woman escapes to the safety of the desert where she will be nourished as she awaits the ultimate earthly victory of God. This is the message of the Apocalypse. Though we may be vulnerable on earth, those who are steadfast will share in God's ultimate victory.

D'arcy

New items and information

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting of the SVP will take place this **Wednesday, 17th August, at 7.30 pm** in the Plessington Chapel.

Whist and Domino Drive – The next session is this Monday, 15th August from 2 – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Everyone is welcome!

Justice Matters Petition – Traidcraft Exchange are running a petition to call on the government to update the law so that large UK companies can be prosecuted for the most serious cases of causing harm abroad. In some cases, lives are destroyed through toxic pollution, people are forced out of their homes to make way for new mines and plantations, and violence is threatened if people question what is going on.

Felix, who lives with his family in Zambia near a smelting plant owned by a UK-listed company says, "They just get the copper and leave, that's all. They don't care about us..." We are still wanting signatories to this petition; you will find it at the back of church.

*Please tick the boxes at the right of the petition form if you **do not** wish to have communications from Traidcraft Exchange in the future.*

Brave of Heart - A Weekend Journey for Men – Come and find all that God has prepared for your masculine heart - Inspiring & challenging talks, Fellowship & sharing with other Christian men, walk in the Lake District, and much more! Sat 17th - Sun 18th September 2016, Cor et Lumen Christi, Wigton, CA7 9HU - Donation Only Event. To book or for more information: Web: www.coretlumenchristi.org

Email: stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org Tel: 016973 45623 or 07516 075896

Sea Sunday Appeal 2016 – We have received a letter of thanks from the Apostleship of the Sea for the £326 which was raised in our Parish. They say that another way of helping seafarers directly is by collecting rosaries, medals, prayer cards etc (no Missals) which give them comfort when away from home. If you have any items like this that you would like to donate, please bring them to the Presbytery, and we will ensure they go to AoS in London for distribution via Port Chaplains.

Previously Published Items

Fairtrade goods – The Mustard Seed, next to the Methodist Church, have a large selection of Fairtrade items, and support worthwhile projects. They have been running for 25 years, and over £25,000 has been passed on to various organisations, charities, schools, communities and co-operatives around the world - helping craftsmen and women to have a future in their homelands. They are open Thurs/Fri/Sat 10 am-2 pm.

Dates for your diary - Fr Luiz Ruscillo will lead a series of reflections on the Parables in the Gospels on Tuesday evenings, 7pm - 8pm at the Education Centre, on the following dates: 27 September; 11 and 18 October; 15 and 22 November.

Diocesan Education Service – Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) – The CCRS course is offered for catechists, teachers and others who may be interested in deepening their knowledge of the Catholic faith. The first online CCRS module is an introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you are interested in applying for the 2016-2017 course, please ask Father Tom for further details and an application form.

Or visit <http://lancasterrccrs.lunsvle.co.uk> or contact the Education Centre, Lancaster tel: 01524 841 190. See also poster at the back of church.

Summer Holiday Quiz. Quiz sheets will be available for £1 at the back of Church or from Helen Spencer, in aid of CAFOD and Chivuna. The prize for the most correct answers will be awarded in September - a small Fairtrade hamper (contains CHOCOLATE!).

Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cleator – The Annual Pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, 11th September 2016. The principal celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Michael Campbell. Bookings for the refreshments are to be made before 30th August by contacting St Mary's Priory, Cleator, CA23 3AB, tel. 01946 810 324. See poster at the back of church.

The Year of Priestly Vocations will be concluded on 27th September with a Diocesan Mass celebrated by the Bishop at the Cathedral at 12.15 pm. All parishes and schools are encouraged to attend this Mass.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 21st August can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for Alice Elizabeth Simpson, who is being baptised this Sunday at 12 noon.

Please pray for Joe Fagan and Gary Keane, who are to be married here in St Mary & St Michael's, next Saturday, 20th August, at 1.00 pm.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Frances & Gerard Wearden, Thomas Jennings, Jane Billington, Francis Purkis, Gladys Mary Stanley, Jack Carr, Mary Bate, Agnes Pyke, William Hall, Jeanette Mears, Les Lunn and Dorothy Richardson. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Billy (5 yrs old, suddenly gone blind and paralysed, taken into Great Ormond St Hospital), Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Chris O'Connor, Craig Smith, Leo Rabbett, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, John Sweeney, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, 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 the 10 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 13th – Sunday 21st August 2016

Sat	13 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (5 th Anniversary)
Sun	14 th	10.00 am	A Golden Wedding
Mon	15 th	9.30 am (please note)	Maureen Ingleby
Tue	16 th	12 noon	Thomas and Eleanor Bolton
Wed	17 th	11.00 am	Requiem Mass for Thomas Davis
Thurs	18 th	9.30 am	Lynn Doby (Lately Dead)
Fri	19 th	9.30 am	Fiona Catterall (Sick)
Sat	20 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	21 st	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Fri	19 th	10 – 10.30 am	Holy Half-hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	20 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Sun	14 th	ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Tue	16 th	St Stephen of Hungary
Fri	19 th	St John Eudes
Sat	20 th	St Bernard
Sun	21 st	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Meetings this Week:

Mon	15 th	2 pm – 4 pm	Whist and Dominos (Plessington Chapel)
Wed	17 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul Society (Plessington Chapel)
Thurs	18 th	7.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 127	Children: 2		
		10.00 am	Adults: 93	Children: 16	Total: 238	

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,005.10; Votive Lights: £41; Shop: £10. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in August here at Saints Mary & Michael's.