

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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20th / 21st September 2014
25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)
(Home Mission Sunday)



Today's Gospel passage is one that has many of us scratching our heads and saying, "I don't understand this parable."

The parable is the one Jesus told of workers being employed for a 12-hour shift in the fields. They agreed to work for one denarius – about £100

today. The farmer needed more labour, so, during the day he employed more and more people, even employing people for the last hour of the shift.

When it came to paying them he paid everyone one denarius! That seemed very unjust to the ones who had worked the full 12 hours! It seems unjust to us. But to God it was just because he paid the pre-arranged wage – he kept his contract of employment.

The problem for the ones who worked longer hours was "Why should the boss be so generous with some and not with others?" – a fair question for a trade unionist – but not a fair question for God!

The issue is that we don't earn God's love. God doesn't love us in proportion to how hard or long we have worked for God.

God just loves us!

Jesus dramatically promised paradise, that very day, to the Good Thief who died on the cross beside Jesus. He was given the same reward as the followers of Jesus who worked tirelessly for the Gospel for years!

God's generosity doesn't follow human employment principles. No one *deserves* God's love. We have no in-built right to be loved by God.

God loves us, even when we are unfaithful to him; he loves us even when we are sinners. We don't deserve to be loved – but we are still loved. If we only loved our children when they deserved it, families would be very different. Human loving relations give us a starting point in beginning to understand God's generous love for us – but it is only a starting point.

We will always stand in awe at the mystery of God's unfathomable love for us!

New items and information

This weekend is Home Mission Sunday when we are asked to reach out to non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics. There are prayer cards at the back of church if you would like one.

This week is World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel. Please pray especially for Child Prisoners. Each year, 500 – 700 Palestinian children from the West Bank (between the ages of 12 – 17) are prosecuted in Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army or police. Young Israelis too can be imprisoned. 50 Israeli teenagers said that they will refuse to join the Israeli Defence Force because of the occupation of the West Bank. Conscientious Objectors in Israel face imprisonment. *Please pray for them all, and for peace.*

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for September – "That Christians, inspired by the Word of God, may serve the poor and suffering."

Organ Recital – Next Friday, 26th September, at 7.30 pm, Brian Dickinson will be giving an organ recital to raise funds for the church roof. Tickets are £5.00 at the door. Please come along to support Brian, enjoy the music, and at the same time, raise money for the church roof restoration.

Mass Offerings

An ancient practice in the Church makes it possible for anyone "to have a Mass said" for a named intention. The intention may be

- to pray for the repose of the soul of someone who has died;
- to pray for someone at the time of a special event, their birthday or anniversary etc;
- to pray for someone who is sick – people often say "Do remember him/her/me in your prayers." Having a Mass offered is a way of doing this – especially if you come to the Mass yourself;
- to pray for someone in some particular need, for example exams, new job, moving house etc;
- to pray for someone as they begin a new phase of their lives, eg retirement;
- just to pray for some one as a sign that they are in your thoughts etc.

There are special Mass Cards available on the stand in the Plessington Chapel that the priest will sign to say that the Mass is being offered. The money given – the Mass stipend – forms part of the priest's personal income. The amount of the offering is not fixed. When I was ordained a priest, the usual Mass stipend given was half-a-crown – 12½ p! Nowadays, people tend to give £10 or £20. There are Mass Intention envelopes at the back of church that can be used.

Sometimes people would like the Mass offered on a particular day at a particular time. We keep a Mass Intentions Diary in the Presbytery – ask D'arcy or Fr David if you require a specific date.

Do try to come to the Mass offered for your intention.

Sometimes people write in their wills that they want part of their legacy to be given to the parish to have Masses offered for them after they die. Every Parish keeps a Mass Register and has a serious obligation under Canon Law to ensure that all the Mass Intentions handed in are offered as soon as possible. See Diocesan Website www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk under Useful Information/Mass Offerings.

Friends of Chivuna – The minutes of the last meeting are ready for collection.

