

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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19th / 20th March 2016

EASTER SUNDAY

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Christ
is
Risen!

Peter and John *ran* to the empty tomb. Mary of Magdala had told them that she had found the tomb opened and empty. "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they have put him!" Mary was blaming the Chief Priests for the disappearance of Jesus' body. But when Peter and John arrived at the tomb and saw the burial cloths all neatly folded, they knew that the body had not been stolen. "They saw and they believed."

What did they believe?

They remembered that Jesus, when he was alive, had told them that "in three days the Son of Man will rise from the dead". All this came back to them in a flash. They saw the empty tomb and they believed. They went back and they told the others what they had seen. With great excitement they shared their new-found faith in the risen Jesus.

For 48 years I have tried to share my faith in the risen Jesus. Just before I was ordained I came to really know that Jesus loved me, that he loves us all; I came to know that God is love. From the very first Mass I celebrated on 30th June 1968, I have tried to share the knowledge that we are deeply loved by the Lord.

For the last 14 years here at SS Mary & Michael's, I have felt a real urgency to continue to proclaim to you that God loves you with an immense love, as my ministry as a parish priest comes to an end. And now, today, it is as though the Lord is saying to me: "Your ministry in Garstang is now complete."

I have little sense of completion; the task is hardly begun. We are all very slow learners. If only we could trust enough to know the warmth and generosity of God's infinite love for us, we would be much better people. As I leave SS Mary & Michael's, I entrust you all into the hands of our loving Lord, with the embrace of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He is the one who teaches us. He is the one who will eventually get through to us – he is all patience and full of tenderness and compassion. I go into retirement trusting in this infinite love of Jesus for you.

Thank you for your faith and love that you have shared so generously with me. You have lifted me up so many times, and forgiven me my shortcomings. Thank you for your friendship, for being family to me. You have blessed my life and my heart with your goodness. I will never forget you. You will always be in my prayers. Thank you.

May the risen Jesus be close to you always.

New items and information

**A big welcome to
Fr. Tom Butler,
your new parish priest.**

Fr Tom arrives on Monday, 28th March 2016. Please help him to feel at home, and work as closely with him as you have with me to proclaim the kingdom of the God who is love.

Thank you

to you all for being my family, for sharing your own families with me and for building up my own, sometimes, very weak faith. Thank you for your love. A special thank you to D'arcy, our Deacon, who has served with me and supported me during practically the whole of my time in Garstang. I will always be indebted to the parishioners of SS Mary & Michael's. It has been a real privilege to be your parish priest. *Fr. David*

Parish Safeguarding Reminder- An important aspect of the role of Parish Safeguarding Representatives is to answer questions or address issues raised by concerned parishioners relating to safeguarding. If we don't have the answer, we know someone who does. If you have any queries, please ring Ted Delaney (01995 604714) or Annette Higham (01995 606702).

Gift Aid Coordinator including envelope scheme organiser – Thank you to Helena Rigby who has kindly volunteered to take on this role. She will be replacing Colin Swarbrick who has fulfilled this role so faithfully and efficiently for many years.

Gift Aid Tax Reclaim – 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 2015/16 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.

St Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal – Thank you very much to all who have contributed. We are very grateful. We shall leave the box at the back of church until next week, 3rd April, and then close the appeal. We intend to resume the collection again next year.

Did you know....CAFOD partner and Caritas member *Catholic Relief Services* rebuilt Nabila School in Meulaboh, Indonesia, and it reopened in 2007? 78 children go to the kindergarten now. Before the school was a wooden structure and it was washed away in the tsunami of 2004. Now it has a reputation as the best kindergarten in the town. CAFOD is there in a crisis and there in the months and years that follow too, helping people rebuild their lives and prepare for whatever the future holds.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day – we have received a further thank you letter from CAFOD for another £80 donated.

Previously Published Items

Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission – on Wednesday, 27th April at 7.45 pm in Holy Trinity & St George Parish Centre, Blackhall Road, Kendal, LA9 4BW, “Reflections & Discussions on the COP21 *the 2015 Paris Climate Conference*. On Saturday, 14th May, from 10 am – 4.30 pm, also at Holy Trinity & St George Parish Centre, “Faith in the New Economics? Are we stuck with politics, finance and economics as we know them? Are there any options beyond ‘business as usual’? What has all this to do with our fundamental beliefs and values?” For further information and contacts, see posters at the back of church. All welcome. Booking forms in presbytery office.

Traidcraft – Spring Catalogues are now available at the back of church. Traidcraft works to end poverty through trade, and, since we have an account, we receive a discount on orders which we donate to Friends of Chivuna for the clinic. If you can, please consider purchasing fair trade food, gifts, clothing, cards etc, and make a difference to some of the poorest people in the world, whilst raising money for Chivuna. ***Helen Spencer.***

Discernment Day – Advance Notice – for those thinking about priesthood. Saturday 9th April, Ladywell Shrine, Preston, 10.30 am – 4.00 pm. To book a place or for more information, contact Fr Darren Carden on 01772 719 604, mob 07552 795 060, email priest@lancastervocations.org.

Please remember in your prayers those who died recently – **Tom Horn’s** Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday, 30th March, at 11 am – his reception into church will be at 7 pm on Tuesday, 29th March. **Kathleen Newsham’s** Funeral Service will take place at 2 pm on Friday, 1st April.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Gladys Richardson, Nellie Hodges, James Pedder, Mary Carr, Fleetwood Carter, Alice Helme, Marie Calvert, Mary Horn and Frank Gornall. ***May they rest in peace.***

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: John Sweeney, Rita Whittaker, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, 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, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Anthonio 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.)***



Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 26th March – Sunday 3rd April 2016

Sat	26 th	8.00 pm (Vigil)	Dorothy Kelsall
Sun	27 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	28 th	No Mass	
Tue	29 th	No Mass	
		7.00 pm	Reception into church of Tom Horn’s body
Wed	30 th	11.00 am	Funeral Mass for Tom Horn
Thurs	31 st	9.30 am	Molloy Family
Fri	1 st Apr	9.30 am	Agnes Coote
		2.00 pm	Funeral Service for Kathleen Newsham
Sat	2 nd	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm	Thomas Ibison (Anniversary)
Sun	3 rd	10.00 am	Joan Preston (1 st Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

None

Special Days this week:

Sun	27 th	EASTER SUNDAY
Sun	3 rd Apr	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meetings this Week:

None

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sun	20 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 150	Children: 8
		10.00 am	Adults: 130	Children: 27 Total: 315

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,186.50; Shop: £35; Votive Lights: £53.70; Photocopies: £5; LSN Donation: £80; 1st Communion Ties: £10. ***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 St Mary & St Michael’s.

