

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 August 2014

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



Jesus called people and invited them to become his apostles. But before they could become apostles of Jesus, they had to come to really know him and love him.

When Peter was able to see way beyond the human Jesus and to see the divine Jesus – then Peter was ready to become an apostle, and more than an apostle – he became the lead apostle and the one to receive the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus calls *us* to become his apostles. But before we can become apostles, we have to come to really know and love Jesus.

The way that we come to know Jesus is different from the way that Peter came to know him. We can't see Jesus in the way Peter saw him, nor hear him or be inspired and amazed by his miracles, or be able to simply sit down with him for a meal in the way that Peter did ... We come to know Jesus by being with others who already know him and love him. I first came to know Jesus through the love and faithfulness of my Mum and Dad. I didn't *really* know him until I met Sister Marie-Bernard in Paris, a few years before I was ordained a priest.

Her faith and love of Jesus was transparent and infectious. She told me and other seminarians how she had been instantaneously cured from terminal cancer, her love for the Lord was irresistible and charismatic. She was from Tyneside and was very down to earth. She told us how, immediately after she was cured, she had the sensation of life, and God's love, being poured into her, through a hole in her head. I had never met anyone who so clearly loved the Lord and was loved by him.

Sometimes people speak of the experience of being baptised in the Spirit. This was the moment for me when I was baptised in the Spirit. By the time I was ordained, all I wanted to do was to tell people what I had come to know – Jesus loves you so much, in spite of all the ways that you fail him. Every day, the Lord renews that love for me. I know so clearly, after nearly 50 years as a priest, that God loves every single one of us with a consuming love. No matter how often we sin, the Lord is right there to forgive us, to pick us up and to love us even more than before.

When this happens, I have no choice but to fall back in love with him and to return his love!

Just let Jesus love you!

New items and information

'Songs of Praise' – Churches Together in Garstang and District are holding a 'Songs of Praise' in Cherestanc Square this afternoon (Sunday 24th) starting at 3.00 pm until 3.45 pm. The service is being led by Father David. Please try to make time to give your support. If the weather is wet, we will go into the Methodist chapel.

Collection for the Catholic Trust for England and Wales Levy is scheduled to be taken next weekend, 30th/31st August. There has been again an increase in the overall levy, charged on the Diocese, partly due to an additional charge to fund the Bishop's Conference Prison Chaplaincy post. Our levy is based on our parish's offertory and this year, the amount required from our parish is **£1,352.75**. Please be as generous as you can, because this money will be collected by direct debit from our bank account, regardless of how much (or little!) is collected. *Thank you.*

Our Lady's Catholic College, Lancaster is celebrating its Golden Jubilee on 4th September this year. A 50th Anniversary Mass is being held on that day, at 7.30 pm, at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster, celebrated by Bishop Michael. There are tickets at the back of church; however, even if they are all gone, everyone is welcome.

Traidcraft – The new catalogue is available from the back of church. Any orders placed support fair trade and raise funds for Chivuna Clinic. Thank you. *Faith and Justice Group.*

Mission Boxes – Would you please bring mission boxes for emptying to church next Sunday. *Thank you.*

Date for your Diary – Friday, 26th September, 7.30 pm, Brian Dickinson will be giving an organ recital to raise funds for the church roof. £5.00 at the door. Please come along to support Brian, enjoy the music, and raise money for the church roof restoration.

Harvest Festival – We will have a Harvest Festival Mass at 10.30 am on **Sunday 28th September**. We could make this a special time, and possibly deliver small gifts to our parishioners who are sick or housebound. If anyone feels they could help with this in any way, or have ideas to make this Harvest a special time, please contact Margaret (603525) or Arlene (601677). *Thank you.*

Did you know.....CAFOD will be visiting *your* area in the near future? Do come along to a CAFOD meeting and you'll see first-hand how your generosity is transforming lives, making a real difference. This September/October they will be visiting *West Cumbria, the Fylde, Preston and Lancaster* deaneries. In the new year they'll be in the *Blackpool, Kendal, Furness, ~Carlisle and the Penrith* areas. As Pope Francis says: "It's not enough to give them food. Dignity is given to you when you can bring food home from your own labour."

Book Fair Next Saturday, at the URC hall, there will be a book fair between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. Bacon Balms will also be on sale!

Garstang Musical Productions are putting on a production of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' from **22nd – 25th October**. All performances start at 7.30 pm and tickets will cost £9 (£6 for 16 yrs and under) and will be available soon from Car Care in Garstang, or by contacting Alan Armstrong on 01995 606603. **Do come along for a really enjoyable evening!**

Previously Published Items

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

Please pray for babies Delilah Rae Richardson and Tallulah Belle Sharples, both of whom are being baptised this weekend.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Lilian Barnes, Robert Horn, Wilfred Garstang, John N Bamber, Stephen Copple, George Armer, Margaret Barton, Brian Eydman, John Green, Francis Xavier Andrews, 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: 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, Michael O'Neil, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio 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.)**

Response to the Psalm at 10.30 am Mass :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 23rd – Sunday 31st August 2014

Sat	23 rd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Catherine Heaton (Lately Dead)
Sun	24 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Jeanette Mears (Fourth Anniversary)
Mon	25 th	No Mass	
Tues	26 th	12 noon	Private Intention
Wed	27 th	7.00 pm	Stephen Copple
Thurs	28 th	9.30 am	Robert Catterall
Fri	29 th	9.30 am	Julie Callon (Sick)
Sat	30 th	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	31 st	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Alex Stott (Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Sun	24 th	3 – 3.45 pm	'Songs of Praise', Cherestanc Square, Garstang
Wed	27 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	30 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition and Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Wed	27 th	St Monica
Thurs	28 th	St Augustine
Fri	29 th	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Sat	23 rd	Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, Margaret Ward (Martyrs)

Meetings this Week:

Wed	27 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Assumption	7.30 pm	Adults	72	Children:	0	
	9.30 am	Adults	38	Children:	2	Total: 112
Sat	16 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults:	108	Children :	4
Sun	10 th	8.30 am	Adults:	50	Children:	6
		10.30 am	Adults:	122	Children:	19
						Total: 309

Monies Received: Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,064.87; Feast of the Assumption: £211.20; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £56.60; Roof Fund Donations: £805. **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 SS Mary & Michael's, and during September, at St Thomas's. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.