

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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21st / 22nd FEBRUARY 2015
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



Jesus went out into the wilderness immediately after being baptised. He had just heard his Father's voice tell him "I love you" – "the beloved". How was it that Jesus felt the need to spend 40 days in the wild, dangerous wastes of the open Judaeen hinterland, on his own, when he was surrounded by his Father's love? Surely knowing his Father's love would have been sufficient to prepare him for his forthcoming ministry?

We can't know the mind of Jesus, but what we can do is to watch what Jesus does and, when we don't understand, ask him to teach us why these 40 days in the desert were important for Jesus. Why did he have to experience hunger because of his fasting? Why did he have to experience the extreme temptations of the devil? Maybe Jesus wanted to show us how completely he had immersed himself into our humanity? In our humanity we experience want, we are continually tempted by pride, we are continually tempted to take the easy way out – and in the midst of temptation we have to learn to trust God to help us, we have to be aware of our guardian angels supporting and sustaining us.

In a similar way, as we enter into the 40 days of Lent, we may not understand why we should fast or spend more time in prayer with God our Father. We need to ask the Lord for understanding, just as we don't understand why Jesus needed to undergo 40 days of fasting and deprivation in the desert.

If we ask the Lord: "Why Lent?" "Why should I fast or give more time to prayer?" we will find that it becomes a joy to be generous with our time, our money for the poor... Joy comes with generosity.

Let us turn to the Lord and ask him to help us to understand why we have these 40 days, and then to listen and to follow Jesus with generosity and love.

New items and information

Lent Fast Day is next **Friday, 27th February**, when we are asked to **pray** for the world's poorest people as they cope with storms, floods and droughts, and to **give** what we can to CAFOD to help them. This Lent, every pound you give will be matched by the UK Government up to the value of £3.5 million. As you leave church today, please take a Fast Day Prayer Card and an envelope for your donation.

The Call, The Journey, and the Mission

Last October, the bishops and other delegates from around the world met with Pope Francis in Rome; the theme for discussion was "The Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelisation". This October, there will be a further Synod; the focus then will be "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World". In the time between these two Synods, our Holy Father has asked us to spend time reflecting on these themes with "true spiritual discernment". **Our Bishops have asked us to reflect on marriage and family life using scripture.** During Lent there will be an opportunity to answer this call. Each Thursday in Lent, from 7pm – 8pm, there will be a prayerful reflection on a particular passage from the Bible.

- **Thurs 26 Feb:** The faith of Abraham & Sarah (Gen 12:1-9) led by Fr Luiz Ruscillo;
- **Thurs 5 Mar:** The prayer of Tobias & Sarah (Tobit 8:408) led by Fr David Elder;
- **Thurs 12 Mar:** Mary – the Annunciation & Visitation (Lk 1:26-56) led by Fr Luiz;
- **Thurs 19 Mar:** The presentation of Jesus in the temple (Lk 2:22-40) led by Fr Luiz;
- **Thurs 26 Mar:** The wedding feast of Cana (Jn 2:1-12) led by Fr Luiz.

Next Sunday: Baby Hannah Thompson will be baptised during the 10.30 am Mass.
Chivuna Knitting – The good work of helping the poor infants at Chivuna Mission in Zambia continues, entirely the result of parishioners' hard work and generosity. A great deal of knitted clothing has been sent over the past months, all of it eagerly used and greatly appreciated by the mothers. In order for the work to continue at current pace, we do require more willing knitters. Additionally, it would be wonderful if anyone could help with the cost of postage. At present this is resourced by two very generous parishioners, despite the high costs involved. If you are able and willing to help, please contact Margaret Wilcock. (telephone 01995 603 525.)
Fairtrade Fortnight is coming up - 23rd February to 8th March. Please try and choose Fairtrade versions of the items you buy regularly, and use the power you have as a consumer to make the world a fairer place.

Unwanted/broken jewellery? Freepost recycling envelopes are available in the church porch, supporting the work of Traidcraft Exchange, managing programmes of development work that enable poor producers to grow businesses, find markets and engage in local and international trade.

Cenacolo Community – In May, the Community will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the House in the UK. Because Bishop Campbell cannot be present for this celebration, he will offer Mass at the House on **Sunday, 22nd March, at 3pm**. He has asked that those parishes who support the Community be made aware of the Mass and be invited to attend. If anyone would like to be present, please let Father David know before 15th March so that we can let the Community know how many people will be attending.

Castlerigg Manor – There is a lot going on at the moment to engage young people: Places for Lourdes; World Youth Day; Easter Weekend at the Manor; Turin – for young adults – join Pope Francis in Turin in June and see the Shroud of Turin. For details of these and many other events, please visit www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.

Previously Published Items

Women's World Day of Prayer – Friday, 6th March at All Saints, Barnacre, at 2pm. All (men and women) are very welcome.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 1st March, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Stanley Bradshaw, who is being baptised at 12.15 pm this Sunday.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Henry Gornall, John Silworth, Mary Gillett, Margaret McKeivitt, James Houlihan, Robert Winder, Samuel Smith, Grace Barton, Frank Richardson, Tom Rawlinson, Josephine Wright, Eileen Fenna, Frank Moreland, Teresa Langley and James Foy. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: 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, Alison Green and Tim Park. *(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Response to the psalm at 10.30 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 21st February – Sunday 1st March 2015

Sat	21 st	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ted Richardson (Birthday Wishes)
Sun	22 nd	8.30 am	Anne and William Swarbrick
		10.30 am	Richard Hogarth
Mon	23 rd	No Mass	
Tues	24 th	12 noon	Maureen Walker (Lately Dead)
Wed	25 th	7.00 pm	Rita Brown (Sick)
Thurs	26 th	9.30 am	Samuel Smith
Fri	27 th	9.30 am	Agnes Evans (Senior)
Sat	28 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	William and Ellen Greenall
Sun	1 st Mar	8.30 am	Holy Souls
		10.30 am	Minnie and Terry Fitzpatrick

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	25 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	27 th	6.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	28 th	10.15 am	Celebration of God's Forgiveness and First Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Fri 27th Lent Fast Day

Meetings this Week:

Tues	24 th	6.30 pm	1 st Reconciliation Preparation (Session 4 with Parents)
Wed	25 th	4.00 pm	Personnel & Finance (School)
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	26 th	7.15 pm	Evangelium (incorporating Journey in Faith)

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	14 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 121	Children: 14
Sun	15 th	8.30 am	Adults: 63	Children: 4
		10.30 am	Adults: 122	Children: 31
			Total: 355	

Ash Wednesday Attendance:

	9.30 am	Adults: 130	Children: 6	Total: 213
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Monies Received: Offertory: £1,221.40; Tea Money: £93.10; Votive Lights: £45.20; Cemetery: £240; Shop (including 'I Belong' books): £75; 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 February at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.