

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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25th / 26th APRIL 2015
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Good Shepherd Sunday



Do our families 'get on'? Do they help each other, do things together, find joy in each other? Well, the Christian family certainly doesn't. I don't know how many different sects there are, but it must be in the thousands, and the number keeps growing all the time. Even in the Catholic Church at present, groups are threatening to break away because of the Pope's reported attempts to amend certain aspects of doctrine – all from the best possible motives of course.

It's very disappointing for a parent when they have done everything possible for their children and they still don't turn our "right". In the second reading we are reminded of all the love God has lavished on us by

letting us be called his children, not subjects as we would have been in the Old Testament, but individuals, each personally loved by God. No matter what your children do, you still love them, put up with them, make excuses for them and forgive them. Fortunately this applies to God and his family as well. You might assume from the Gospel that this family is really just a flock of sheep, but the shepherd knows each animal individually, knows their individual traits and looks out for them when they go astray.

So God has given us the gift of adoption, and also the gift of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. The family of God is not a mass of humanity, but a huge collection of individuals, each known to God by name. I tell the children in First Communion Class how important it is to know someone by name. It means so much more if we meet someone in the street and can say "Hello, Bill," or "Hello, Mary," rather than just "Good morning."

God knows us by name and invites us individually to listen to our Father's voice, and if we do, Jesus the Good Shepherd will lead us to the Lord's own house where we shall see the Father as he really is.

D'arcy

New items and information

Thank you – I am very grateful to you all for the Easter Collection which amounted to £928.73. *Fr David*

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. All the faithful are invited to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. To respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd is to come close to the heart of God. There is nothing more fulfilling than a life lived close to the heart of God. If you feel called to the priesthood, then why not join us on our next discovery weekend 8th – 10th May 2015. See the poster for details, or speak to your parish priest, or contact one of the vocations team: Fr Darren Carden – priest@lancastervocations.org, tel: 01772 719 604, mb: 07552 795 060; or Fr John Millar – jwmillar1@gmail.com, tel: 01228 521 509. **There will be a second collection for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund after both Masses.**

Prayer for Vocations

"Heavenly Father, Bless our Diocese with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters." *Please pray for vocations.*

Prayer Group Meeting – the next meeting is on Tuesday, 28th April, starting at 7 pm, in the Sacristy. *All welcome.*

Friends of Chivuna – The next meeting is on Friday, 1st May, at 7.30 pm, following Mass in the Plessington Chapel.

The North West Children's Support Group would like to thank you for your support for our Charity Auction on Saturday. The Auction raised £2,200 which included £350 from selling refreshments. The sandwiches and cakes were really appreciated and received many compliments. We are very grateful for the support we receive from the parish.

The Forthcoming Synod on the Family – Pope Francis has asked Catholics throughout the world to use this time before the Synod on the Family, which takes place in the autumn, as a period of prayer and reflection on *the Call, the Journey and the Mission* of the family. During Lent met for prayerful reflections on certain passages from scripture. There will be another evening of reflection led by Fr Luiz, on **Thursday 30th April** on *The disciples on the road to Emmaus* (Lk 24/13-32) to be held in the **Cathedral day chapel, 7 – 8 pm.** All are welcome.

'Riders for Health' is a small charity doing big things delivering healthcare to outlying rural areas in Africa. It provides health workers with motorcycles and training to access remote areas. This weekend, on Sunday, 26th April, Frank Miller is running the **London Marathon** to raise funds for this charity, and your support would be very welcome. If you have not yet sponsored Frank but would like to, there are sponsor forms at the back of church, or donate online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FrankMiller>. *We wish him well!*

CAFOD – Did you know... that CAFOD is supporting Christians, Yazidis and Shia Muslims who have fled their homes in Iraq, in fear of the extremist group, Islamic State? Today, families are seeking shelter in empty houses, schools, clinics,

mosques, church compounds and abandoned buildings. CAFOD is working with its local Church partners to provide food, emergency supplies, shelter and counselling to thousands of people in desperate need.

Encounter: 8th – 10th May 2015 – Cor et Lumen Christi Community, St Cuthbert's The Old Convent, Wigton, CA7 9HU. What would happen if we really gave ourselves to God's presence with deep expectation? This weekend will include input to help us grow in expectation and hunger for the living God and opportunities to really soak in the divine presence by giving our time to him in a variety of ways. £10 registration fee, including meals. Register: stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org, 01697 345 623, www.coretlumenchristi.org.

Previously Published Items

A Gift Aid Tax Reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify me if you are no longer a tax payer, or you paid insufficient tax during 2014/15 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year; at the present standard rate of tax of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1 donated. *Colin Swarbrick.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 3rd May, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for: Baby Nancy Rowlandson who is being baptised this Sunday at 11.30 am.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Jack Swarbrick, Charles Bisby, Fr Bernard Cochrane, Bert Wrennall, Maureen Mary Jennings, Jane Rossall, Sarah Banks, Robert Pegg, Fr A Richardson, Monica Hargreaves, Fr Edward Bilsborrow, Emma Seery and Tom Cassidy. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Lucienne Ferguson, Maurice Iddon, Josie Maddock, 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, 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 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 25th April – Sunday 3rd May 2015

Sat	25 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Terry Murphy
Sun	26 th	10.00 am	Maurice Iddon (Sick)
Mon	27 th	No Mass	
Tues	28 th	12 noon	Claire Ronayne
Wed	29 th	7.00 pm	Joan and Greg Patterson
Thurs	30 th	9.30 am	Jane and James Rossall
Fri	1 st May	7.00 pm (Note time)	Chivuna Mass – All Our Parishioners
Sat	2 nd	9.30 am	LISCF
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Special Intention
Sun	3 rd	10.00 am	The Rossall Family

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	29 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	2 nd	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Sun	26 th	Fourth Sunday of Easter – World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Wed	29 th	ST CATHERINE OF SIENA
Fri	1 st	St Joseph the Worker
Sat	2 nd	St Athanasius

Meetings this Week:

Tues	28 th	6.30 pm	1 st Eucharistic Preparation (Children only)
		7.00 pm	Prayer Group (in Sacristy)
Weds	29 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	30 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	1 st May	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna (preceded by Mass at 7 pm)

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	18 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 140	Children: 7	
Sun	19 th	10.00 am	Adults: 119	Children: 41	Total: 307

Monies Received:

Easter Offerings: £928.73; Last week's Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,125.05; Votive Lights: £40.50; Shop: £8; Headstone (Cemetery): £50; Donation: £30; Roof Fund: £50. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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