

St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church
GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

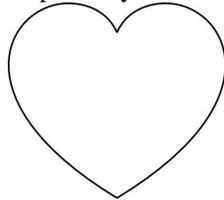
A Parish of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity, no.234331
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21st / 22nd MARCH
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

The prophet Jeremiah prophesies to the people of Israel what the New Covenant will be. It won't be a list of commandments of dos and don'ts.

The new law will be this:

“Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts:



The only way I can learn to love is if I have love in my heart. I must have known love, I must have been loved, before I can love other people.

I was very blessed because I was greatly loved by my Mum and Dad as a child and all through my life. All I want to do in life is to try to help others to know how much God loves them.

We live in a world that often seems to be loveless. Everyone seems to be “in it” for what they can “get out of it”. This seems to be the principal rule in our world: “I'm alright, Jack”.

But this is the polar opposite to God's law of love. God's law is to love and to expect nothing in return. This was the love that burst into our world when Jesus, God's only Son, suffered and died for us. He chose to do this because he loved us. He got nothing out of it himself – in fact he lost everything that a human person holds dear:

- he lost his dignity;
- he lost the friends he loved;
- he lost his life.

But what about the people, the children who do not have loving parents, or the people who have been so let down in love that they are afraid to let themselves be loved again? These are the ones who need to know God's love. These are the ones that we need to go out to; these are the ones whom Jesus calls “the poor”.

As Lent draws to a close, let us open our eyes to recognise the poor, the unloved, and to find ways to share some of our love with them, the kind acts, the open smile,

the welcoming hand – God offers us so many opportunities to love – let us not miss the chance to share God's love.

Fr David

New items and information

Holy Week Leaflet – The times of all the Masses and Services in Holy Week are available on green paper. Please take one.

Blessing of Palms and Procession – Next Sunday we will gather in the school hall at 10 am for the blessing of the palms. We will then process to church for the Mass of Passion (Palm) Sunday. Blessed palms will be available for those who attend the vigil Mass, after the 10 am Mass.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the Cake & Craft Sale last Sunday. Thank you to the cake bakers, to the craft makers, to everyone who helped on the stalls, and to all of you who spent your money! A magnificent **£342.85** was raised, half of which will go to Chivuna funds, and half to CAFOD.

Evangelium – The penultimate session of Evangelium, entitled ‘Catholic Devotions’ will be held next Thursday, 26th March, in the Plessington Chapel at 7.30 pm. This will be presented by Father Anthony Keefe.

Our Bishops asked us to reflect on marriage and family life using scripture. During Lent there has been an opportunity to answer this call. Each Thursday in Lent, from 7 pm – 8 pm, in the day chapel at the Cathedral in Lancaster, there was a prayerful reflection on particular passages from the Bible. Next Thursday, 26th March, is the last of these Lenten reflections. This time, we reflect on the wedding feast of Cana, (*John 2:1-12*) led by Fr Luiz.

Charity Auction – The **North West Children's Support Group** are holding their Annual Bric-a-Brac Auction on **Saturday, 18th April 2015** in SS Mary & Michael's School Hall. Viewing starts at 10 am, with the sale starting at 12 noon. If you are able to donate items for the sale, the Hall will be open on Friday evening, or if you need items collecting, please call Helen & Barry on 01995 600254, or Debbie & Paul on 01995 601354, or Paul and Angela on 01524 751373. ***Thank you for your ongoing support.***

Old Hymn Books with Dedications – Parishioners are welcome to take old hymn books with dedications to their loved ones. Anyone wishing to do so should place their name on the narthex list, together with the name of the person whom they have dedicated. If the book can be traced, it will most certainly be handed over. The list will remain open for three weeks (from 23rd March to 13th April).

The Right to Life Annual Sponsored Walk (The Jim Dobbin Memorial Walk) will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May, starting at 1 pm. The 8-mile circular walk starts and finishes at St Michael & St John RC Church, Lowergate, Clitheroe, BB7 1AG. If you are interested in taking part, there are entry and sponsorship forms available from the back of church.

'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. 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.

REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH...

If you wish to nominate your parish as a beneficiary under your will (as a Charity, bequests made to the Church will not attract inheritance tax) you may wish to consider the following wording:

“I give to the *Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (LRCDT)* for the benefit of the Parish of St Mary & St Michael, Garstang, the sum of £xxxx (and in words) free of duty and I declare that the receipt of the Financial Administrator of *LRCDT* at the Finance Office, The Pastoral Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT shall be a good discharge (LRCDT Charity No. 234331).”

By this means your bequest is guaranteed to be solely for the benefit of your parish.

Previously Published Items

Castlerigg Family Weekend – 22nd – 24th May 2015. Fun for the whole family.

For more information check out www.castleriggmanor.co.uk, and see poster at the back of church.

World Youth Day 2016 – This is an opportunity to see the Pope at Krakow. If you are interested, contact the Youth Service today via Castlerigg Manor, www.castleriggmanor.co.uk or telephone 01768 772 711.

Chivuna Knitting – A great deal of knitted clothing has been sent to Chivuna, Zambia, over the past months. In order for the work to continue at the current pace, we do require more willing knitters. Also, 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.)

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 22nd March, 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: Ann Rigg,

Austin Walmsley, Harry Swarbrick, John Gillett, Brian Richardson, Frank Walmsley, Gladys Richardson, Nellie Hodges, James Pedder and Mary Carr.

May they rest in peace.

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled

parishioners, families and friends, including: 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

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 21st – Sunday 29th March 2015

| | | | |
|-------|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sat | 21 st | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Dorothy Kelsall |
| Sun | 22 nd | 10.00 am | Dodo Heggarty |
| Mon | 23 rd | No Mass | |
| Tues | 24 th | 12 noon | Ken Wilson (Lately Dead) |
| Wed | 25 th | 9.30 am (note time) | Agnes Coote |
| Thurs | 26 th | 9.30 am | Jane Fleming |
| Fri | 27 th | 9.30 am | For Successful Treatment of one who has ill health |
| Sat | 28 th | 9.30 am | All Our Parishioners |
| | | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Tom Ashcroft (Lately Dead) |
| Sun | 29 th | 10.00 am | Judith Swarbrick |

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

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| Wed | 25 th | 6.45 pm | Rosary |
| Fri | 27 th | 10 – 10.30 am | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | | 6.30 pm | Stations of the Cross |
| Sat | 28 th | 5.30 pm | Confessions |

Special Days this Week:

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| Sun | 22 nd | Fifth Sunday in Lent |
| Wed | 25 th | THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD |
| Sun | 29 th | PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD |

Meetings this Week:

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|-------|------------------|---------|--|
| Tues | 24 th | 6.30 pm | 1 st Holy Communion Preparation – Session 4 |
| | | | Children Only (please note) |
| Wed | 25 th | 7.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| | | 7.30 pm | Property & Finance Committee |
| Thurs | 26 th | 7.15 pm | Journey in Faith |
| | | 7.30 pm | Evangelium |

Last Week’s Attendance:

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| Sat | 14 th | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Adults: 132 | Children: 6 |
| Sun | 15 th | 10.00 am | Adults: 198 | Children: 90 |

Monies Received: Offertory: £1,099.02; Cake & Craft Sale: £342.85; Votive Lights: £50; Shop: £17; CAFOD Envelopes: £40; Photocopying: £5; Donation: £20; 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 March at Garstang United Reformed Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.