

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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**23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)**  
**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**

“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me  
For he has anointed me.  
He has sent me...”

So Jesus knew himself to be commissioned. The same Spirit that sent Isaiah the prophet out, was now sending Jesus, the Son of God, out. The same Spirit is sending us out. The same Spirit has sent women and men out over thousands of years...

And the same Spirit is as fresh and new, no matter how often we are sent. We have the habit of dismissing the Good News as being old hat; done that, got the T-shirt.... We forget that it is the Spirit, working in us, who proclaims the Good News – and the Spirit is never “old hat”.

The instrument of the Spirit may be old, may think that I have been through all this before – but the Spirit is today using the “old instrument” in a new way.

“Make me a channel of your peace”;

“Make me an instrument of your mercy!”

In this Year of Mercy, the Holy Spirit wishes to use each of us in a new way. We have never had a Year of Mercy before. It is our Holy Father, guided by the Holy Spirit, who has called the whole Church to celebrate a Year of Mercy. This is how the Holy Spirit continues to activate the living Church. Pope Francis, as he listens to the persistent voice of the Spirit, is urgently asking every one of us to become a “messenger of mercy” in this Jubilee Year.

How each of us does this will be different. The Holy Spirit has been given to each of us in a uniquely personal way. Our guidance comes from Jesus, especially as he is shown to us in St Luke's gospel.

St Luke's gospel is sometimes called the “Gospel of Mercy”. Luke had been a pagan. He came to know about Jesus through St Paul, as Paul went out to the ‘gentile’ world, to non-Jews, who did not know the way that God had always guided his people and now had sent his own Son as our Saviour. Luke was so aware of how God was compassionate, and was desperate to make us realise that we are just so loved by God, that the Father's mercy floods over us – “merciful like the Father” is the key phrase of this Year of Mercy, the motto.

A starting point is to re-read the Gospel of Luke. Copies are on sale at the back of the Church. You may already have a copy in your Bible at home. Begin this year by re-reading the Gospel of Luke. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart.

**New items and information**

**Father David re his retirement** – This is a copy of the statement that Fr. David read out at the end of the Masses: “Last November, I met with Bishop Michael and explained to him how my health was deteriorating, and I asked him if I might retire this year, 2016. The Bishop agreed that I should retire. I saw him again on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, and he asked me to retire from Easter Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March. Thus the last Mass that I will celebrate as your Parish Priest will be at 10.00 am on that day. I have been 14 years here at SS Mary & Michael's, and they have been very happy and grace-filled years. I thank you all for your love and support, and ask you for your prayers in my retirement. I hope to retire to a Diocesan property in Torrisholme, Morecambe, when this becomes available. The Bishop will appoint my successor in due course.”

**This weekend and next weekend, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January**, there will be a retiring collection to help the victims of floods in Cumbria through the SVP. Fr. Hugh Pollock, Parish Priest of Kendal, told Fr. David that many people who suffered were not insured. They are the ones in most need at this time. ***Please be generous.***

**Stars at Christmas** – The donations from Stars at Christmas amounted to £200.

***Thank you to all who contributed.***

**Parish Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2016 – Update** – The date has now been finalised, commencing on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September for 7 nights, returning on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Fr Jerome Ainsworth will be the pilgrimage chaplain. The cost, including full board at the 3\* Hotel Avena will be £675 plus additional charges for insurance (£25 up to age 85) and UK transport to/from Manchester Airport. (Amount to be confirmed.) For those interested in going, there will be a planning meeting shortly, the date of which will be advised in next week's newsletter. If you are interested and have not yet put your name(s) down, please add them to the list at the back of church. *Thank you.*

**CAFOD Lent Fast Day meeting** will be held on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1 pm – 3 pm at St Mary's Catholic Church, Brownedge Lane, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6SP. All welcome. See poster at back of church.