Chivuna – This weekend and next weekend, an etching by Barbra Cropper who is an award-winning Lakeland Artist will be at the back of church at all Masses. We are asking if you would like the chance to own it by choosing a number 1 – 200 (not already chosen) and in doing so pay £1 (or more if you can). The winning number will be announced after 10.30 am Mass on 28th September providing that all the numbers have been sold. The funds raised will greatly help our friends in Chivuna. Thank you in advance for your support. The etching has a value of £200 and has been generously given by Barbra Cropper.

Harvest Festival Mass – Next weekend at the 10.30 am Mass, we will be celebrating a Harvest Festival Mass. The church will have been decorated, and small gifts will be taken out to the sick and housebound parishioners.

Next weekend, Sunday 28th September the Holy Father has asked that the whole Church pray for the 111 Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which begins on Sunday, 5th October, to treat the topic “The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelisation”.

Date for your diary – “The Company of Voyces” are holding a concert here at SS Mary & Michael’s on Friday, 10th October at 7.30 pm in aid of the Church Roof Fund. Tickets cost £10, and are available from Richard Harrison on 01995 606 213 or on the door.

Open Afternoon at Christ the King, Grange Park, Blackpool – We have received an invitation from Father John Winstanley, inviting people to visit the new Christ the King Church at Rodwell Walk, Blackpool, FY3 7FG. Open afternoons are this weekend, Sunday 21st September, and next Sunday, 28th September. Any enquiries, please ring 01253 393 439.

Traidcraft orders – these are available for collection from the sacristy. Thank you.

Mission Boxes – Will all who have a mission box please take a mission magazine from the back of church. Boxes recently brought in are now ready to be collected. The boxes are emptied every 3 months, but if your box is full at any time please do not hesitate to hand it into the presbytery.

The Catenian Rosary Group – Since 2009, they have been sending Rosaries to Aboriginals in Australia and to Missions in third-world countries in Africa, and now to islands in the Pacific. If anyone has any unused Rosaries hidden away in cupboards and drawers, please could they let us have them to pass on to the Catenians? A box has been provided at the back of church in which to put them. *Thank you.*

Previously Published Items

Ruth Walbank, 16, is looking for a lift to Salford (Quays), Manchester, Monday – Friday. Her working hours are between 9.00 am – 6.00 pm at MediaCity. Tel: 07837 274 160.

Youth Group – We are looking to recruit some new adult helpers for the group. No experience is necessary. If you would like more information, please chat to Rachel Cortes, our Parish Youth Worker, on 07508 365 249 or Paul McCann on 601354.

Church Shop – We are looking for some new helpers at the 6.30 pm and the 8.30 am Masses. If you are able to help, please contact Jen Horn 01995 602341.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 28th September, 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: Anne Birchall, Brian Campbell, James Coyne, Bill Acton, Arnold Hargreaves, Mary Watson, Thomas Swarbrick, Barbara Barton, Eric Fishwick, Mary Agnes Edwards and Bernard Joseph 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: Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Wilf Rainford, 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 20th – Sunday 28th September 2014

Sat	20 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Alfred & Agnes Evans
Sun	21 st	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Tony Stephenson
Mon	22 nd	No Mass	
Tues	23 rd	6.30 pm (note time)	Private Intention
Wed	24 th	7.00 pm	Private Intention
Thurs	25 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
Fri	26 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
Sat	27 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Reverend John Horn (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun	28 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Birthday Intentions

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	24 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	27 th		No Confessions or Exposition

Special Days this Week:

Tues	23 rd	St Pius of Pietrelcina
Wed	24 th	Our Lady of Walsingham
Sat	27 th	St Vincent de Paul

Meetings this Week:

Tues	23 rd	7.30 pm	Stewardship
Wed	24 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	13 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 122	Children : 9
Sun	14 th	8.30 am	Adults: 55	Children: 11
		10.30 am	Adults: 104	Children: 24
			Total: 325	

Monies Received: Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,068.61; Votive Lights: £52.40; Shop: £30; Racial Justice Special Collection: £160.95. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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