

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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**15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**



Today's gospel passage is often referred to as the Parable of the Talents. Perhaps the most important word in the story is not the word 'talent' but the word 'entrusted'.

The talents of the servants, their abilities, were **entrusted** to them by the master.

The special gifts or skills or abilities which God our Father has entrusted to everyone have been given for a purpose – to build the kingdom of heaven!

As we fast approach the end of the Church's year and the beginning of a New Year, the Church wants us to reflect on the contribution we have made (or not made), in the last year, to the building of the kingdom.

We may be able to remember things we have done, events towards which we have contributed, that have had a really positive influence. We may be able to remember things we have done which didn't help to build the kingdom. There may be a lot more times when we stood on the sidelines and just didn't make the effort to build God's kingdom – apathy!

As we look back and notice, now is the time to give thanks to God for when we have been able to help to make the world a better place. We may notice times when we have been very critical of others, when we have acted in a way that actually damaged God's kingdom of love and peace – we may have to try to put these things right, to say 'sorry' or to ask for the grace to be true disciples of Jesus. We may begin to notice how disengaged we have been and how we have been too interested in our own agendas to try to live as the disciples of Jesus and work to build the kingdom of heaven.

As we approach Advent, a time of preparing to celebrate the coming of the Son of God into our needy world, we might be hearing God's invitation to us, to turn back to our vocation as Christians to bring love, peace and justice to our world.

### New items and information

**This Sunday** is a Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their dependents. Prisoners' week is from 16<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November. We will be holding the PACT collection for Prisoners' Sunday which should have been on 12<sup>th</sup> October, but was postponed to coincide with this weekend.

**Confirmation Preparation** On Pentecost Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Bishop Michael will be confirming young people in Years 9 & 10 at the Cathedral in Lancaster. Preparation begins this week, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm. It is very important that if you wish to be confirmed that you attend all the preparation sessions. So far, only 13, out of a possible 33, candidates have notified us that they intend to begin the preparation. If you wish to be confirmed next year, please make sure that you are at this first preparation session.

**Whist & Domino Drive** this Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2 pm till 4 pm, in the Plessington Chapel. All welcome.

**Traidcraft** Thank you to those who placed orders from the catalogue. We have made £41.44 profit which is being passed to the Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. There are still a few items in the church shop, the sales of which will also support Chivuna clinic. If anyone wishes to purchase Traidcraft or other Fairtrade items before the Traidcraft Spring catalogue is out, please visit The Mustard Seed next to the Methodist Church on Park Hill Road, where they have a wide selection of goods.

*Helen Spencer*

**Saturday Nov 29<sup>th</sup>**: An Advent preparation for Christmas for parishioners led by Fr Joe Smith (a retired priest of the Leeds diocese and retreat giver). It will begin with the parish Mass in church at 9.30am and end with a simple lunch at 1pm. As we will be using the Plessington Chapel we have limited numbers to 25. The morning will include a mixture of scripture, discussion, prayer and reflection on our own experiences. Please do consider taking part – contact Jean Andrews (603802) or Frank Miller (604030) if you wish to attend. There will be no charge for this event but donations will be gratefully accepted.

**Hummingbirds Manchester Christmas Markets Coach Trip** Hummingbirds are organising a coach to the Manchester Christmas Markets on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Leaving from outside church at 1 pm and returning into Garstang at 9 pm. Enjoy the Markets and shop at leisure. Only £12 per seat. To book seats please call Katie Latham on 07799 826893.

**A Musical Celebration of Christmas** by the June Baker Singers will take place here in church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. Please book the date, for a very enjoyable evening. All proceeds to the L'Arche Community in Preston for their new development. Tickets available soon.

### Previously Published Items

**Journey in Faith (RCIA) 2014 – 2015** – The new Journey in Faith programme has started. Meetings are every Thursday at 7.15pm in the presbytery behind the church. We are here to welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic and who wants to find out more about the Catholic faith, and any enquirers are invited to come along to the meetings.

**FOUND IN CAR PARK** – Nissan car key fob. If you have lost yours, ask at the Presbytery.

**Did you know...** CAFOD's Ebola Crisis Appeal has raised more than £250,000? With your support, our local Church partners can do crucial work to stop the spread of Ebola by educating people about the risks, providing essential hygiene kits and ensuring that burials are carried out safely and with dignity. 56p provides a bar of soap and £16 a life-saving hygiene kit for a family of eight. Our partners are also delivering food to quarantined areas and to villages where people haven't been able to farm. Infection rates are continuing to grow, which is why it's vital that we act now.

**St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster, Book of Remembrance** – A Book of Remembrance is being compiled of those who died in World Wars 1 & 2. If any members of your family lived in the Cathedral parish in those times who were numbered among the fallen and you would be willing to share information or memories, please contact Jane Latin on 01524 412987. It is also hoped that a permanent wall memorial will be put up to commemorate these men; if you would be willing to make a donation towards this, please express your interest.

**Month of the Holy Souls** – During November, our Book of the Names of the Dead is placed before the Altar and those whose names you have written in the Book will be remembered at every Mass offered in our church.

**Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster** – All Ladies from our parish are invited to the Annual Day of Prayer and Reflection for Advent, which will be held at The Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan Residence, Garstang Road, Preston, on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014, from 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. For further information, contact Sue Gornall on 01772 715495 or email [Suegoegornall@aol.com](mailto:Suegoegornall@aol.com). See poster at back of church, and there are also some booking forms at the back of church.

**CAFOD Lancaster Mass of Remembrance** – will be held at 11 am on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014 at St Anne's Catholic Church, Westby Mills, Westby, PR4 3PL. If you would like loved ones remembered at the Mass, there are forms at the back of church to fill in and post.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 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:** Mary Coope, Peter Cole, Madge Holliday, John Francis Rigby, Stephanie McDonald, Tony Hickey, Bernard Watson, William Haydock Barton, Frank Blessing, Cuthbert Billington and Edward Storey. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Sheila Murphy, Elaine Lamoury (Henry's sister-in-law), 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, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Wilf Rainford, 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 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**

Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Ignatius and Agnes Bullen
Sun	16 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	William and Anne Swarbrick
		10.30 am	Peter Cole (Anniversary)
Mon	17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Deanery Mass for the deceased priests and people of St. Peter's Deanery <b>at Lancaster Cathedral</b>
Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	George Gidlow (Anniversary)
Thurs	20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Tom and Ian Cookson
Fri	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Deceased Members of the Cole and Fleming Families
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Rosemary Davies
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am	Agnes and Bob Thompson
		10.30 am	Private Intention

### **Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	21 <sup>st</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Confessions</b>	(RCIA Training at Liverpool)

### **Special Days this Week:**

Fri	21 <sup>st</sup>	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	St Cecilia
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

### **Meetings this Week:**

Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith with Enquirers

### **Last Week's Attendance:**

Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 100	Children : 3
Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 77	Children: 16
		10.30 am	Adults: 99	Children: 16
			Total:	311

**Monies Received:** Offertory: £1,238.07; Votive Lights: £62.90; Shop: £30.00; Donation: Hymn Books £1,271.88; Postcards: £1.00. *Many thanks to you all.*

### **Churches Together in Garstang & District**

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