**Fairtrade Coffee Morning** – Hannah Spencer is travelling to Nepal with VSO/ICS (Voluntary Service Overseas/International Citizen Service) in March for three months, to undertake humanitarian work after last year's earthquake. She is holding a coffee morning along with her Mum, Helen, to raise money for her project on restoring livelihoods in Kathmandu. (Her travel and expenses are paid by VSO). You are welcome to drop in between 10 am and 1 pm on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> February**, to Resipole House, Gubberford Lane (opposite the end of Green Lane East). There will be Fairtrade tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and a small stall with Fairtrade/craft items. *Thank you.* Hannah is also raising money for VSO through her Justgiving page: [www.justgiving.com/hannahspencerVSO](http://www.justgiving.com/hannahspencerVSO).

**“Blessed are the merciful”** – There will be a series of talks for the Year of Mercy held in the Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February, and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March (all Wednesdays) beginning at 7.30 pm. Visit [www.lancs-catholic-chaplaincy.uk](http://www.lancs-catholic-chaplaincy.uk); email [lancatholic@gmail.com](mailto:lancatholic@gmail.com); or see poster at back of church for further details.

**Hummingbirds Parents and Staff** would like to say a BIG thank you to parishioners for their support this year. Our Vintage afternoon raised £399, and our Christmas Fair almost £1,000, including quizzes. If you would like to help raise more funds, and you like to shop on-line, please consider registering with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). Choose a cause – ours is “Hummingbirds Garstang” – and register. Whenever you shop on-line, make sure you activate easyfundraising, and a donation will be sent to our cause. We receive payment every quarter. At the moment you can raise *huge* donations by booking your holiday on-line with companies such as Expedia, Thomas Cook, Hotels.com, Thomson and many more. One of our parents has booked, and raised us a massive £120 as a result! *Thank you.*

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage – Young People** Patricia Benson, from Castlerigg Manor is organising the Young People’s Section of our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016. This is for Year 11+ young people. Full details are on the website: [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/yatm-events//lourdes-2016](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/yatm-events//lourdes-2016).

#### **Previously Published Items**

**St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal** – Our appeal for bedding and winter clothing for those in need – men’s, women’s and children’s clothing continues, and we are very grateful for your generous response. The box will remain at the back of church for the time being. Any queries, please ring Pat on 605 793. *Thank you.*

**Wednesday Word** for the weekend Mass of 31<sup>st</sup> January can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Belle Metcalf, Thomas Bamber, Hugh Grimbaldeston, John Thomas Graham, Richard Hargreaves, John McArdle, Ruth Fairey, Joan Finlay, Robert Edwin Brown, Alice Winstanley, Robert Tomlinson and Michael McBride. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Maureen Ingleby, Rod Pearson, Kenneth Johnston, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew’s Mum), Mrs Jean Parkinson (Jim’s wife), Ann and Jackson Wickes, 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, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Anthonio 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, 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.)*

**Response to the psalm at the 10 am Mass:**

#### **Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

Sat	23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Bro. Geoff Brown
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Ruth Fairey (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	The Wilson Family
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Brian Hargreaves
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	The Cowdall Family
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	The Smythe Family
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Fr Gerald Muir
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Richardson (Anniversary)
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker

#### **Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 11 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	30 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

#### **Special Days this week:**

Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL
Tues	26 <sup>th</sup>	Sts Timothy & Titus
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	St Angela Merici
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>	St Thomas Aquinas

#### **Meetings this Week:**

Tues	26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	First Forgiveness Preparation (Session 3)
Weds	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	29 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Preparation of Service of Mercy and Celebration of Reconciliation

#### **Last Week’s Attendance:**

Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 103	Children: 7
		10.00 am	Adults: 116	Children: 19 Total: 245

#### **Monies Received:**

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £998.71. *Many thanks to you all.*

#### **Churches Together in Garstang & District**

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in January at St Thomas’s and in February at Garstang Methodist Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.