

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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19th / 20th April 2014 EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR A)



Many people saw him die.

No-one saw him rise again.

It is only through the eyes of faith that we see the risen Jesus. Because we believe that he has risen, so we know the risen Jesus!

Mary of Magdala sees the empty tomb, but she thinks that the grave has been robbed: "They have taken the Lord away and we don't know where they have put him." (In Matthew's gospel account, read at the Vigil, angels put Mary right and tell her that Jesus is risen.) Peter and John come running. They see the

empty tomb. Peter doesn't know what to make of it. John sees and believes.

John is the first to see through the eyes of faith.

The apostles return to the others and before they have chance to express any doubt, Jesus is standing amongst them! They are filled with awe and joy. The experience of knowing that Jesus has risen robs them of words. All they can say is: "He is risen! We have seen him!"

The 'hows' and the 'whys' of the resurrection on this day are irrelevant. All we know is that the tomb is empty and he is risen! To-day is a day for being in the present moment – the moment of awe and joy.

Jesus had freely allowed himself to be taken, condemned and crucified. They had seen his limp, dead body; they had handled that body as they took it down from the cross. Mary had held the dead body of her Son. They had carried the body to the tomb and laid it out. They had sealed the tomb with a great boulder.... And now the tomb was empty.

The body of Jesus was gone – and they had seen him alive in their midst. He asked for food and ate with them. They touched him. He was real!

Their hearts were fit to burst with love for their crucified and risen Lord. Their joy was unbounded.

As we remember these happenings, our hearts are filled with love and joy because we know, through the eyes of faith, that our Lord is risen and continues to live amongst us!!

New items and information

St Vincent de Paul Society – Our Lenten appeal for food has been a huge success, and we have also received a cheque for £75, the beneficiaries being Sr Eileen (Churches Together Food Bank), Caritas Care (helping ex-offenders and their families), and the Salvation Army Food Bank. They are all extremely grateful for your generosity and deeply indebted to all our parishioners and our Primary School for helping them in their work which provides help for many people in poor circumstances. Thank you all very much. *SVP Conference.*

Chivuna Visit – One of our young parishioners, Cathy Place, has volunteered to visit and work in Chivuna, Zambia. With absolute support from her parents and Garstang Friends of Chivuna, she has already booked her outward flight for 19th June 2014 and plans to stay in Chivuna for seven weeks. Despite the challenge of A-level examinations this year, Cathy is enthusiastically preparing for the enterprise by fundraising in support of Chivuna Clinic. Her greatest venture is a sky-dive, arranged for Sunday 11th May 2014 from Cockerham. She is looking for sponsors and would greatly appreciate the support of our parishioners. Other fundraising projects planned by Cathy are "cake days" in school and church, and a Zambian costume day in our school. Not only has head teacher, Mrs Wilkinson, been generously supportive in encouraging these events, she has also been instrumental in helping Cathy to train for teaching duties in Chivuna. The Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Zambia look forward to Cathy's visit and are very appreciative of her willingness to teach the children English.

Please support Cathy in her fundraising efforts. All proceeds will go to Chivuna; Cathy's personal expenses are quite separate. Next weekend, Cathy will attend all Masses, introducing herself and seeking your support in the form of sponsorship for her sky-dive. She has enthusiasm, determination and pluck; she deserves our help. *Frank Carter, Chairman, Friends of Chivuna.*

Counters – One of our counters will be retiring from August this year, after many years of faithful service. This is an appeal for new counters to join the rota. It would involve counting the collection after 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday; at the moment it would be once every five weeks, but the more volunteers we have, the less frequently they would need to serve. Please speak to Father David if you feel that you could help in this way. *Thank you in advance.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 27th April, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Previously Published Items

Marriage Encounter Weekend – Is your marriage important to you and your family? We invite you to experience a **Marriage Encounter Weekend at Minsteracres 9 – 11 May 2014**. It is a unique way for you to revitalise your marriage away from the distractions of life. Weekends funded by donations. For more information and booking contact Harry & Muff Wilde 01538 385802 or go to our website www.wvme.org.uk.

Garstang Musical Productions are producing "The Awards Show" from **30th April – 3rd May at 7.30 pm at Garstang Community Academy**. Tickets £8. Contact 01995 606603, or Mary Bateson (604 203). See poster at back of church.

SS Mary & Michael's School Association needs your support for their "School Race Night" on **Friday 9th May 2014**. They are asking for sponsorship for the races which can be given

either by taking out an advertisement for your business in the programme (£30 for full page or £20 for half-page) or by sponsoring a race (£50). There are eight races in total – full screen horse races. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01995 603 023. Also, if you are able to provide a bottle of alcohol as an additional prize, all donations are gratefully received! Please come along for a great night out. Tickets available from school.

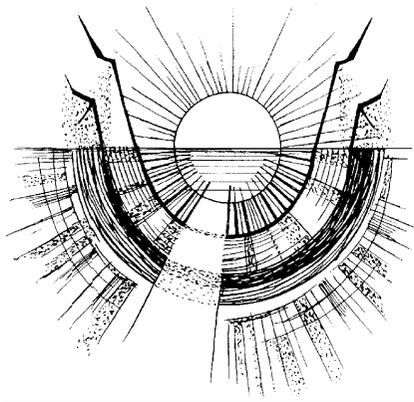
Please pray for Jessica Holmes (2½ years old) who has leukaemia. She is home for Easter, but has to go back into the Royal Manchester Children’s hospital on Tuesday.

Please pray for Mark Greenwood, Assistant Head teacher at Our Lady’s High School, Fulwood, who died suddenly at home last Tuesday. He leaves a wife and two children. Please remember him in your prayers, also his family and the whole school. ***May he rest in peace.***

Please also pray for Isabel Dorothy Catterall who died on 7th April. Please pray also for her husband Dennis and her family. ***May she rest in peace.***

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

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: 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, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, 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.)***



HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!!

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 19th – Sunday 27th April 2014

Sat	19 th	8.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (Birthday Memories)
Sun	20 th	8.30 am	Kevin Kavanagh
		10.30 am	Bill Bamber
Mon	21 st	No Mass	
Tues	22 nd	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	23 rd	7.00 pm	“ “ “
Thurs	24 th	9.30 am	“ “ “
Fri	25 th	9.30 am	“ “ “
Sat	26 th	9.30 am	“ “ “
		6.30 pm	In Thanksgiving
Sun	27 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Bill Hesketh (Lately Dead)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	23 rd	6.45 pm	Rosary
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Special Days this Week:

Sun	20 th	Easter Sunday
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Meetings this Week:

Wed	23 rd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	24 th	7 pm	Stewardship Meeting

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	12 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 110	Children: 6	
Sun	13 th	8.30 am	Adults: 62	Children: 7	
		10.30 am	Adults: 117	Children: 33	Total: 335
Holy Thurs	17 th	7.30 pm	All: 110		
Good Fri	18 th	11.00 am (Stations of Cross)	Adults 81	Children 30	
		3.00 pm (Solemn Liturgy)	All: 104		

Monies Received: Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,139.78; Shop: £40; Votive Lights: £39.90; Easter Flowers: £285.60. ***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’s. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.