

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 March 2016

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



“This is the reign of darkness,” words that Jesus spoke to his disciples just before he was arrested. Jesus was identified to the soldiers by Judas in the dead of night. He was taken in the dark to the High Priests. They didn't dare arrest him in the daylight in the presence of the crowds who had come to see Jesus as Saviour – there would have been riots.

The High Priests' soldiers had the whole night to torture Jesus into admitting that he was not who he claimed to be, that he was an imposter who had misled good people. The priests could then present Jesus to the people in the morning in what they saw as his 'true' colours.

They tried to break him all night by scourging him, mocking him, crowning him with thorns as a pretend-king. But they failed. Jesus stood firm in his truth. Yes, he was a King; he told Pilate this, but his kingdom was not of this world.

Their plan having failed, the High Priests had no Plan B. They presented him to the people anyway as a mock-king, a pretender. The people believed their priests; the people agreed to call for his death – Crucify Him! Crucify Him! The high priests had driven them into being an hysterical crowd.

Jesus was condemned amidst lies and hatred. Jesus the Holy One, the God of perfect Love, was sent to be publicly executed by hating, brutal people, who cared little for the truth.

We share in this drama this week. We can never live through Holy Week without finding ourselves participating as members of the sinful crowd who denied the love and goodness of Jesus. The duplicity of the crowd, who, on Palm Sunday welcomed Jesus as King but by Good Friday were buying for his blood, this same duplicity is in us in our sinfulness.

We come, as forgiven sinners, to remember this horrific drama – and then to see Jesus, triumphant on the cross and glorious in his resurrection!

New items and information

Holy Thursday – Following on from Mass until midnight, there will be an opportunity to watch with Jesus. If you are able so spare a little time to be with him, please place a tick on the list which is at the back of church.

Children's Stations of the Cross – Next Friday, 25th March, at 10 am.

Individual Confessions – Next Wednesday, 23rd March, from 7.30 – 8 pm, is your last chance to celebrate this Sacrament before Easter.

The Catholic Voice – Copies of The Voice are at the back of church; please collect a copy after Masses this weekend.

Friends of Chivuna – The minutes of the Chivuna Meeting on 11th March are now available for collection.

Jackson Wicks (RIP) – A letter of thanks has been received from Jackson's wife, Ann. She says “The prayers, cards and help I and my family have received from our Christian friends at St Mary & Michael's have been greatly treasured and appreciated. The Service of Thanksgiving held on St David's day for Jackson, showed how much he was esteemed, honoured and loved by all who knew him. I wish to thank you all.”

Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission – on Wednesday, 27th April at 7.45 pm in Holy Trinity & St George Parish Centre, Blackhallk Road, Kendal, LA9 4BW, “Reflections & Discussions on the COP21 *the 2015 Paris Climate Conference*. On Saturday, 14th May, from 10 am – 4.30 pm, also at Holy Trinity & St George Parish Centre, “Faith in the New Economics? Are we stuck with politics, finance and economics as we know them? Are there any options beyond ‘business as usual’? What has all this to do with our fundamental beliefs and values?” For further information and contacts, see posters at the back of church. All welcome. Booking forms in presbytery office.

CAFOD – a letter of thanks has been received from Chris Funnell, Supporter Donations Manager, for the £688.21 raised on Lent Fast Day.

Previously Published Items

Holy Week Services Please take a leaflet (on dark green paper) with the times of all the services during Holy Week

St John Vianney's Icon is with us and is on display for one month, until the end of March. During this month, please would you take some time to pray before the Icon for vocations to the priesthood, especially in our Diocese? If you wish, there are prayer cards on the altar rail to help you. The prayer is also printed on the back of this newsletter.

Parish Draw – Subscriptions of £20 are due – first draw 10th April. I am very grateful to Kevin and Trish O'Hanlon who have taken over the running of this important and fun (for winners: prizes of £80 and £30 monthly, and £100 and £35 at Christmas.) fund raiser.

Phillippa Catterall

Gift Aid Coordinator including envelope scheme organiser Colin Swarbrick has fulfilled this role faithfully and efficiently for many years. We owe him a great debt of gratitude. Thank you, Colin. We need to find someone who could take on this very important role. Could you help? Please contact Fr. David or D'arcy.

