

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 JUNE 2015
11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)



Back to parables this week in the Gospel. Though we look upon parables as something unique to the New Testament, they do occur in the old as well, and their purpose is more than making a difficult topic easier to understand. (Oh, if only the Evangelists had left us Jesus' interpretations!)

'Parable' is a Greek word, and means a wise saying or a maxim, and there are quite a lot in the Gospels. Counts range from 35 to 72, depending on how you separate parables from similes or metaphors.

The parables as we have them are a lot less straightforward than we might suppose. No one doubts that they come from Jesus himself, but the early Church seems to have adapted them by creating new settings for their utterance. "Experts" suppose that collections of parables existed before the compilation of the Gospels and there was either no setting for the separate parables or a setting that was already artificially constructed. To complicate matters further, some parables seem to have been expanded by the addition of a saying of Jesus which may originally have been in some other context.

Why should this be? Well, the parables were originally used to introduce the concepts of the mystery of Jesus' person and the coming of the Kingdom to an audience whose knowledge of them was previously non-existent. But as time went on, the early Church saw opportunities to adapt them to its own preaching needs. It perceived a meaning for the parable in its own life and the life of the individual Christian which was not explicit in the original form, but all the themes used were originally in the teachings of Jesus and any adaptations or expansions have not concealed or distorted them. If Jesus had come in the 21st century, the stories would have been quite different, but the message would have remained the same – and what is the message? Well, the central characters in the parables normally call to mind Jesus or the Father either separately or together. The love of the Father shown by the sending of his Son is the great revelation brought by Jesus. This is the function of the parables – to show the perfect completion the New Kingdom confers on the plan of God for the world.

D'arcy

New items and information

Mission Appeal – Next weekend at both of our Masses, Fr Alan Bell CHS, a member of the 'Crusade of the Holy Spirit', will tell us about the organisation, and ask us to contribute financially to their work. The Crusade of the Holy Spirit is a Missionary Association of priests and students, founded by Father Thomas Walsh in 1966. Today it serves the Church in Latin America, the United States and England through the training of priests and parish work. The visit is not only to ask for support, but also to help increase awareness of the Church's mission to all peoples.

Quarante Ore – it is our turn to have Solemn Exposition during the weekend of 27th/28th June. We will begin after the 9.30 am Mass on Saturday 27th until 5.45 pm. Vigil Mass is at 6 pm, and Solemn Exposition will start again at 7 pm until 10 pm. On Sunday, it will start again after the 10 am Mass, and will last until 4 pm, ending with Holy Hour from 3 pm – 4 pm. There will be a list at the back of church on which to indicate when you will be able to sit with Jesus.

A Huge 'Thank you' to everyone who attended and contributed in any way to the Afternoon Tea in Father David's garden last Wednesday! Especially, thank you to Elaine and all the ladies who made cakes, prepared sandwiches, and worked so hard on the day, and the gentlemen who set up tables and chairs, and cleared everything away afterwards. And weren't we lucky with the weather! A wonderful £604 was raised for our Church.

Monthly Prayer Meeting – the next meeting is on Wednesday, 17th June, in the Plessington Chapel after 7 pm Mass. *All Welcome.*

CAFOD Stall – Please remember that our CAFOD Stall will be outside the Market Hall in the High Street next **Saturday 20th June**. Donations of quality books/crockery & household items/costume jewellery will be gratefully accepted. (No food/plants/electrical items/clothes or anything sold in the Market Hall please). Goods can be left at the stall from 8 am on Saturday 20th or at 12, Bonds Lane on the afternoon of Friday 19th June. Unsold items will be donated to charity. Thank you. Please come along and support us. *CAFOD Group.*

Whist & Domino Drive – This will take place in the Plessington Chapel this Monday, 15th June. Everyone is welcome, beginners as well as experienced players. *Come and have some fun!*

Prayer Group Meeting – There will be a Prayer Group Meeting on **Monday, 22nd June**, at 14 Bonds Lane. *All welcome.*

