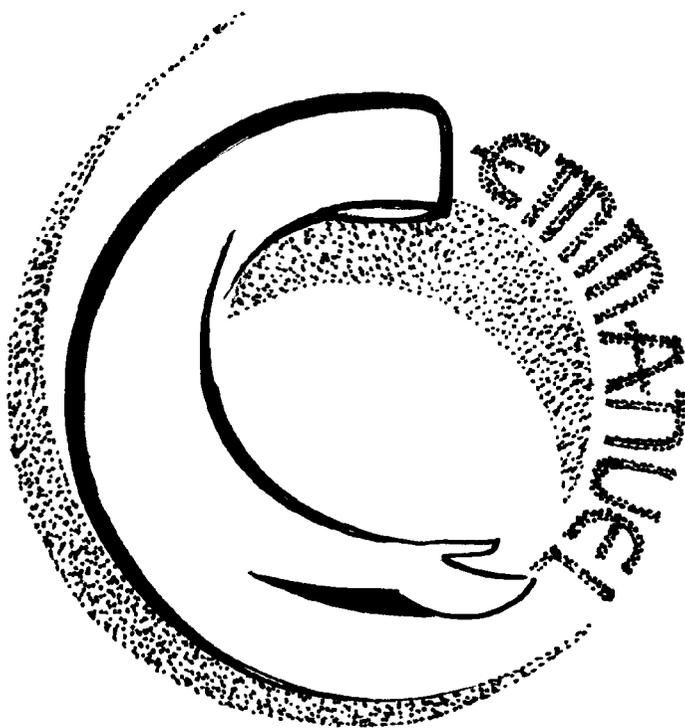


**St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church
Garstang and Calder Vale**

A Parish of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity, no. 234331
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17th / 18th December 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (YEAR A)



“The Lord himself therefore will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.” Is 7:14

New items and information

Collection for Flowers for Christmas – We know that the demands on your purses and wallets at this time of year is very great, and there are many deserving causes as well to which we are asked to donate. Having said that, the cost of flowers for decorating our church is great, and if you are able to donate even a small amount after both Masses this weekend, this will help to defray the cost. **Thank you.**

Greenery for Christmas Flowers – Once again, we will need as much greenery as can be spared for our Christmas flower arrangements. Please can you leave contributions by the back door to the Presbytery on Thursday, 22nd December, afternoon/evening, ready for the **Flower Arranging** on Friday morning, 23rd December, starting at 9.30 am. We would be grateful for any help we can get on that morning – if you can spare an hour or two, even if you have never flower arranged before, and just want to help with the clearing up, you will be very welcome.

If you have any extra greenery for decorating the church please could you leave it at the back door of the Presbytery for Christmas Eve. **Church decorating** will take place on Christmas Eve, (Saturday) starting from 1.30 pm. **There will be refreshments afterwards.** **Thank you to everyone who supported Hummingbirds Raffle & Christmas Fair** – We raised a *fantastic* £1,158.

Cenacolo – Thank you to Father Tom for inviting Reece and Titsiano to give their brave and remarkable testimonies concerning their past lives. Thank you to you all for helping to raise the *incredible* sum of **£1,045** for fresh food for the young men at Cenacolo. We spend about £60 every five or six weeks so this will see us through a year or two. If anybody requires further information regarding Cenacolo, please ring Pat and Jim Costain on 01995 605 793.

Did you know...the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has decided to launch an appeal for Yemen where there has been a 20-month long bloody civil war? CAFOD is supporting a partner in Yemen and, as a member of the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), we support our DEC colleagues who have a strong operational presence in Yemen and are well placed to reach vulnerable families most in need. We hope and pray that the human suffering will end. Let us continue to keep the people of Yemen in our thoughts and prayers.

Previously Published Items

Stars at Christmas 2016 – Our thoughts at Christmas inevitably involve the people we have loved but sadly have lost. For some years it has been the custom in our parish to hang stars in church, marked individually with the name or names of those dear to us, so that they can be the focus of our prayers at this special time. There is no charge for the stars, but should you care to make a charitable donation – say 50p – it would, as always, help to support the poor people of Chivuna in Zambia. Stars will be available this weekend, 17th December 2016.

Castlerigg Manor are looking for young volunteers to join the gap-year team from January to Summer 2017. This is a life-changing opportunity to live in community and work with young people, transforming their lives through encounter with Christ. We are looking for young people aged 18+ with a commitment to their faith and a desire to share

this with other young people. See www.castleriggmanor.co.uk or email team@castleriggmanor.co.uk for more details.

Catenian Rosary Appeal for the Missions – The Catenian Rosary Group is appealing for unused rosaries for the missions. If you have any unused rosaries you could donate, please bring them to the presbytery; we will see that they get passed on to the right people.

Crib Offerings – The offerings will be sent to *Friends of the Holy Land*. The *Friends of the Holy Land* are focusing on the needs of the poorest Christian families in and around Bethlehem, elsewhere in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and helping Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan. Their work covers support with education, employment, health and housing.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 25th December can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Joan Norcross, Josephine Black, Helena Holland, Ann Nugent, Jack Singleton, Ada Rawlinson, Annie Cusack, Mary Grayston, Margaret Nixon, John Francis Green, Thomas Leo Horn, Doris Mary Wilson, Keith Barton and Kathleen Boden. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Oliver (8 years old), Neil Edmondson, Christine Cobain; John Holland, Ros Drake; Fr Joe Duggan SJ, Allan Whipp, Theresa Harrison, Margaret Hibberdine, Billy (5 years old), Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Craig Smith, Leo Rabbett, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, Rod Pearson, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (he has responded well to brain tumour treatment, even able to move up to secondary school this year. The family appreciates your prayers and asks that they continue as he is not out of the woods yet), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford and Alison Green. *(When people whose names are on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*



Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 17th – Sunday 25th December 2016

Sat	17 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Eve Graham (Anniversary)
Sun	18 th	10.00 am	Beatrice Turner
Mon	19 th	No Mass	
Tue	20 th	12 noon	John Sweeney (LD)
Wed	21 st	7.00 pm	Maurice Iddon (Birthday)
Thurs	22 nd	9.30 pm	Hugh and André Ferguson (RIP)
Fri	23 rd	9.30 am	Brian Flood (RIP)
Sat	24 th	No 9.30 am Mass	
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Michael Sturzaker (RIP)
Sun	25 th	Midnight	Reverend John Horn
		10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	21 st	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	23 rd	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition

Special Days this week:

Sun	18 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sat	24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE
Sun	25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Meetings this Week:

Wed	23 rd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	11 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 123	Children: 3
		10.00 am	Adults: 136	Children: 23 Total: 285

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,065.89; Funerals: £1,200; Cemetery: £120.

Many thanks to you all.

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in December here at SS Mary & Michael's.

Hymns at the 10 am Mass:

Entrance:	113	The Angel Gabriel
Kyrie:	936	Look around you
Gospel Acc.:	72	Stay awake, be ready (verse 1)
Offertory:	631	Bread of life
Sanctus:	576	German Mass
Great Amen:	578	German Mass
Communion:	929	O Lord, hear my prayer
	112	O come, O come Emmanuel
Recessional:	107	The King of glory comes