

**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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24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**



*“O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.” Ps. 95*

**New items and information**

**Crib Offerings** – This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Michael, this parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing initiatives. FHL is apolitical and ecumenical. For further information, please take a look at the poster on the notice board, and please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time.

**Stars at Christmas** – Thank you to everyone who supported the “Stars at Christmas”. £174 was raised, which will go towards helping the Clinic at Chivuna.

**Burns Night Ceilidh** – 21<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30 pm at Kirkland Village Hall, Haggis and Hotpot supper, Bring your own drinks, Dancing to “Striding Edge”. Tickets are £20, available from Debbie and Paul McCann (tel 601354) or Helen Whittaker. Proceeds will go to North West Children’s Support Group.

**Red Mission Boxes** – These have now been emptied, and are at the back of church ready for collecting. Please will you also pick up a *free* 2017 calendar. (Help yourself, even if you do not have a mission box.)

**Parish Draw:** Congratulation go to Mary Swarbrick and Celia Lowe for being our December winners and Tom Rigby and Bernie Murphy for being our Christmas winners. Thank you all for your support with our Parish draw and we’d like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and good luck for our 2017 monthly draws, Trish & Kev O’Hanlon (01995 604292).

**We have a message from CAFOD** - Merry Christmas to all of our friends across the Diocese of Lancaster.

2016 has been a year of great humanitarian challenge. We have faced the unprecedented impact of the refugee crisis as many millions have fled famine, drought, war, persecution and climate change. We have all been confronted by the appalling scenes from war-zones in Syria and Iraq and on the islands of the Mediterranean. However, thanks to the vital work of our volunteers and the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to help tackle these injustices.

We have been able to work with our partners across the globe to bring opportunity and dignity to some of the world’s most disadvantaged communities. We have heard many good news stories from our projects across the world – from helping farmers in the Bolivian Altiplano grow crops, to delivering messages of hope to refugees; we have accomplished a lot this difficult year. Simply put, we would not be able to accomplish this without you. Thank you.

We wish you all a *peaceful* and *happy* Christmas and a *blessed* New Year. We look forward to working with you all in 2017 to put our faith into action once more and strive for a kinder, more compassionate and just world.

With our deep gratitude for your steadfast support this year. With very best wishes,  
**Patrick Gardner** *Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD*

**Previously Published Items**

**Thank you to everyone who supported Hummingbirds Raffle & Christmas Fair** – We raised a *fantastic* £1,158.

**Cenacolo** – Thank you to Father Tom for inviting Reece and Titsiano to give their brave and remarkable testimonies concerning their past lives. Thank you to you all for helping to raise the *incredible* sum of **£1,045** for fresh food for the young men at Cenacolo. We spend about £60 every five or six weeks so this will see us through a year or two. If anybody requires further information regarding Cenacolo, please ring Pat and Jim Costain on 01995 605 793.

**Catenian Rosary Appeal for the Missions** – The Catenian Rosary Group is appealing for unused rosaries for the missions. If you have any unused rosaries you could donate, please bring them to the presbytery; we will see that they get passed on to the right people.

**Wednesday Word** for the weekend Mass of 2<sup>nd</sup> January can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of** Oliver (8 years old) who was put on our sick list last week, but who has since died. Please pray especially for his parents and family.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Keith Barton, Kathleen Boden, Thomas Wilcock, Rev John Michael Horn, Thomas Francis Horn, Louis Appleton Darbyshire, Mary Ibison, Elizabeth Quick, Margaret Walmsley, Frank Piela, Peggy Barton, Ellen Law, Marie Kendall, Robert Ibison, Alice Ibison, Michael Hoyle, Mary Ainsworth, Richard Swarbrick, Winifred McArdle, William Boden, Eleanor Bolton, Iain Watson, Florence Carter, Edwin Eydmann, Sheila Richardson, Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, John Edwards, Fr Arthur Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, John Edwards, Annie Bisby and Mary Alexander Kenyon. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Neil Edmondson, Christine Cobain; John Holland, Ros Drake; Fr Joe Duggan SJ, Allan Whipp, Theresa Harrison, Margaret Hibberdine, Billy (5 years old), Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Craig Smith, Leo Rabbett, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, Rod Pearson, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (he has responded well to brain tumour treatment, even able to move up to secondary school this year. The family appreciates your prayers and asks that they continue as he is not out of the woods yet), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio 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.)*

**The Holy Father's Mission Intention for December**

*That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.*

**Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Sat	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Michael Sturzaker
		Midnight	Rev John Horn
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
		10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	All Parish Helpers who labour unseen
Tue	27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>9.30 am</b>	The Dalton Family
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	The Crumbleholme Family
Thurs	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 pm	Marjorie Kirkman
Fri	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Mary Agnes Ibison (RIP)
Sat	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ethel Kenyon
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10.00 am	Michael Hoyle
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 noon	Eleanor and Thomas Bolton
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Mark Pye
Thurs	5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	May Boyle (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Len and Lily Butler
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Richardson (Anniversary)
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Joan Preston

**Devotions and Celebrations for 2 weeks:**

Wed	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec & 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6.45 pm	Rosary
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**Special Days for 2 weeks:**

Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTMAS DAY – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	ST STEPHEN	
Tues	27 <sup>th</sup>	ST JOHN	
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	
Thurs	29 <sup>th</sup>	ST THOMAS BECKETT	
Fri	30 <sup>th</sup>	THE HOLY FAMILY	
Sat	31 <sup>st</sup>	St Sylvester	
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup>	St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen	
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup>	St Raymond of Penyafort	
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	

**Meetings next Week:**

Wed	4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10 am – 12 noon	Monthly Coffee Morning
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice

**Last Week's Attendance:**

Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	Penitential Service	Total:	90		
Sun	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults:	120	Children:	5
		10.00 am	Adults:	152	Children:	25
						Total: 302

**Monies Received:**

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,143.65; Funeral: £600; Cemetery: £120; Flowers for Christmas: £236; Votive Lights: £44.30; Shop: £120. *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.