

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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24th / 25th JANUARY 2015
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today is the only Sunday reading from the Book of Jonah, yet no prophet has entered popular culture as much as Jonah. You never hear people say “He’s a proper Isaiah,” or “A proper Elijah,” do you? But if you say someone is a proper Jonah, you know you’re describing someone whose mere presence brings misfortune on those around him.

Jonah is the real biblical anti-hero. He does everything that a prophet is not supposed to do. Called by God to preach repentance to Nineveh, Jonah goes off in the opposite direction. Through the agency of the ‘whale’, he finds himself back on dry land, but God does not give up on his reluctant prophet, and, following a second call, Jonah goes to Nineveh. When he gets there, his attempt could be described as “third hearted”; he only goes one third of the way into the town and preaches but one sentence, half a verse, yet this causes wonderful things to happen as our reading tells us. Jonah is rather displeased at this, and complains to God, and this leads to another confrontation.

Jonah in his reluctance, even unwillingness, to cooperate with God in his life, must make him typical of many of us; a reminder to us to let go and let God do wonderful things. The prompt repentance of the people of Nineveh, the city of evil, the least likely to hear the Word of God, acts as a foil to Jonah, one of the chosen people, those who *could* be expected to recognise God’s Word and be obedient to it.

We listen to the Word of God, the Good News, the Message of Repentance preached by Jesus every week. Repentance is that turning to God, overcoming our unwillingness, and letting God take over our lives, just as God had already overtaken the life of Jesus at his baptism.

Jonah was a frail, yet God-fearing human being, but because he finally obeyed the Word of God, his story is still widely told. What a man!

D’arcy

New items and information

Next Sunday is Education Sunday – There will be a second collection for the Catholic Education Services.

Evangelium – On Thursday, 29th January, we will be having our 22nd session of Evangelium in the Plessington Chapel at 7.30 pm. This session is on “Marriage and Holy Orders”, and will be presented by Father Keefe. These meetings are always uplifting, and often lead to interesting discussion; so much so, that one hour hardly seems long enough – but that is all the time we have, and the sessions end at 8.30pm.

North West Children’s Support Group – The NWSG are organising a **BEER FESTIVAL AT Cockerham Village Hall** on Friday 30th and Saturday 31st January, 7pm – 12 midnight. Entrance is by ticket only – tickets £3.00. Tickets are available from Salon 39, or Paul Andrews on 07711 631 984, or Helen Whittaker on 07731 330 433. There will also be Live Music, Pies available, and a full bar including soft drinks.

Catholic Women’s League Members – There is an alteration to last week’s notice. The next branch meeting is on Saturday, 31st January, at the Crofters Hotel, **beginning at 11.00 am, with lunch 1.00 pm.** This is to enable members from Carlisle and area to get home in daylight. Subscriptions (kept at £19) are due; as are 200 club subs (£4). Please let me know if you hope to attend. *Philippa Catterall.*

Bereavement Support – A second workshop for anyone interested in providing Bereavement Support will take place in the Plessington Chapel on Saturday, 7th February, from 11 am for approximately two hours. We will be looking at stages of grief using our listening skills! Do come along if you are interested.

Parish Draw – Christmas: 1st prize – E Horn; 2nd prize – J Cadden. January: 1st prize – Mrs Leaper; 2nd prize – Mr & Mrs L Gornall.

Did you know....that this Lent, every pound you donate to **CAFOD** will be matched by the UK Government, up to the value of £3.5 million? This incredible opportunity really will have a deep and lasting impact on the world’s poorest women, men and children and their ability to tackle the effects of extreme weather such as storms, droughts and floods. This extraordinary chance means we can help even more people to escape poverty and transform their lives. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Previously Published Items

Synod of Bishops 2015 – There will be a second session of the Synod this autumn, with the theme “The Call, The Journey, and The Mission”. If you have any views on marriage and family life which you would like to be considered, please talk to Father David.

Sunday Mass Times – For some time now, the bishop has been encouraging parishes to reduce the number of Sunday Masses as the availability of priests decreases with retirement. When Bishop O’Donoghue instructed that the 8.30 am Mass at Calder Vale be discontinued he didn’t expect us to transfer that Mass to Bonds. He asked that it be reviewed in 12 months with a view to discontinuing. Bishop Michael has asked me on a couple of occasions what the outcome of the review has been. Our Liturgy & Spirituality Group did this review before Christmas, and at their most recent meeting recommended a change. From Sunday 15th March, therefore, there will only be one Mass on a Sunday morning at 9.30 am. Please note

this. There is Mass at 9 am at Claughton, and 10.30 am at Scorton, if occasionally you need an earlier or later Mass.

Parish Safeguarding – Does your role in the parish involve you in activities with children, young people or vulnerable adults? The Lancaster Safeguarding Commission invites you to a **Safeguarding Training Day** at the Cathedral Centre on **Saturday 14th March**. If you are a member of the SVP, a Youth Leader, Catechist, Eucharistic Minister or Musician etc, then this could be for you. You will find more information at the back of Church. Let us know if you are interested in joining us on the day. Ted (604714) or Annette (606702).

Children's Liturgy – There is a real need for more helpers for the Children's Liturgy Team. There is a rota – the more volunteers we have, the less frequently you would have to be involved. There is lots of helpful literature, and volunteers work in teams of two or more, so you would not be alone. *Please could you help?*

New Hymn Books – A full set of the newest edition of Laudate has been very kindly purchased for the parish by a parishioner. We are most grateful. The original set of hymn books were dedicated by the parishioners who paid for them. When the new hymn books are introduced, we would like to offer the old ones to the people who dedicated them, for your personal use.

A visit to the Shrine at Medjugorje 5th – 12th September 2015. £520 per person sharing; £620 in single room. See poster at back of church for details.

St Vincent de Paul Society – Appeal for warm clothing – now that winter is here we have replaced the box at the back of church, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks, duvets, etc will once more be gratefully received, and they will be taken to Caritas Care who work with ex-offenders and homeless people in Preston. *Thank you very much – your help is very much appreciated. SVP Conference.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 1st February, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

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

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Jim Costain, Dina Carter, Richard (aged 14, has had a bone marrow transplant), Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Ellen, Brendan McGlone (14 year old with leukaemia), Anne Brockbank, Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, 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, 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 the 10.30 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 24th January – Sunday 1st February 2015

Sat	24 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Mary Agnes Ibison
Sun	25 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	26 th	No Mass	
Tues	27 th	12 noon	Sarah O'Connor
Wed	28 th	9.30 am (note time)	Frank and Mollie Ashworth
Thurs	29 th	9.30 am	Irfam Karim
Fri	30 th	9.30 am	Anne Helena and Joseph Grayston
Sat	31 st	9.30 am	Peter Corrigan
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Agnes and Joseph Rossall
Sun	1 st Feb	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Robert and Elsie Tomlinson

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	28 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	30 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Sat	31 st	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Mon	26 th	Sts Timothy & Titus
Wed	28 th	St Thomas Aquinas
Sat	31 st	St John Bosco

Meetings this Week:

Tues	27 th	6.30 pm	1 st Reconciliation Preparation with Parents (Session 1)
Wed	28 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	29 th	7.30 pm	Evangelium (incorporating Journey in Faith)

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	17 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 116	Children : 8
Sun	18 th	8.30 am	Adults: 44	Children: 4
		10.30 am	Adults: 100	Children: 22 Total: 294

Monies Received: Offertory: £991.25; Pax Christi Special Collection: £132.21; Votive Lights: £44.40; Shop: £40; Diaries: £1.70; Postcards: 50p. *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. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.