

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 MARCH
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Today we are half-way on our journey through Lent. Holy Week and Easter are in sight... we look forward to celebrating Jesus' victory over death, his resurrection. For us Easter feels like spring is here, signs of new life all around.

Life is a journey and some are at the beginning of this journey, life is full of promise; for others we mark mid-life, for others still, we are in the later parts of the journey.

Sometimes the journey seems full of danger. Like when the Israelites, journeying through the Sinai desert, and their camp was overrun by venomous snakes, people were being bitten and were dying. Moses begged God to help them.

God ordered Moses to fashion a serpent out of bronze and put it on a pole and hold it up in front of the people. All those who were bitten by the poisonous snakes who looked up at the bronze snake were healed of the venom that was killing them.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, foretells how he will be raised up on the cross – like Moses' bronze snake on the pole. Jesus tells us to look up at him on the cross and to ask him to help us on our journey through life.

That is why in our churches we have a crucifix, with an image of Jesus on the Cross. We look up at the image of Jesus on the Cross and ask him to journey with us through life.

That is why in each classroom in school, we have a crucifix on the wall, or in our prayer space. When we pray we look up at Jesus on the Cross and ask him to help us to journey safely through every day.

That is why many of us have a crucifix on a wall in our bedrooms at home, so that when we wake up in the morning, we can ask Jesus to journey with us through that day. We ask Jesus to keep us safe, not from poisonous snakes like Moses did, but to keep us safe from all the things that take us away from the Lord. We pray that we don't lose our way on our journey through life. The Cross with the figure of Jesus on it will always remind us that it is Jesus we follow; it is Jesus who will lead us safely on the journey through life.

New items and information

Year of Consecrated Life: Pope Francis announced a Year of Consecrated Life from last December 2014 to December 2015. As a contribution to this, Sister Frances, who is the Vocations Director for the Sisters of Nazareth, will be here to speak to us after Communion at the Masses this weekend.

New Hymn Books – A new set of hymn books has been bought for the parish by two very kind donors, to whom we are most grateful. The new hymn book includes the contents of the old books plus the small paper-back book with the musical settings for the New Translation of the Mass. Please handle the new books with care, and encourage our children to do the same. If those who donated an old hymn book and made a dedication in the front, would like to take home their copy of the old hymn book, please feel free.

Lent Lunch – (Soup, bread, cheese) – Next Friday, 20th March, 12 noon – 1.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Please come and join us for a quiet social lunch break and delicious home-made soup!

Cake and Craft Sale – this weekend, 14th & 15th March after the 6 pm and 10 am Mass, in the Plessington Chapel. All proceeds will go to the poor overseas – this will be shared between Chivuna and CAFOD. ***Please be generous with your purchases.***

Whist & Domino Drive is on Monday, 16th March, from 2 pm – 4 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along, beginners as well as experienced players – it's all a bit of fun!

Time and Space Prayer Meeting in the Sacristy on Tuesday 17th March, from 7.00 pm until 8.00 pm. All welcome.

The members of SSMM SVP Group would like to thank all those parishioners who donated food, warm clothing and duvets to the ACE project which is run by Caritas Care. We intend to make one more trip next week, so please bring any more items you wish to donate by Monday 16th March and leave them in the marked box which is at the bottom of the stairs leading to the balcony. Once again, many thanks for your generosity – it has been much appreciated.

End of Year Parish Draw – 1st Prize: Mrs C Horn; 2nd Prize: Mr & Mrs G Johnson. Please note that cheques for the new year may take a little longer to be cashed as they now have to be taken to Lancaster HSBC.

Minutes of the last Chivuna Meeting are ready for collection from the back of church.

A Call to Action (ACTA) – promoting respect and dialogue in the Church. ACTA are organising a day entitled:

“Resurrection Stories in the Gospels”

“*Did not our hearts burn within us?*” Lk 24:24-32.

Prayer, reflection and discussion with Miss Dympna Magee and Father Joe Smith on Saturday, 21st March 2015 from 10 am – 4 pm at St Bernadette's, 120 Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 4HT. Please bring a bible and a packed lunch. To learn more about ACTA, please see leaflet on orange paper in porch.

