

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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14th / 15th FEBRUARY 2015
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus exchanged places with a man who was suffering from leprosy! The leper had, by Law, to live outside the camp, the town, as we heard in the first reading. This was the only way that the disease could be contained.

Jesus was outside the town and the leper came up to Jesus and pleaded with him on his knees:

“If you want to, you can cure me!”

Jesus needed no time to reflect on this:

“Of course I want to! Be cured!”

This is Jesus' spontaneous desire: “Of course I want you to be well.” Having reminded the healed man what he must now do – have the cure verified by the priests – Jesus found himself pursued by the frenzied crowd who were more interested in the spectacle of the miraculous healing than in finding within themselves a quiet wonder and awe at this evidence of a divine presence in their midst. Jesus was mobbed by the crowd for all the wrong reasons. They weren't listening to him, all they wanted was for Jesus to perform like some street entertainer!

Jesus left the town secretly and went outside to the place that the leper had previously occupied. They exchanged places. Jesus took upon himself the isolation of the leper. He took our ills upon himself.

He was not prepared to take part in the shallow, outward, false behaviour that sometimes we allow ourselves to indulge in. There is great pressure on young people to keep up with the fashions, the latest craze. We allow ourselves to be driven to have the current status symbols, whether it be the most fashionable fragrances, or kitchen gadgets. These luxuries are not, in themselves, wrong – but they can and do distract us, take up a lot of our attention, so that the quiet practice of being in a place of wonder and praise before Jesus has little attraction for us. Jesus is confined to a place on the periphery of my life – outside the town!

Perhaps, as we are about to begin the season of Lent, we could turn back to Jesus in repentance for our materialism and selfishness, and give time to join him in a quiet place outside of our frenzied and distracted lives.

Lent 2015

- The Season of Grace begins this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday.
- There will be Mass on Ash Wednesday at 9.30 am and 7 pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at both Masses.
- Individual Celebration of the Sacrament of God's Forgiveness is celebrated during Lent:
 - * Saturday 21st February, 10 am 0 10.30 am;
 - * Saturday 28th February, 10.15 am – Celebration of God's Forgiveness – First Confessions.
 - * Saturday 7th March – 5.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.
 - * Saturday 14th March – **No Confessions**
 - * Saturday 21st March – 10.15 am Celebration of God's Forgiveness for all.
 - * Saturday 28th March – 5.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.
 - * Wednesday 1st April, 5.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel.

This weekend, Sunday is a day of prayer for the unemployed.

Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom, this weekend, Sunday, 15th February, from 3 – 4 pm, Lancaster Cathedral – Bishop Michael, the Cathedral Parish and the Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need have come together to host this event to which all are cordially invited. The vigil will include scriptural readings, guided and silent prayer, as well as a statement of personal witness from an Iraqi Christian. Please join us to offer your prayers for those suffering and persecuted Christians who greatly need our love and support in these extremely difficult times.

Thank You Very Much to all of you who gave donations to the SVP last weekend. A total of £306 was raised.

Whist and Domino Drive – the next fun-filled Drive is this Monday, 16th February, from 2 pm – 4 pm. Everyone is welcome, even if you have never played before – think of the fun you'll have learning how!

St Vincent de Paul Society – the next meeting is on Thursday, 19th February, 7.30 pm at 3 Castle Lane.

Spring Traidcraft Catalogue – These will be available from the back of church, with profits to Chivuna Clinic, as usual. If you can, please take this opportunity to purchase Fairtrade goods, and help people help themselves out of poverty. *Thank you. Helen Spencer.*

Friends of Chivuna – the minutes of the meeting of 5th February are now available.

Prayer Time and Space Group – The next meeting will be in the Plessington Chapel this Tuesday 17th February, 7.40 pm, after evening Mass. *All welcome.*

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday, 6th March at All Saints, Barnacre, at 2.00 pm. All (men and women) are very welcome.

Lent Lunches – Garstang United Reformed Church will be holding their Lent Lunches again this year, and would like to extend a warm welcome to all members

of other churches in Garstang. Soup, bread, tea and coffee will be served in their Church Hall between 12 noon and 1 pm every Wednesday, starting on Ash Wednesday, 18th February. There is no charge for the food, but donation to Christian Aid would be gratefully received. *Thank you.*

Lancaster Quakers are having a “Silent Vigil for Economic Equality” at Lancaster Quaker Meeting House, next to Lancaster railway station, on Saturday, 21st February. Teas/Coffees provided throughout the day. All people, all faiths, are invited.

Previously Published Items

SS Mary & Michael’s School – Welfare – Are you retired, but still feel young, and active? Would a part-time job, working with children suit you? Or are you a stay-at-home parent who would like to be around when your children come home from school, but still have a little extra money to help with life’s little luxuries? Our school is looking to employ a lunchtime welfare assistant. The position covers five lunchtime periods a week, from 11.45 am – 1.10 pm, with an hourly rate of £7.85. If you think this may be the very job for you, please contact school as soon as possible.

Parish Safeguarding – Does your role in the parish involve you in activities with children, young people or vulnerable adults? The Lancaster Safeguarding Commission invites you to a **Safeguarding Training Day** at the Cathedral Centre on **Saturday 14th March**. If you are a member of the SVP, a Youth Leader, Catechist, Eucharistic Minister or Musician etc, then this could be for you. You will find more information at the back of Church. Let us know if you are interested in joining us on the day. Ted (604714) or Annette (606702).

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 22nd February, 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 Eva Carter (Dina Carter’s Mother) who died last Monday. Her Requiem Mass will be held at Nazareth House next Friday, 20th February at 2.45 pm. Her Committal is at Lancaster Crematorium at 4.15 pm, followed by refreshments at Nazareth House.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Horn/Brown Families, Agnes Smith, Thomas Dilworth, Tony Hall, Lillian Williams, Bill Ainsworth, Dennis Bolger, Ann Horn, Ann Cookson, Elsie Tomlinson, Mary Miller, Winifred Carr, John Horn, Thomas Ibison, David Leaper and Marjorie Edge. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Jim Costain, 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, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Sheila Carrol, 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, Alison Green and Tim Park. *(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 14th – Sunday 22nd February 2015

Sat	14 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Thomas Ibison
Sun	15 th	8.30 am	Tony Hall
		10.30 am	Family Blessing
Mon	16 th	No Mass	
Tues	17 th	7.00 pm	In thanksgiving for return to health
Wed	18 th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		7.00 pm	Ruth Fairey
Thurs	19 th	9.30 am	Henry and Cecily Gornall
Fri	20 th	9.30 am	John McCristoll
Sat	21 st	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ted Richardson (Birthday Wishes)
Sun	22 nd	8.30 am	Anne and William Swarbrick
		10.30 am	Richard Hogarth

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	18 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	21 st	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Wed	18 th	ASH WEDNESDAY
Sun	22 nd	First Sunday in Lent

Meetings this Week:

Wed	18 th	8.00 pm	Choir Practice (after Mass)
Thurs	19 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
		7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul Society (at 3, Castle Lane)

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 124	Children: 19
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	Adults: 45	Children: 11
		10.30 am	Adults: 109	Children: 32
			Total: 340	

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,092.90; Gravestone inscription: £30; Votive Lights: £66.35; 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 February at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.