

## 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> May 2014**

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**



“I will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, whom the world can never receive.”

As Jesus spoke these words to his friends, they probably experienced great joy – but also great puzzlement. The disciples had many friends and family who did not know about Jesus – they were ‘of the world’ – and Jesus had said that ‘the world can never receive’ the Spirit of Truth.

Was Jesus telling his friends that they were an exclusive group and everyone else would be ‘outsiders’? It wasn’t until after the Resurrection and Pentecost that the disciples began to understand the truth. Everyone was being offered the Holy Spirit! When Philip went to the Samaritans – a people whom the Jews despised, because they were too worldly – the people welcomed the Good News of Jesus with open hearts. They were baptised – and then they received the Holy Spirit in abundance when Peter and John prayed over them and laid their hands on them (what we call the Sacrament of Confirmation).

It became clear to the disciples that when Jesus said ‘the world can never receive the Holy Spirit’, what he meant was that ‘*worldly people can never receive the Holy Spirit!*’ What is it then to be ‘worldly’ that it prevents us from receiving the Holy Spirit?

If a person’s whole life is earth-bound, if one believes that there is nothing beyond this world, if all that exists is the material, then there is no room in a person’s life for the things of the Spirit, there is no place for the spiritual. It is as though some people deny the existence of the Holy Spirit. God will never force himself onto his people. He has given us the great gift of free-will – and God respects that absolutely.

But what a loss!

Although we probably never deny the Holy Spirit, we do sometimes seem to forget about him and carry on as if all that mattered was the life in this world that we are living. As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, it is time for us to re-affirm our utter dependence on the Holy Spirit – everything we do is Spirit-filled. The Spirit of God gives us life, the Spirit is the source of the love in our lives, the source of forgiveness, of joy, of wisdom, the Spirit is the source of respect for our world and of our brothers and sisters; the Holy Spirit gives meaning to all we do and all we are. Perhaps we should be praying at this time:

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.”

#### New items and information

**Crowning of the Statue of our Lady in the Grotto** This Sunday, the children who made their First Holy Communion last Sunday, will lead us to the Grotto after the 10.30 am Mass, where one of the children will place a crown of flowers on the head of the statue of Mary – weather permitting!

**The Broughton Catholic Charitable Society** is a local charity that was founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to help Catholic families who were suffering great poverty during the smallpox epidemic in the present North Western Dioceses of Salford, Liverpool, Shrewsbury and Lancaster. The meetings of the Society always took place at the Golden Ball Hotel (now an Indian restaurant) at Broughton crossroads – hence the name of the Society. The Society today has funds available to help families, but depends on local Parish Priests to identify those in need. Funds have been distributed to charities abroad, but this was not the original purpose of the Society. In these straitened times there are many families who are struggling. Please help the Society identify these families in order that the Broughton’s charitable purpose and mission may continue to be fulfilled. If you know of local families or individuals in need or if you would like to become a member of the BCCS please contact Fr David. The yearly subscription is £3, life membership is £60. There are 2 fund-raising lunches each year, before Christmas and at Whit. The Society historically was a Gentleman’s Society. Membership is now open to ladies. The Board of Management is in the process of changing the constitution so that ladies and men have equal rights!!

**Cathy’s Skydive** – Cathy successfully accomplished her skydive. The amount for which she was sponsored is estimated to be in excess of £1,400, a magnificent achievement. Please ensure that all sponsor promises are honoured as soon as possible; your contributions may be handed in after each weekend Mass.