Gospels and Governments – will Catholic Social Teaching affect the way you vote? – Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission are holding a session at the Cathedral Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT. Refreshment and soup lunch provided. Cost – donation. Registration from 10am. All welcome. To reserve a place: F & J Office, St Bernadette's Parish House, Lancaster, LA1 4HT. Tel 01524 383081, or email lfjc@talktalk.net. See poster at back of church.

Castlerigg Family Weekend – 22nd – 24th May 2015. Fun for the whole family. For more information check out www.castleriggmanor.co.uk, and see poster at the back of church.

World Youth Day 2016 – This is an opportunity to see the Pope at Krakow. If you are interested, contact the Youth Service today via Castlerigg Manor, www.castleriggmanor.co.uk or telephone 01768 772 711.

CAFOD – Did you know... for over two decades, CAFOD supporters have been among those urging the UK government to keep its promise to the world's poorest people? Victory has not come easily, but this week, Lords supported a bill that guarantees the UK's commitment to overseas aid. This year alone, UK aid helped over 5 million children go to school, provided more than 19.5 million people with clean water, and helped turn the tide in the fight against Ebola. It's a historic week; a sign of unity and solidarity – one which we can be proud of.

Previously Published Items

Our Bishops have asked us to reflect on marriage and family life using scripture. During Lent there will be an opportunity to answer this call. Each Thursday in Lent, from 7pm – 8pm, in the day chapel at the Cathedral in Lancaster, there will be a prayerful reflection on a particular passage from the Bible.

- **Thurs 19 Mar:** The presentation of Jesus in the temple (Lk 2:22-40) led by Fr Luiz;
- **Thurs 26 Mar:** The wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-12) led by Fr Luiz.

Chivuna Knitting – A great deal of knitted clothing has been sent to Chivuna, Zambia, over the past months. In order for the work to continue at the current pace, we do require more willing knitters. Also, it would be wonderful if anyone could help with the cost of postage. At present this is resourced by two very generous parishioners, despite the high costs involved. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Margaret Wilcock. (telephone 01995 603 525.)

Towards a New Pentecost Conference – 20th – 22nd March; speaker: Michelle Moran. We will be exploring the desire of the Church to prepare for a new Pentecost, and to prepare ourselves for the new era of grace in the Church and the world. The weekend includes inspired preaching and teaching, prayer ministry in power of the Holy Spirit, adoration and Holy Mass. Donation only event after £5 registration. Meals included this weekend! www.coretlumenchristi.org or stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org or call 016973 45623.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 15th March, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Ellen Wells, John James Dewhurst, Celia Lamoury, Agnes Rossall, John Kirkman, Josephine Seed, John Swift, George Bernard Clarey, André Ferguson and Ann Rigg. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Maurice Iddon, Josie Maddock, 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 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 10.30 am Mass:

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

Sat	14 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	John Horn
Sun	15 th	10.00 am	Thomas and Eleanor Bolton (School-led Mass)
Mon	16 th	No Mass	
Tues	17 th	No Mass	
Wed	18 th	7.00 pm	John Kirkman (Anniversary)
Thurs	19 th	9.30 am	For a Sick Friend
Fri	20 th	9.30 am	Susan Ware
Sat	21 st	9.30 am	Eileen McManus
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dorothy Kelsall
Sun	22 nd	10.00 am	Dodo Haggarty

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	18 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	20 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
		6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	21 st	10.15 am	Celebration of God's Forgiveness (Reconciliation Service)

Special Days this Week:

Sun	15 th	4 th Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) – Mothers' Day; children from our school will lead the 10.00 am Mass liturgy.
Tues	17 th	ST PATRICK
Thurs	19 th	ST JOSEPH

Meetings this Week:

Tues	17 th	6.30 pm	1 st Eucharist (Session 3) (Children only)
		7.00 pm	Time and Space Prayer Meeting (in Sacristy)
Wed	18 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	19 th	4.00 pm	SSMM School – Full Governing Body
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
		7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul Society (2, Brooklands Dr.)
Fri	20 th	4.00 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality Group

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 122	Children: 9
Sun	8 th	8.30 am	Adults: 53	Children: 0
		10.30 am	Adults: 104	Children: 32
			Total: 329	

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,107.40; Roof Fund: £50; Votive Lights: £50.40; Shop: £10; Photocopying: £6; Donation: £20; Lancashire Spirituality Network on Saturday: £70. *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 United Reformed Church. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.