FREE to all our Readers – In these days of B.O.G.O.F. and half-priced sofas etc, we have felt obliged to move with the times and make an offer which we hope parishioners will find irresistible. The holder of the Parish Purse Strings has reluctantly agreed to offer

FREE membership for admission to the Old Codgers Grounds Maintenance Team (O.C.G.M.T.) for one year only. Young Codgers (ie, under 65s) are also urgently needed, and as an extra incentive will be offered an additional 25% discount on the free membership fee. Membership will entitle the holder to **FREE** use of the sit-on mower and all mowing and gardening equipment (within the church boundaries). How can you possibly turn down this offer? Over the past few years, we have referred to passages from the Gospels, used poetry, and even enlisted the help of Tom Jones to whet peoples' appetites; nevertheless, the number of members of the O.C.G.M.T. continues to dwindle. If you can afford just, say, three hours per month to help to keep the churchyard and its surrounds in reasonable order, please come and join us. Come and work as a member of a team. You may even enjoy it! For more information, please contact either D'arcy on 603090 or Peter Brown on 605205.

Traidcraft – Spring Catalogues are now available at the back of church. Traidcraft works to end poverty through trade, and, since we have an account, we receive a discount on orders which we donate to Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. If you can, please consider purchasing fair trade food, gifts, clothing, cards etc, and make a difference to some of the poorest people in the world, whilst raising money for Chivuna. **Helen Spencer.**

Discernment Day – Advance Notice – for those thinking about priesthood. Saturday 9th April, Ladyewell Shrine, Preston, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm. To book a place or for more information, contact Fr Darren Carden on 01772 719 604, mob 07552 795 060, email priest@lancastervocations.org.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 27th March can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for Hattie Louise Roberts, who is being baptised at 11.30 am this Sunday.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Newsham who died on Tuesday 15th March. Her Funeral Service will be at 2 pm on Friday 1st April. Tom Horn died on Friday 18th March. Tom's body will be received into church for a vigil service at 7 pm on Tuesday 29th March and his Funeral Mass will be at 11 am on Wednesday 30th March. **May he rest in peace.**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: John Grayston, James Thomas Slater, Agnes Horn, Eddie Walmsley, John Hindle Law, Ellen Wells, John James Dewhurst, Celia Lamoury, Agnes Rossall, John Kirkman, Barbara Nelmes, Josephine Seed, John Swift, George Bernard Clarey, André Ferguson, Ann Rigg, Austin Walmsley, Harry Swarbrick, Kate Simkin, John Gillett, Brian Richardson, Frank Walmsley, Gladys Richardson and Nellie Hodges. **May they rest in peace.**

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Rita Whittaker, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wickes, Thomas Lowe (Bert's brother), Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Anthonio 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.)**

Response to the Psalm at 10 am Mass on Sunday:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 19th – Sunday 27th March 2016

Sat	19 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Carl Gerard Wilkes
Sun	20 th	10.00 am	Frank Fox
Mon	21 st	12 noon	Joan Prenton
Tue	22 nd	7.00 pm	Maureen Ingleby
Wed	23 rd	7.00 pm	Sheila Moran (Lately Dead)
Thurs	24 th	7.30 pm	Jackson Wickes
Fri	25 th	No Mass	Good Friday
Sat	26 th	8.00 pm (Easter Vigil)	Dorothy Kelsall
Sun	27 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	23 rd	6.45 pm	Rosary
		7.30 – 8 pm	Confessions
Fri	25 th	10.00 am	Good Friday – Children's Stations of the Cross

Special Days this week:

Sun	20 th	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
Thurs	24 th	HOLY THURSDAY
Fri	25 th	GOOD FRIDAY (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)
Sat	26 th	HOLY SATURDAY
Sun	27 th	EASTER SUNDAY

Meetings this Week:

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

Sun	13 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 146	Children: 24	
		10.00 am	Adults: 129	Children: 24	Total: 323

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,232.79; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £59.20; Funeral: £600; 'I Belong' books: £83; Chivuna & CAFOD cake stall: £220.23. **Many thanks to you all.**

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in March at Garstang U.R.C. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church, until the end of March; then due to lack of attendance, the Service will cease.

Lord God, provider of all our needs, we, your faithful people of the Diocese of Lancaster, ask you to send labourers into your harvest, to give us holy and zealous priests after your own heart. Grant courage to those you are calling to the priesthood to respond to your call, and continue to guide those who are discerning their vocation. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

We call upon you, St John Vianney, to watch over our priests, that they might always be faithful to their sacred calling. We also seek your intercession, with the Lord of the harvest, to stir up in the hearts of the men of our diocese the desire to answer the Lord's call to the priesthood. Amen.

St John Vianney, pray for us.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Lancaster Diocese Year of Priestly Vocations 2015 - 2016