

New items and information

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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26th / 27th SEPTEMBER 2015

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) **THANKSGIVING FOR THE HARVEST**



Compared to many, our lives are safe, predictable and easy. And on the whole our religion comforts us, affirms us, and encourages us; but it should also challenge us, call us to a change of heart, and make us uncomfortable. In the first reading, Moses' servant, Joshua, is certainly made uncomfortable by Eldad and Medad prophesying in the wrong place and not according to the rules, and in the gospel, some unnamed man is rebuked by

Jesus' disciples for doing some unauthorised good works, casting out devils in Jesus' name without his permission. Fortunately Moses and Jesus have the wisdom to tell their followers to leave the offenders alone.

In today's gospel, Jesus, rather than offering us comfort, seems to go out of his way to make us feel uneasy. If our hand should cause us to sin, we should cut it off, and if our eye should cause us to sin, we must pluck it out. We seem far from the loving Saviour who forgives us and welcomes us whatever evil we have done. Was Jesus in an especially bad mood when he said these things? If he was, he must have been cross quite often as we find similar things again and again in all the gospels. They are a reminder that we are engaged on a serious endeavour, and that finding salvation is no easy matter. Jesus tells us that the road to follow is narrow and steep, and not everyone finds it. St Paul, as we know, said the race is for all but the prize is for one, and even he wasn't sure he was going to win it. If a man like that wasn't confident that he had won salvation, then where do we stand?

D'arcy

This weekend is Thanksgiving for the Harvest – There are Prayer Cards at the back of church, and Harvest Fast Envelopes will be distributed for collection next weekend. Our CAFOD representative, Vincent Cahill, will be giving us a short talk about the work of CAFOD after each Mass this weekend.

This weekend we have a collection for the Bishop's Administration Fund.

The Parish Prayer Group – The next meeting will be held in the Presbytery Dining Room, next Wednesday, 30th September, at 7.40 pm following the 7 pm Mass. We gather for prayer, praise and reflection for approximately one hour. ***All welcome.***

"An Evening of Music" – with Marion Gaughan, Louise Coupe, Ivan Gaughan and David Kennedy, is to be held on **Friday, 9th October, at 7.30 pm**, here at SS Mary & Michael's Church. Tickets, £5, are on sale at the back of church after weekend Masses, and on the door. ***Do come along and support what promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment. All proceeds to go the church roof fund.***

Monthly Coffee Morning – The October Coffee Morning will be held on **Wednesday, 7th October, from 10 am – 12 noon** in aid of **MacMillan Cancer Support**. There will be a cake and produce stall (any contributions gratefully received). Entrance will be £2, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. ***Please come and support this very worthwhile cause, while having fun at the same time!***

Hummingbirds are holding a Vintage Afternoon on Saturday 17th October (more details to follow), and are asking for any pre-loved handbags, scarves or jewellery you could give us. Also donations of home-made goods, eg cards, jams, knitted toys, flower arrangements and garden produce; or anything suitable for a tombola prize would be gratefully received. All items can be left at the back of church – ***many thanks! Anne Miller (604 030).***

Hummingbirds Nursery is an important part of our parish – and our parish is vital to its continuing success. We need one or two willing parishioners to sit on the management committee. Would you consider helping Hummingbirds? There are four meetings a year, with the AGM being the first in early October. For more information please contact Frank Miller on 01995 604030 or email frankmiller_bhs@hotmail.com.

Did you know... CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is **Friday, 2nd October**? Your support and donations this Harvest Fast Day will enable our partners to work with people across the world to have access to tools and training, and empower them to become self-sufficient despite living in the most difficult of conditions. Additionally, your donation this Fast Day will be used to fund our partners' work in Europe and the Middle East to support those affected by the refugee crisis. Without your generosity and prayers, the work that CAFOD does to change the lives of thousands of people worldwide would not be possible. ***Thank you.***

An invitation has been received from Very Rev Fr Thomas Parayadiyil, National Co-ordinator of the Syro Malabar Religious Community in the diocese, to the Solemn Inauguration of the Syro Malabar Parishes, and Syro Malabar Religious Community, at St Ignatius, Preston, on Saturday, 3rd October 2015. The programme starts at 9am. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. See invitation on notice board at the back of church.

Previously Published Items

Education Mass This will be a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on Friday 16th October 2015 at 7.00 pm. All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Michael Campbell OSA at the annual Diocese of Lancaster Education Mass. This invitation extends in a special way to all those involved in education and faith formation: priests, deacons, teachers in Catholic schools and Catholic teachers in state schools, catechists, youth ministry, children's liturgy, those in seminary. The Mass will be offered in thanksgiving for the Church's mission in education and asks for a blessing on her work throughout the coming year.

Year for Priestly Vocations – Last weekend the Lancaster Diocese began a Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations. It will run until Mission Sunday 2016.

Every parish is asked to have a Holy Hour dedicated to Priestly Vocations each week. Generally, our Holy Hour will be each Friday after the 9.30 am Mass from 10 – 11 am; occasionally this will change – please keep looking in the newsletter.

The McCann Family took part in the JWK Colour Dash on 13th September to raise money for St John's Hospice in memory of Jeanette Mears, our beloved Mum and Grandma. Please bring your sponsor money to church, or you can sponsor us online at <https://jwkcolourdash.everydayhero.com/uk/mccann-family>. *Thank you.*

Invitation to Dedicate a Hymn Book to a loved one, so that anyone using the book can remember that person in prayer. The invitation is not to pay the cost of the books, as that has already been met. Please write dedications on sheets in the porch.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 4th October, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Next Sunday, during the 10 am Mass, baby Olivia Hudson will be baptised. Please welcome her and her family.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Mary Agnes Edwards, Bernard Joseph Swarbrick, Thomas Taylor, Jack Delaney, Eleanor Woodhams, Joseph Speight, Hannah Wheatley, Mary Gertrude Green, Francis Green, William Greenall, Arthur Conlong, Gerald Whittaker and John Towers. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, 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 placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

Response to the psalm :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 26th September – Sunday 4th October 2015

Sat	26 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Tony Hall
Sun	27 th	10.00 am	Gianna O'Connor
Mon	28 th	No Mass	
Tues	29 th	12 noon	Ann Pearson (Lately Dead)
Wed	30 th	7.00 pm	Joe Rainford
Thurs	1 st Oct	9.30 am	Bridget Devitt RIP
Fri	2 nd		No Mass
Sat	3 rd	9.30 am	No Mass
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	William and Ellen Greenall
Sun	4 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker (Anniversary)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	30 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	2 nd Oct	10.00 – 11.00 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	3 rd		No Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Sat/Sun	26 th /27 th	Harvest Festival
Tues	29 th	SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL
Wed	30 th	St Jerome
Thurs	1 st Oct	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Fri	2 nd	The Holy Guardian Angels <i>(Also Harvest Fast Day)</i>

Meetings this Week:

Weds	30 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	19 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 136	Children: 8	
Sun	20 th	10.00 am	Adults: 101	Children: 23	Total: 268

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,017.19; Cemetery: £110; Donation: £20; Water Refund: £60; Cemetery: £50; Votive Lights: £48; Shop: £15; Second Collection – Home Missions: £136.70. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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