

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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18th / 19th APRIL 2015 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER



“In his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

The Jews did not have a mission to preach to all the nations; their mission was to their own Jewish nation. Their mission was to help all Jews appreciate and worship the God who had chosen them to be the people of the promised land.

The mission that Jesus was now giving to his Jewish friends was mind-blowing, it was revolutionary. There was to be no distinction between Jew and non-Jew. Jesus did want the mission to begin with the Jews – that was what he meant when he said “beginning from Jerusalem”. But the mission of Jesus to bring “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” was not to be restricted to Jerusalem – it was for everyone! It was for “all the nations” – for all the Gentiles, for all non-Jews. Jesus was telling his disciples, the early Church, that their mission was to the whole world! It was to be universal, it was to be catholic, it was to include everyone!

And the message was simple:

“God loves you
and Jesus, his son,
forgives you
all the wrong
you have done!”

This wasn't about an inward-looking society, intent upon establishing a strong identity and structure. It wasn't about forming a society in opposition or in contrast to the Jewish nation. This was all about what this new group was to do; it was about their very *raison d'être*, their purpose for being!

They were to proclaim God's loving forgiveness, God's loving acceptance of all peoples. The only law that these people had to keep was to love God and to love one another; they were to be a loving community, they were to be identified by their love and their forgiveness and acceptance, in Jesus' name, for all nations. This soon became a reality, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Within months of the Resurrection, people were in amazement and wonder as they saw what was happening: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another ... By this all men will know that you are my disciples." *Jn 13:35*.

New items and information

St Vincent de Paul Society – The next meeting of the SVP will be held at 7.30 pm this coming Tuesday, 21st April at 2, Brooklands Drive.

Also, thank you from the SVP for the Maundy Money, which amounted to £261.

Evangelium – The very last session is being held this Thursday, 23rd April 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Plessington Chapel. The theme for this last presentation is “Mary and the Four Last Things”. (No, this is *not* a concert.) *All are welcome*.

Next Weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, and the World Day of Prayer for

Vocations. All the faithful are invited to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. To respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd is to come close to the heart of God. There is nothing more fulfilling than a life lived close to the heart of God. If you feel called to the priesthood, then why not join us on our next discovery weekend 8th – 10th May 2015. See the poster for details, or speak to your parish priest, or contact one of the vocations team.

“Pause for Thought” is the name for the Ecumenical Shoppers' Service which is held every Thursday in the Garstang Methodist Church at 12.15 pm. It lasts just a little longer than half-an-hour, and gives a little time for spiritual uplift in a hectic week. The Ministers of all the churches in Garstang & District take it in turns to lead the service. This coming Thursday, 23rd, D'arcy will be officiating.

A Gift Aid Tax Reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify me if you are no longer a tax payer, or you paid insufficient tax during 2014/15 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year; at the present standard rate of tax of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1 donated. *Colin Swarbrick*.

CAFOD – Did you know...from the match-funded monies of the Lent 2015 appeal, CAFOD hopes to transform the lives of thousands of poor small-holder farmers in Bangladesh, Kenya, Myanmar and Zimbabwe? Whole communities will benefit from increasing the productivity and resilience of agricultural systems, with advice and training on alternate crops and rearing livestock. Better quality and quantity of food in local markets will have the knock-on effect of improving the local economic development. CAFOD's partnership approach ensures that local knowledge and skills are driving the ideas and solutions which underpin this entire project. We have received a letter from CAFOD thanking us for the £214.68 which was collected in the Lent Fast Day envelopes.

Collection Envelope Boxes – There are still several named boxes of envelopes awaiting collection from the back of church. If you normally use envelopes for your donations, please pick them up.

Castlerigg Manor requires an experienced leader with a passion for helping young people grow in the Catholic faith to take up a live-in post as Retreat Leader for July/August 2015. Could this be for you? For more details and a job description, contact Ruth Corless, Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick, CA12 4AR. Telephone: 01768 772 711. Or visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk. Closing date for applications is Friday, 1st May 2015. (See poster at back of church.)

Previously Published Items

Counters' Rota – If you are a counter, there is a copy of the new Rota to collect from the Sacristy.

Faith and Justice – We still need someone to form a new Faith and Justice Group in the Parish. If you feel this could be for you, but do not know what it might entail, please contact Father David for more information.

'Riders for Health' is a small charity doing big things delivering healthcare to outlying rural areas in Africa. It provides health workers with motorcycles and training to access remote areas. The workers provide daily regular healthcare to 14 million people. The charity needs support to fund fuel, protective clothing, training and maintenance for the local couriers to cover vast areas of harsh terrain.

Next weekend, on 26th April, I am running the **London Marathon** to raise funds for this charity, and your support would be very welcome. There are sponsor forms at the back of church, or donate online at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FrankMiller>. Thank you. *Frank Miller*.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 26th April, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Preston who died last Wednesday, 15th April. Her Funeral Mass will take place next Thursday, 23rd April, at 2.00 pm, here at SS Mary & Michael's Church, followed by interment at St. Mary's, Salmesbury. ***May she rest in peace.***

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Winifride Nickson, Margaret Towers, William Rawlinson, Fr Gerald Bilborrow, Jim Walmsley, Tom Gorton, William McCall, Jane Ann Wareing, Henry Tower, Harold Rawlinson, Margaret Horn, Isabel Clarke and Monica Stansfield. ***May they rest in peace.***

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Lucienne Ferguson, Maurice Iddon, Josie Maddock, Dina Carter, Richard (aged 14, has had 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, 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 and Alison Green. ***(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)***

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 18th – Sunday 25th April 2015

Sat	18 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Shelagh & Peter Cooney – 40 th Wedding Anniversary
Sun	19 th	10.00 am	James Walmsley (Anniversary)
Mon	20 th	No Mass	
Tues	21 st	12 noon	Pauline (Lately Dead)
Wed	22 nd	7.00 pm	Michael Ronayne Senior (Anniversary)
Thurs	23 rd	2.00 pm	Funeral Mass for Joan Preston
Fri	24 th	9.30 am	Annie and Jerome Grayston (Start of term Mass in School Hall)
Sat	25 th	8.30 am (note time)	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy
Sun	26 th	10.00 am	Maurice Iddon (Sick)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	22 nd	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	24 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	25 th	No Confessions	

Special Days this Week:

Sun	19 th	Third Sunday of Easter
Tues	21 st	St Anselm
Thurs	23 rd	ST GEORGE
Fri	24 th	St Adalbert; St Fidelis of Sigmaringen
Sat	25 th	ST MARK

Meetings this Week:

Tues	21 st	6.30 pm	1 st Eucharistic Preparation (with Parents) (5)
		7.30 pm	SVP at 2, Brooklands Drive
Weds	22 nd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	23 rd	7.30 pm	Evangelium

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	11 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 134	Children: 6	
Sun	12 th	10.00 am	Adults: 93	Children: 22	Total: 255

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,023.75; Votive Lights: £27.50; Shop: £20; Tea Money: £80; Photocopying: £5; Funeral: £600. ***Many thanks to you all.***

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in April here, at SS Mary Michael. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.