

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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15th / 16th March 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)



During Lent the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus is never far from our minds. The whole of Lent is, bit by bit, persuading us to have the courage to stand at the foot of the cross and gaze up at our crucified Saviour, alone, body scourged and broken, hanging limply, the life viciously and deliberately beaten out of him by cruel and sinful people.....the Lord of love and compassion who was sent among us by the Father to insistently tell us: "I love you, my people. Listen to me."

Today we climb up Mount Tabor with Jesus; there, on the summit, Jesus is transfigured. His clothes become dazzlingly white; his face shines like the sun. For the first time, Peter and James and John see his Godliness clearly revealed. They are in the presence of this divine person, the Son of God.

With him are two people, who, many centuries earlier, had themselves tried to persuade God's people how important they were to God, how loved they were. Here was Moses, to whom had been given the sacred Rule of Life, God's Law, to guide the people to the happiness of the Father. Here was Elijah, the man of God, the great prophet who was sent by God, with great signs and wonders, to bring the people back to God. They were talking with Jesus on Mount Tabor. Peter and James and John saw them. Jesus was shortly to bring to fulfilment the promise of the Law and the Prophets. Jesus was to complete what God had planned for us from the time he first brought us to life. Jesus was to destroy the power of Satan over us; he was to break the bonds, the chains that dragged us down into despair. Jesus was to redeem us from the power of sin.

Here on Mount Tabor, the voice of the Father rings out once more:

"Listen to him!"

"Listen to him!"

"Listen to him!"

For the rest of Lent, we must bow down in the presence of Jesus our Saviour and humbly listen, day by day.

New items and information

Next Weekend is our Annual Mission Appeal. Fr. Sylvester Ogbogu of the Society of African Missions will celebrate the weekend Masses and preach the Appeal. Please give him a warm welcome.

Stations of the Cross during Lent, are at 6.30 pm Each Friday.

First Eucharist Preparation – Session 2 is at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 18th March in the Plessington Chapel.

'Evangelium' – Session 15, "Grace and the Beatitudes", is being held next **Thursday, 20th March, at 7.30 pm**, in the Plessington Chapel, presented by Fr Anthony Keefe. *All welcome.*

NWCSG Auction – Sandwiches and cakes needed – We are holding our Annual Bric a Brac Auction next **Saturday 22nd March** in SS Mary & Michael's School Hall. If anyone is willing to make a loaf of sandwiches or some cakes for sale at the Auction next Saturday we would be very grateful. If you would like to help, please either add your name to the list at the back of church or phone Debbie McCann on 601354 or Helen Whittaker on 600254. We need donations of items to sell, including household goods, ornaments, jewellery, small items of furniture, garden equipment, toys and sports equipment etc. If anyone is able to donate items, these can be brought to the school hall from 4 pm on Friday 21st March, or to arrange collection, please call Paul & Debbie McCann (601354) or Helen Whittaker (600254) or Paul & Angela Andrews (01524 751722). We are unable to accept any items on Saturday morning. All proceeds will be used to provide holidays for local disabled or disadvantaged children. *Your help is always much appreciated. Thank you.*

SS Mary & Michael's School – This coming week, we are having a Mission Week in school, a time to reflect on our mission as a Catholic community and consider how we 'walk with Jesus', our theme for the week. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel together in faith, striving to develop our relationship with God and with each other. We would be delighted if you could join us for a special **Mission Mass on Thursday, 20th March, at 9.30 am in the school hall**. All welcome! Also, as part of the week's events, we are holding a 'No Electricity Day' on Tuesday 18th March, as we endeavour to walk with our brothers and sisters around the world for whom electricity is an unimaginable luxury. Please sponsor us as we raise money for CAFOD by spending a day in school with no electricity – even our lunches will be prepared without it! Sponsor forms at the back of church, or call into school for further details. *Thank you.*

St Vincent de Paul Society 1) **Would all members please note that our monthly meeting will be held on 18th March at 7.30 pm, at 2 Brooklands Drive.**

2) Our prime minister, David Cameron, has recognised the SVP with a Big Society Award. He said "The SVP Society turns concern into action. The Society's incredible number of volunteers built on a 200 year history of lending a practical hand to support those in need. I am delighted to recognise all 10,000 SVP volunteers and the staff who support them to do their vital work, with this Big Society Award." The SVP respond by saying that the "big society" is nothing new to us, but we are grateful for the formal recognition.

