

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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23rd / 24th April 2016
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



The theme of today's liturgy is the newness of life that God brings to us in the Easter Mystery. We have been reflecting on this newness for several weeks and today we ask specifically "What does this newness consist of?"

The reading from the Book of Revelation points out that the new life that God seeks for humanity is totally different from what preceded. The first earth has gone, and the first things have passed away. The two symbols of Jerusalem and the bride suggest we are talking about a new covenant between God and humanity, based on new conditions and a new lifestyle. God is with us and within us, the source of the newness of life that Easter brings, and Jesus says that our role is to love one another. Jesus calls this a New Commandment and challenges us, his disciples, to love one another with the quality of love that he has shown us. As a New Commandment is established in the Lord's Passion, a new command is given to the disciples; a command that is a summary of all that he wishes. In practice, this broad challenge includes a willingness to serve others, to wash their feet, and generally to put ourselves out for them. Paul and Barnabas learned this lesson as our first reading indicates. Although they had been persecuted, they returned to the place of their suffering for the sake of others, as it made them channels of God's actions in other peoples' lives.

At this season, God calls us to newness of life, to a sharing in his new creation. This New Life implies a different quality of love than the world had previously seen; the loving service of others modelled on Jesus' love for humanity. If we live in this way, others will see the difference and ask "why?", and hopefully be led to God. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

D'arcy

New items and information

This Weekend our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked that there be a special collection in all of the Catholic Churches in Europe for the people of Ukraine. Please be as generous as you can for this, Pope Francis's particular request.

First Holy Communions – The next session is next Tuesday 26th April, beginning at 6.30 pm, for the children only, in the Plessington Chapel.

Father David's Retirement Mass & Presentation is next Wednesday, 27th April 2016. Mass in church at 7.00 pm will be followed by a presentation of parishioners' gifts at Garstang Country Hotel and Golf Club. Admission to the Hotel and light refreshments will be free. However, if you firmly intend coming, please write your name on the easel in the narthex. This is mainly to assess catering arrangements, and to comply with Health & Safety regulations. *Thank you.*

Start of Term Mass – 9.30 am, Friday 29th April 2016 – This will take place in the School Hall; it is Father Tom's first school Mass – we hope the first of many! Please do come along to celebrate the start of the summer term.

Chivuna – On the weekends of 30th April/1st May and 7th/8th May we will be again asking our Parishioners if they would like the chance of owning an etching given by an award-winning Lakeland artist, Barbra Cropper. Its value is approximately £250. It is to be raffled by means of paying £1 to the charity and then choosing a number from 1 – 250. Our artist friend will have chosen the winning number, which is unknown to us until all the numbers have (hopefully) been sold – then the announcement will be made after Sunday Mass on 8th May. Please support this venture – we can assure you that the money raised will greatly assist our friends in Chivuna in many ways. *Thank you for your ongoing support.*

Copies of The Voice are available at the back of church – please take one.

NWCSG Bric-a-brac Auction – once again we would be very grateful for the donation of sandwiches and cakes for us to sell at the auction. Many people arrive at 10 am and stay all day so the refreshments are always very popular and contribute to the financial success of the event. If you are able to make cakes or sandwiches, please put your name on the list at the back of church. Plastic packs will be supplied to those making sandwiches. If you have any questions please contact Debbie McCann, tel: 601 354. For more information about the NWCSG please see our website www.nwcsg.co.uk. *Many thanks; your support is much appreciated.*

Youth Service – Castlerigg – From Friday 27th – Sunday 29th May at Castlerigg Manor, there is a retreat available for all families. The weekend provides a great opportunity for families to be together, share with each other and with other families, and draw closer to God. Family discounts are available. There is a booking form and more information on the website www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/yatm-events/keswick/family. There is a poster at the back of church.

Did you know...one in five people around the world don't have the access to the electricity they need to power schools, clinics, homes and businesses? CAFOD is asking supporters to email Nick Hurd MP, minister at the Department for International Development, to support bringing power to the people living in poor communities overseas. Local, renewable sources of energy are the most affordable way of reaching these people, who most often live in very rural areas. Renewable sources of energy don't

contribute to the problem of climate change, which hits poor communities hardest. Please add your voice and help build a brighter future cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Power-to-the-People.

Previously Published Items

The North West Children's Support Group are holding their **Annual bric-a-brac auction** next **Saturday, 30th April** in SS Mary & Michael's School Hall. The Auction will begin at 12 noon with viewing from 10 am. Refreshments available. Please come along and support this important fundraiser for our group. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please bring them along on Friday evening to the school hall, or if the items need collecting then call Debbie and Paul on 01995 601 354, Helen and Barry on 01995 600 254, or Angela and Paul on 01524 751 373. We welcome donations of items such as Household goods, Antiques, Pottery, small items of furniture, Jewellery, toys, games, garden equipment, etc.

Parish Draw – To Current Members: Thank you all for your continuing support for our Parish draw. A list of last year's winners is displayed on the notice board at the back of the church. **To Potential New Members:** Would you like the chance to win up to £80 in our monthly draw, with a special prize of £100 at Christmas? We have plenty of numbers available for new members to join the draw. It will only cost you £20 for the year for each number you wish to buy. If you would like an opportunity to join the draw and support our church, please contact Trish & Kev O'Hanlon on 604 292. *Thank you.*

Wednesday Word to help prepare for the weekend Mass of 1st May can be found on yellow paper at the back of church. *Please help yourself.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Margaet Horn, Isabel Clarke, Monica Stansfield, Jack Swarbrick, Charles Bisby, Fr Bernard Cochrane, Bert Wrennall, Maureen Mary Jenings, Jane Rossall, Sarah Banks and Robert Pegg. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, John Towers, John Sweeney, Rita Whittaker, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, 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 the 10 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 23rd April – Sunday 1st May 2016

Sat	23 rd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy (Birthday Remembrance)
Sun	24 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	25 th	No Mass	
Tue	26 th	12 noon	Fiona Catterall (Get well soon)
Wed	27 th	7.00 pm	Father David's Retirement Mass – Brian Hargreaves
Thurs	28 th	9.30 am	The Ashworth Family
Fri	29 th	9.30 am	Start of Term Mass (in School Hall) – Gleeson Family
Sat	30 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	James Walmsley
Sun	1 st May	10.00 am	Tom Horn (Lately Dead)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	27 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	30 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Sun	24 th	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mon	25 th	ST MARK
Thurs	28 th	St Peter Chanel; St Louis de Monfort
Fri	29 th	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA
Sat	30 th	St Pius V
Sun	1 st May	Sixth Sunday of Easter

Meetings this Week:

Tues	26 th	6.30 pm	First Eucharist (Session 7)
Thurs	27 th	7.00 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	17 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 129	Children: 10	
		10.00 am	Adults: 129	Children: 23	Total: 291

Monies Received:

Last Weekend: £1,049.70; Shop: £5; Votive Lights: £45; Ecclesiastical Education Fund: £118. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in April here at St Mary & St Michael's, and in May at St Thomas's.