**Cake Sale for Chivuna** – This weekend, 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a cake sale after the 6.30 pm Mass and after the 10.30 am Mass. The proceeds will go towards helping those in Chivuna, Zambia. There will also be on sale aprons made by the people of Chivuna, and pottery kindly donated by a parishioner who is a potter. Any donations of cakes will be greatly appreciated. Please could these be dropped off before Mass. *Thank you – Cathy Place.*

**Day of Renewal** at St Clare’s Church Parish Hall, Sharoe Green Lane Fulwood, 10 am – 4 pm Sat 7<sup>th</sup> June. ‘The Lord has delivered this land into our power’ – Derek Williams. For further information contact Rev Bernard Loveland Tel 015395 63391

**Preservation of the Talbot Library** The Talbot Library in Preston has been given a new lease of life following the announcement on 15 May 2014 by Bishop Michael Campbell that an agreement had been reached between the Lancaster Diocesan Trustees and Liverpool Hope University, whose Council is chaired by Monsignor John Devine, whereby the Talbot Library will be transferred on permanent loan to the University. It will be preserved there alongside 3 other excellent collections of theological works, making this the leading collection of Catholic literature in the northwest.

**Baptism** next Sunday, at 12.15 pm, of baby Millie Southward.

### Previously Published Items

**Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster** – There is a day conference entitled “Young People in the Church: Challenge and Hope” to be led by Simon Stewart, Neal Gilbride and James Budzynski-Seymour, at the Cathedral Social Centre, Lancaster, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 10 am – 3.30 pm. For further information see poster at back of church, or contact 01772 715 495 or 01253 733 985.

**Loaves and Fishes around Morecambe Bay** – Bishop Michael Campbell will participate in an ecumenical Blessing on the Beach on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon in which church leaders from around Morecambe Bay will bless freshly caught fish and newly baked bread and join together with local people in a picnic on the foreshore and promenade. **CAFOD** will be there and hope you can join them for this unique occasion. You can email the organisers on [loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to participate.

**Date for your Diaries: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June from 2 pm – 4 pm** – An Afternoon Tea Fundraiser will be held in the Presbytery Garden. Further information will be given nearer the date.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 1<sup>st</sup> June, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

**Please pray for** the repose of the soul of Maureen Jennings, who died recently. Her Funeral will be at 1.30 pm on Thursday, followed by Cremation at Preston Crematorium.

**Please pray for** The United Reformed Church in Garstang as they elect a new Minister. They have been without a Minister for some considerable time.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Alice Bilsborrow, Timothy John Richardson, Dennis Oxby, John Ryan, Jerome Grayston, Margaret (Madge) Wrennall, Renee Rafferty and Thomas Hezel. ***May they rest in peace.***

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth’s brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O’Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilsborrow, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley (Brian’s brother), Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Davies, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Paula Nicholson, Alison Green and Tim Park. ***(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)***

**The Response to the Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass**

### Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014

Sat	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Timothy Richardson
Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Living Members of the Broughton Catholic Charitable Society
		10.30 am	Owen & Daniel Hopkins (Confirmation)
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	27 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	The Davis Family
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Bill Bamber
Thurs	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Pat McGraw (Oxford)
Fri	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Eva Carter (100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday)
Sat	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Ken Lewis of Garstang (16 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> June	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Janet & Frank Worthington (Ruby Wedding Anniversary)

### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup> / Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> June		THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> June	3.00 pm		Evening Prayer & Benediction to support Pope Francis’ visit to the Holy Land and to pray for peace and reconciliation in these troubled lands

### Special Days this Week:

Sun	25 <sup>th</sup>	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Mon	26 <sup>th</sup>	St Philip Neri, Priest
Tues	27 <sup>th</sup>	ST AUGUSTINE of CANTERBURY, Bishop & Apostle of England
Sat	31 <sup>st</sup>	VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> June	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD World Communications Day of Prayer / Special Collection for Catholic Media

### Meetings this Week:

Tues	27 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Parish Development Group
Wed	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.35 pm	Parish Finance & Property Group
Thurs	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Stewardship Meeting
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

### Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 96	Children: 2
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 57	Children: 14
		10.30 am	Adults: 387 inc	Children: Total: 556

**Monies Received:** Offerings including Standing Orders: £1,377.31. ***Many thanks to you all.***

### Churches Together in Garstang & District

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