3) The SVP Lenten Food Appeal – There is a revised list on green paper of the things that are useful for the Appeal.

Hummingbirds Car Wash Morning- Hummingbirds Nursery are holding a car wash morning on Sunday 30th March in the School yard during the 10.30 am Mass. Washing will start a from 10 am, if you fancy a bright sparkling car for Mothers Day then pop your car along. £5.00 per car.

Parish Draw - £20 subscriptions are due for renewal. Agents will be collecting them from those who do not pay by standing order, or they may be left at the presbytery. Very grateful thanks to Mary Mason who has volunteered to become an agent. A list of 2013/14 winners (on gold coloured paper) is displayed at the back of church.

Castlerigg Manor – There are always events for our young people at Castlerigg Manor. There are some leaflets at the back of church to look at, and to find out more, call 01768 772711, email team@castleriggmanor.co.uk, or visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.

World Youth Day 2016 at Krakow – A coach and accommodation have been reserved for July 2016. The visit will cost no more than £750 per person, including World Youth Day fee and some ‘days in the Diocese’. There are 50 places available, so a quick reply is needed if you want to save places. Open to age year 11 and above. Details available on Castlerigg website.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 23rd March, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Previously Published Items

“My Day by Day” for Lent. These booklets are available from the back of church for children who do not attend SS Mary & Michael’s School but would like a copy.

Mass Intentions – We have had new Mass Intention Envelopes printed. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention, please use one of the envelopes (wage-packet-size) that you will find at the back of church. Hand in the completed envelope in the collection basket, or hand it in at the presbytery. We will do our best to offer the Mass at the time and date you prefer, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Garstang Musical Productions are producing “The Awards Show” from **30th April – 3rd May at 7.30 pm at Garstang Community Academy**. Tickets £8. Contact 01995 606603, or Mary Bateson (604 203). See poster at back of church.

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, 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: Edward Horn (Elizabeth’s brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O’Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, Anthonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley (Brian’s brother), Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Davies, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Paula Nicholson, 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 15th – Sunday 22nd March 2014

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| Sat | 15 th | 6.30 pm (Vigil) | Father John Conway |
| Sun | 16 th | 8.30 am | All Our Parishioners |
| | | 10.30 am | Maryrose Preston (First Anniversary) |
| Mon | 17 th | No Mass | |
| Tues | 18 th | 9.30 am | Service of the Word with Holy Communion |
| Wed | 19 th | 7.00 pm | Joe and Rose Murphy |
| Thurs | 20 th | 9.30 am | Michael & Linda Ronayne (in the school hall) |
| Fri | 21 st | 9.30 am | Hugh & André Ferguson |
| Sat | 22 nd | 9.30 am | Service of the Word with Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 pm (Vigil) | Dorothy Kelsall (3 rd Anniversary) |
| Sun | 23 rd | 8.30 am | Canon O’Dwyer |
| | | 10.30 am | Thomas and Eleanor Bolton (Anniversary) |

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

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| Wed | 19 th | 6.45 pm | Rosary |
| Fri | 21 st | 10.00 am | No Exposition |
| | | 06.30 pm | Stations of the Cross |
| Sat | 22 nd | 10.00 am | No Confessions |

Special Days this Week:

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| Sun | 16 th | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT |
| Mon | 17 th | St Patrick |
| Wed | 19 th | St Joseph |
| Sun | 23 rd | THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – Mission Appeal |

Meetings this Week:

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| Tues | 18 th | 6.30 pm | 1 st Eucharist Preparation (Session 2) |
| | | 7.30 pm | SVP – at 2 Brooklands Drive |
| Wed | 19 th | 7.30 pm | Parish Development Group |
| | | 7.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| Thurs | 20 th | 7.30 pm | Evangelium (15) – “Grace & the Beatitudes” |
| | | 7.30 pm | Journey in Faith |

Last Week’s Attendance:

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| Sat | 8 th | 6.30 pm (Vigil) | Adults: 102 | Children: 3 |
| Sun | 9 th | 8.30 am | Adults: 57 | Children: 15 |
| | | 10.30 am | Adults: 140 | Children: 29 |
| | | | Total: 352 | |

Monies Received: Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,209.76; Votive Lights: £68.50; Shop: £20; Roof Fund: £80; Tea Money: £100. *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 the United Reformed Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.