

New items and information

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 May 2014

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

St. Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, led the followers of Jesus from being individual disciples into being 'the Church'. Jesus had said to Peter: 'You are Peter, and on this Rock I will build my Church!' This commission, given by Jesus to the first Pope, was to build this peculiar body called 'the Church'.

In the two letters of St. Peter in the New Testament, we find Peter encouraging the Church 'to stand firm in hardship and difficulty'. Today, in the second reading, Peter tells his listeners:

*'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people set apart,
to sing the praises of God,
who called you out of darkness into his own wonderful light!'*

This is the Church. This is the Church which had forgotten for many centuries what Peter had proclaimed. It was only fifty years ago that the Church, inspired by the Holy Spirit, remembered what Peter had taught, when the world's Bishops at the Second Vatican Council, defined the Church as: a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people set apart as the People of God; this was written in the second great document, 'Lumen Gentium', and published by the Bishops of the Council at the end of 1964.

Today we remember the excitement and the joy of the Church as she reclaimed her true purpose:

*a chosen race
a royal priesthood
a holy nation
a people set apart
to be the People of God.*

Suddenly, the Church realised that the Church was never just the priests, the bishops and the Pope, but the Church was the People!!! The cry went up from the laity – put down for centuries:

*we are a chosen race – chosen by God!
we are a royal priesthood – the priesthood of all God's people!
we are a holy nation – God is calling us all to holiness!
we are a people set apart- all of us, women, men and children!
we are the People of God – God's chosen ones!*

Suddenly the laity had a role, they had a place in God's plan, given to them at baptism! Their role, through the Priesthood of the Laity, their Universal Priesthood, was to proclaim to the world that Jesus is Lord! At last, we were all one, people and ordained priests together, our mission was to change the world with love, God's love!

Don't ever let us forget this, ever again!

Note of Appreciation to Manus Adamson and Tony McCall, who have retired from the Parish Development Group. For many years, Tony has served faithfully as Minutes Secretary and Manus served faithfully as Chair. Both have made an enormous contribution to the life of our parish. *Thank you both, and blessings be upon you.*

Crowning of the Statue of our Lady in the Grotto Next Sunday, would the children who are making their First Holy Communion this Sunday, please come to the 10.30 am Mass. After Mass the children will lead us to the Grotto, where one of the children will place a crown of flowers on the head of the statue of Mary – weather permitting!

Baptism next Sunday, at 12.15 pm, of baby Reuben Bray.

Whist and Domino Drive – The next date is this Monday, 19th May, from 2 pm – 4 pm in the Plessington Chapel. Everyone welcome; beginners and accomplished alike. £2 entrance fee includes refreshments of tea/coffee and cake.

St Vincent de Paul Society – There will be a meeting this coming Tuesday in the Plessington Chapel. A member of the Caritas Care Team will be coming in to speak with us beginning at 7.30 pm.

Cathy's Skydive – Cathy successfully accomplished her skydive last Sunday when, thanks to a fortuitous window of opportunity in the overall poor weather conditions, she emerged from the clouds triumphant. The amount for which she was sponsored is estimated to be in excess of £1,400, a magnificent achievement. Please ensure that all sponsor promises are honoured as soon as possible; your contributions may be handed in after each weekend Mass.

Cake Sale for Chivuna – Next weekend, 24th/25th May, there will be a cake sale after the 6.30 pm Mass and after the 10.30 am Mass. The proceeds will go towards helping those in Chivuna, Zambia. There will also be aprons for sale, which were made by the people of Chivuna, and pottery for sale, which was kindly donated by a parishioner. Any donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated. Please could these be dropped off before Mass. *Thank you – Cathy Place.*

Did you know.....In Namibia, last year, after a second year of failed rains, almost half the population of 2.3 million experienced crop failure and food shortages? It was the worst drought that the country had experienced for 30 years. Over the last few months, **CAFOD** has worked with our Church partner, **Caritas Namibia** to distribute food, including beans, rice, cooking oil and sugar, to ensure that people have enough to eat. We have particularly targeted those who are most vulnerable – including widows, older people and unemployed people.

Previously Published Items

Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster – There is a day conference entitled "Young People in the Church: Challenge and Hope" to be led by Simon Stewart, Neal Gilbride and James Budzynski-Seymour, at the Cathedral Social Centre, Lancaster, on Saturday 7th June from 10 am – 3.30 pm. For further information see poster at back of church, or contact 01772 715 495 or 01253 733 985.

Loaves and Fishes around Morecambe Bay – Bishop Michael Campbell will participate in an ecumenical Blessing on the Beach on Monday 9th June at 12 noon in which church leaders from around Morecambe Bay will bless freshly caught fish and newly baked bread and join together with local people in a picnic on the foreshore and promenade. **CAFOD** will be there and hope you can join them for this unique occasion. You can email the organisers on loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to participate.

We were informed last week that the milk bottle top collection has now ceased, thank you to everyone for your help.

Date for your Diaries: Tuesday, 10th June from 2 pm – 4 pm – An Afternoon Tea Fundraiser will be held in the Presbytery Garden. Further information will be given nearer the date.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 25th May, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please remember in your prayers All the children who are making their First Holy Communion this Sunday.

Please pray for The United Reform Church in Garstang as they elect a new Minister. They have been without a Minister for some considerable time.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Dick Edge, Frank Eastham, Jane Delaney, Joseph Hodgson, Ann Mary Swarbrick and Thomas Richardson.. *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 Carrol, Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth's brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O'Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, 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.*)

The Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass can be found at the back of the hymn books:
"The Lord is my Shepherd"

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 17th – Sunday 25th May 2014

Sat	17 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Miss Susan Martin
Sun	18 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Bernadette Paton
Mon	19 th	No Mass	
Tues	20 th	12 noon	Maureen Donnelly (Lately Dead)
Wed	21 st	9.30 am (note time)	Charles & Mary MacKenzie (Anniversary)
Thurs	22 nd	7.00 pm (note time)	Ellen O'Brien
Fri	23 rd	8.00 am (note time)	Ethel Kenyon
Sat	24 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.30 pm	Timothy Richardson
Sun	25 th	8.30 am	Living Members of the Broughton Catholic Charitable Society
		10.30 am	Owen & Daniel Hopkins (Confirmation)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	18 th	10.30 am	First Eucharist
Wed	21 st	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	23 rd	No Exposition	
Sat	24 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Sun	18 th	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – FIRST EUCHARIST
Sun	25 th	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meetings this Week:

Tues	20 th	7.30 pm	St Vincent de Paul Society
Wed	21 st	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	22 nd	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	3 rd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 98	Children: 2	
Sun	4 th	8.30 am	Adults: 55	Children: 12	
		10.30 am	Adults: 122	Children: 34	Total: 323

Monies Received: Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,058.94; Good Shepherd Special Collection: £292.86 First Holy Communion Ties: £36; Wedding: £350; Donation: £10; Shop: £55; Votive Lights: £30.70; Photocopying: £5. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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