Parish Draw – for May: 1st prize: B. Price; 2nd prize: C. Taylor. Most sincere thanks to Kevin and Trish O'Hanlon who have offered to take over the running of the Parish Draw from 2016/7. The old, established fund-raiser is now to be run by comparative newcomers to the parish! Many thanks also to the 9 'agents' who help to collect subscriptions so efficiently – and without complaint! *Philippa Catterall.*

Did you know... on 17th June, thousands of CAFOD supporters will descend on London to pray, meet our MPs and lobby them about climate change at a mass lobby? Whether it's for the love of our families, the world's poorest people or the planet, we'll be asking MPs to:

- **Make it clean!** We need to be getting all our energy from clean sources.
- **Make it fair!** Support developing countries hardest hit by climate change.

- **Make it work!** For the sake of people and the environment – locally, nationally and globally.

Join us in putting faith in action – www.cafod.org.uk.

Day of Renewal – called to be Missionary Disciples, Saturday 27th June 2015, 10 am – 4 pm at St Clare’s Church (in the Parish Hall), Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, PR2 9HH. For further information see poster at the back of church.

Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster – On Saturday, 18th July 2015, there will be a day for Women in the Diocese in the Cathedral Social Centre, from 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. The theme of the day is Consecrated Life “Sign call and challenge for the Church today”, led by a number of Sisters working in our Diocese. Bishop Michael will celebrate Mass in the Cathedral at 12.15 pm. Lunch can be ordered – please let them know by 9th July. For further information, contact Sue Gornall (Diocesan Link Women Together) on 07513 941 647, or email suegoegornall@aol.com

Previously Published Items

Garstang Musical Productions are holding a fund-raising in the School Hall on Saturday, 27th June, 7.30 pm. There will be four musicians and a vocalist, a bar (serving *real* beer – none of your canned stuff!), and refreshments. There will also be a Promises Auction on the night. Tickets are £10; this includes a raffle – 1st Prize is train travel to London, overnight stay in a hotel, and tickets to see a West End Show; 2nd Prize is a portable television. **For more details and for tickets, contact Mary Bateson on 604203.**

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 21st June, 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 Father David’s Aunty Bridget who died in Ireland last Monday. Her Funeral Mass was held in Ireland, and Father David was the celebrant.

May she rest in peace.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Frances Grayston, Charles Price, Ada Anie Oxby, Joan Billington, Terry Fitzpatrick, Ellen Kelsall, James Marsden, William Swarbrick, Mrs Kendrick, Betty Watson, Valerie Smith, Joseph Barton and Veronica Billington. **May they rest in peace.**

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Rod (Chas) Cartner, Maurice Iddon, Dina Carter, Richard (aged 14, has had a bone marrow transplant), Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, 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 13th – Sunday 21st June 2015

Sat	13 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Carroll
Sun	14 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	15 th	No Mass	
Tues	16 th	7.00 pm	Special Intention
Wed	17 th	7.00 pm	Robert Beesley (Anniversary)
Thurs	18 th	9.30 am	Marjorie Kirkman
Fri	19 th	9.30 am	Blanche Ronayne
Sat	20 th	8.30 am (note time)	LISCF
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	George Gidlow (Birthday Anniversary)
Sun	21 st	10.00 am	Cathie Cadden (Fifth Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	17 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	20 th	No Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Tues	16 th	St Richard of Chichester
Fri	19 th	St Romuald
Sat	20 th	St Alban

Meetings this Week:

Mon	15 th	2 pm – 4 pm	Whist and Domino Drive
Weds	17 th	7.30 pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting (Plessington Chapel)
Thurs	18 th	4.00 pm	School Policy & Finance

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	6 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 105	Children: 7
Sun	7 th	10.00 am	Adults: 148	Children: 45 Total: 305

Monies Received:

Offertory: £705.11 (plus Standing Orders); Cemetery: £30; Donation in Memory of Sheila Carroll: £110; Donation: £30; Shop: £45; Votive Lights: £155.30; Roof Fund Donation: £30; Collection for Roof Fund at Huddersfield Boys’ Choir Concert: £250. **Many thanks to you all.**

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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