

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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22nd / 23rd AUGUST 2015

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)



“Which God do you wish to serve?” asks Joshua in today’s first reading. A very good question, as the Israelites had just entered the Promised Land, a land “flowing with milk and honey”. Our first thought might be “Well, the God of Israel has brought them from slavery to the land of plenty, and it was all theirs, so how could they consider worshipping anyone else?”

Well, of course, the Israelites didn’t see it like that. For one thing, the land wasn’t ‘theirs’ as other people were already occupying it, and if they were going to settle there, the Israelites were going to have to fight for it; and for another, the milk and honey had been cultivated by the occupiers whose gods were obviously better at providing the luxuries of life than theirs had been.

The Israelites were, of course, a nomadic people living on what they could forge or catch, and the sight of the flocks and vineyards that now surrounded them must have made them think, “Wow, look at what *their* god provides. That’s the sort of god we want; not one who only gives us manna and quails.”

It’s just the same today: people everywhere think “What has God done for me? There’s no point in sticking with out-of-date dogmas, self-assertiveness, getting what *I* want is the only way I’m ever going to get anywhere. If I don’t take my chances when I see them, I won’t amount to anything. (*Pacé Boss Tweed*). People who have no love of God at all are doing much better than I am.”

Sometimes we need to listen to the truths that Joshua put before the Israelites: “Remember all the things that God has done for you in the past; how he has protected you, supported you, loved you. He won’t let you down. All right, people who serve other gods are sometimes successful, but if you stick with the one true God, you know everything will turn out all right.” And the people thought and said “Yes, he’s right. God has always been there for us. How could we have considered worshipping anyone else?”

What was true 3,000 years ago still holds good today. Sometimes it does us good to look back on what God has done in our lives, and to reflect on our response to today’s psalm: “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

D’arcy

New items and information

This weekend we welcome once more Monsignor Hypher who is standing in for Father David while he is on holiday. Father David will be home next week.

Next Weekend there will be a second collection for the Catholic Trust for England and Wales.

Churches Together in Garstang – Next Sunday, 30th August, at 3.00 pm, there will be a ‘Songs of Praise’ in Cherestanc Square. Do please try to support this.

Traidcraft Autumn Catalogues are available from the back of church for orders or fairtrade food, gifts, clothing, cards, Christmas items etc. All profits from sales will go, as usual, to Chivuna Clinic. Please consider supporting fairtrade and Chivuna in this way. *Thank you. Helen Spencer.*

The North West Children’s Support Group would like to thank you for all the delicious baking you did for us. The holiday in Leeds was a great success, and the cakes were enjoyed at the picnics and suppers throughout the week, and were a treat to look forward to for all of us. ***The cake tins are ready for collection in the porch at the back of church.***

Aid to the Church in Need – A total of £523 was raised last weekend: £316.50 came in the envelopes provided; £42.99 was raised in sales; £163.51 came in the form of loose cash. ***Thank you all very much.***

The Houghton Weavers are coming to our school!! In support of Oaklands, Garstang’s Leonard Cheshire Home, the Houghton Weavers will be appearing at St Mary & St Michael’s School on Friday, 4th September, at 7.00 pm. Now, ***that*** will be a great night out! And in such a good cause! Tickets are £10; for more information and to buy tickets, contact Paul McCann tel. 01995 607 033.

Did you know... CAFOD partners in the Central African Republic have won a prestigious award for their remarkable work promoting peace? The founders of the Interreligious Peace Platform in the Central African Republic have won the Sergio Vieira de Mello Award in recognition of their tireless efforts to hold the conflict-ravaged country together. The Interreligious Peace Platform was established at the height of the conflict in 2013. With support from CAFOD, it has inspired communities across the country to explore their common problems and understand what unites them rather than what divides them.

Previously Published Items

“The smell of the sheep” – There is to be a survey of Catholic opinion in England and Wales in preparation for the Synod on the Family in October. ACTA (A Call to Action) aims to encourage dialogue at all levels in the Church. With this in mind, there will be a morning of prayer, reflection and discussion with Andrew Hornsby-Smith on Saturday 12th September from 10 am – 1 pm, at St Bernadette’s Church, 120 Bowerham Road, Lancaster, LA1 4HT. To book, please email anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk. Tea and coffee are provided on arrival at 10 am. ***See poster and leaflets (on green paper) giving details, and explaining who Andrew is, at the back of church.***

Cleator Pilgrimage – the Annual Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Cleator is on **Sunday, 6th September 2015**. The principal celebrant and preacher will be Bishop Brian Noble. The young people of our Diocese are invited to walk in pilgrimage from Langdale to Cleator; they will begin their journey at Castlerigg Manor on Friday, 4th September, arriving on Sunday, 6th September; they can register their interest in joining the walk by contacting Fr Philip at Castlerigg – 017687 72711. Refreshment will be served in The Civic Hall, Cleator Moor, CA25 5AR at £8.50 per head. Bookings for refreshments to be made before 24th August by contacting St Mary's Priory, Cleator, CA23 3AB, tel: 01946 810 324. **See poster at back of church.**

St Paul's Sunday Missal 2016 – If you would like a personal copy of next year's St Paul's Sunday Missal, please put your name on the list in the Church Shop.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 30th August, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Patricia Hawkins (Noreen Hargreaves' sister in Devon) who died on Friday, 14th August. **May she rest in peace.**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Lilian Barnes, Michael O'Neill, Robert Horn, Wilfred Garstang, John N. Bamber, Stephen Cople, George Armor, Margaret Barton, Brian Eydman, John Green, Francis Xavier Andrews, John Cahill, John Andrews, Katherine Piela, Raymond Bisby, Anne Lyford and Joe Kendall. **May they rest in peace.**

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, 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 and Alison Green. **(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)**



Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 22nd – Sunday 30th August 2015

Sat	22 nd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	23 rd	10.00 am	Michael O'Neill
Mon	24 th	No Mass	
Tues	25 th	7.00 pm	Teresa Blacoe
Wed	26 th	7.00 pm	Canon O'Dwyer
Thurs	27 th	9.30 am	The Davis Family
Fri	28 th	9.30 am	Bridgett Devitt
Sat	29 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	Alan Bradley (Anniversary)
Sun	30 th	10.00 am	Jeanette Mears (5 th Anniversary)
		3.00 pm	Songs of Praise, Cherestanc Square

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	26 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	29 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Mon	24 th	ST BARTHOLOMEW
Thurs	27 th	St Monica
Fri	28 th	St Augustine
Sat	29 th	The Passion of St John the Baptist

Meetings this Week:

Weds	26 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	15 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 120	Children: 9
Sun	16 th	10.00 am	Adults: 90	Children: 15 Total: 234

Monies Received:

Offertory: £1,278.93 (including Standing Orders and a one-off six-monthly payment of £400); Votive Lights: £30; Shop: £Nil; Donation: £20. **Many thanks to you all.**

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in August here at Sts Mary & Michael. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.

