

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 JANUARY 2015

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



As we move into a new year, John the Baptist points Jesus out to John's own disciples: "Look, there is the Lamb of God!"

Perhaps more out of curiosity than anything else, Andrew and another disciple of John's (we are not told his name), follow Jesus. He turns and sees them following him. "What do you want?" asks Jesus.

The two have no idea what they want from Jesus. "Where do you live?" Andrew asks Jesus. Jesus doesn't give them his address – he hasn't got one. ("The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head," Jesus later tells his disciples.) What Jesus does is to invite Andrew and his friend to join Jesus, "Come and see."

The two take up the invitation and stay with Jesus for the rest of that day. What happens revolutionises their lives. All we know is that by the next day, they know that they have met the Messiah, the Saviour, the One that the world has been waiting for, for centuries.

At the beginning of 2015, Jesus is inviting us to "Come and see." He is inviting us to come and spend quality time with him in order to watch and listen to him – then we can make up our own minds about who Jesus is to us.

This is a new invitation. Jesus has new things to show us about himself, things that we have never known or noticed before. We don't know what to expect – like Andrew and his friend – we need to just follow Jesus. He will see us, he will turn and look straight at us and ask "What do you want?"

Maybe, like the disciples, we will say: "I don't know Lord. I just know that my life needs something or somebody."

"I have followed you before, Lord. But I got distracted with so many things, and I kind of lost sight of you."

"Come again and see," says Jesus.

What will we do? Will we once again go with Jesus and spend time with him, or will we say to ourselves: "What's the point? We've been through all this before." To humbly acknowledge how much we still need Jesus, and to re-commit ourselves to spending quality time with him, needs a deep trust and belief in Jesus – as well as a curiosity.

We move into 2015 in this spirit of need, in the belief that I can never spend enough time with my Lord. There is always so much more that Jesus wants to share with me.

New items and information

This Sunday is Peace Sunday – the 48th World Day for Peace. There will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend to support Pax Christi who are working very hard for the abolition of slavery, and to promote peace in our world. Please be as generous as you are able to help this dedicated organisation, who see slavery as being linked to issues of poverty, indebtedness and conflict, as many people are forced by the violence of war to leave everything behind and seek refuge elsewhere. *Thank you.*

Father David thanks everyone for their generous Christmas offerings; the total was £1,305.84.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist – The preliminary meeting of parents and catechists will take place this Tuesday, 20th January, 7.35 pm in the Plessington Chapel.

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting is this Tuesday, 20th January, 7.30 pm, at 2, Brooklands Drive.

Synod of Bishops 2015 – There will be a second session of the Synod this autumn, with the theme "The Call, The Journey, and The Mission". If you have any views on marriage and family life which you would like to be considered, please talk to Father David.

Whist & Domino Drive – the next session is on Monday, 19th January, from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. All welcome.

Prayer Time and Space – Tuesday 20th January at 7.40 pm (after evening Mass) in the Presbytery dining room. This will be a time for Praise, Scripture and quiet Prayer for no longer than one hour. All welcome.

Sunday Mass Times – For some time now, the bishop has been encouraging parishes to reduce the number of Sunday Masses as the availability of priests decreases with retirement. When Bishop O'Donoghue instructed that the 8.30 am Mass at Calder Vale be discontinued in 20?? he didn't expect us to transfer that Mass to Bonds. He asked that it be reviewed in 12 months with a view to discontinuing. Bishop Michael has asked me on a couple of occasions what the outcome of the review has been. Our Liturgy & Spirituality Group did this review before Christmas, and at their most recent meeting recommended a change.

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).

Children's Liturgy – There is a real need for more helpers for the Children's Liturgy Team. There is a rota – the more volunteers we have, the less frequently you would have to be involved. There is lots of helpful literature, and volunteers work in teams of two or more, so you would not be alone. *Please could you help?*

New Hymn Books – A full set of the newest edition of Laudate has been very kindly purchased for the parish by a parishioner. We are most grateful. The original set of hymn books were dedicated by the parishioners who paid for them. When the new hymn books are introduced, we would like to offer the old ones to the people who dedicated them, for your personal use.

Many thanks to all those who came and supported the June Baker Concert (19th December) which, despite a lot of ill health, was a very beautiful celebration of Christmas. A total of £400 (including donations) was raised for the L'Arche new development project in the old presbytery of English Martyrs Church, Preston.

Stars at Christmas – Thank you to everyone who bought stars this Christmas – a total of £122.79 was raised for Chivuna.

Tabor – A programme of events is available from the back of the church.

Day of Renewal – “Discipleship – a New way of living” on Saturday 7th February, from 10am – 4pm at St Clare’s Church Parish Hall, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood. For further information contact Rev. Bernard Loveland on 015395 63391.

The Diocese of Lancaster Education Service invites tenders to carry out research into the provision of Education in Human Sexuality in Diocesan Schools. Phase 1 is an exercise of evidence gathering and research with a view to collating evidence of the current provision for Education in Human Sexuality in schools of the Diocese of Lancaster and comparing existing provision against diocesan and government requirements. It is anticipated that this will require about 20 days’ work over two months. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Hilary Harling by email secretary@lancasterdiocese.org.uk or by telephone on 01524 841190. Applications must be received by 30th January; please see Fr David for a copy of the Invitation to Tender.

Catholic Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships 2015 – 2016 – There are eight internships for a year’s intensive experience of political and social action in a spiritual context. If you are a current final year undergraduate or recent graduate and a committed Catholic with outstanding academic credentials, and are interested in finding out more, take a look at the poster at the back of church (grey and white), and see Father David about getting an application form. Closing date for applications is 5th March.

A visit to the Shrine at Medjugorje 5th – 12th September 2015. £520 per person sharing; £620 in single room. See poster at back of church for details.

Previously Published Items

Catholic Women’s League Members – The next branch meeting is on Saturday, 31st January, at the Crofters Hotel, beginning with lunch 12 noon. Subscriptions (kept at £19) are due; as are 200 club subs (£4). Please let me know if you hope to attend. *Philippa Catterall.*

St Vincent de Paul Society – Appeal for warm clothing – now that winter is here we have replaced the box at the back of church, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks, duvets, etc will once more be gratefully received, and they will be taken to Caritas Care who work with ex-offenders and homeless people in Preston. *Thank you very much – your help is very much appreciated. SVP Conference.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 25th January, 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: David Trevor Orr, Tom Thompson, Thomas Henry (Harry) Horn, Ann Swarbrick, Thomas F McNicholas, Jim Bamber, Belle Metcalf, Thomas Bamber and Hugh Grimbaldeston. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Dina Carter, Joan Fishwick, Richard (aged 14, needs 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, Ruth Fairey, 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 17th – Sunday 24th January 2015

Sat	17 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Winifred Joyce Madden
Sun	18 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Watson & Knowles Families
Mon	19 th	No Mass	
Tues	20 th	7.00 pm	Holy Souls
Wed	21 st	7.00 pm	Wilf Rainford
Thurs	22 nd	9.30 am	Peter Andrews
Fri	23 rd	9.30 am	John Hoole (Lately Dead)
Sat	24 th	9.30 am	John Thomas Graham
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Mary Agnes Ibison
Sun	25 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	21 st	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	16 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	17 th	No Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Sun	18 th	Day of Prayer for Peace
Wed	21 st	St Agnes
Sat	24 th	St Francis de Sales

Meetings this Week:

Tues	20 th	7.30 pm	SVP (at 2, Brooklands Drive)
		7.35 pm	1 st Eucharist preliminary Meeting of Parents & Catechists
		7.40 pm	Prayer Time and Space in Presbytery Dining Room)
Wed	21 st	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	22 nd	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	10 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 115	Children : 8
Sun	11 th	8.30 am	Adults: 44	Children: 2
		10.30 am	Adults: 102	Children: 30 Total: 301

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,128.99; Coffee Mornings & Whist & Dominos Donations: £200; Votive Lights: £54.20; Shop: £25; Postcards: 50p. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in January at St Thomas’s. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.