

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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28th / 29th January 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



Well, today we hear the eight Beatitudes according to St Matthew, which are all the positives (Luke's version has downsides as well) and form part of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus proclaims the new spirit or outlook that must characterise his followers and also the happiness of those who fit the descriptions he gave.

Jesus is not, as is often imagined, promising eight different rewards for eight different virtues; all the eight mean the same thing. In fact it is not a question of future rewards at all, but of qualifications for entering the Kingdom of God here and now. Christ tells us that the Kingdom which he came to bring does not go, as people may have expected, to the rich, the self-sufficient, those who have been successful in the world. It goes to the very opposite: the patient, the suffering, the poor, those who realise they have nothing and turn to God as their only support; those sorts of people the world calls unfortunate. Jesus says they are really the fortunate ones, because they qualify to enter his Kingdom.

We often fall below the standards outlined in the Beatitudes. We have to realise that, to the extent we do so, we remain outside the fullness of the Kingdom. It is the Saints whom these descriptions fit properly. We must make sure that *we* will be those Saints, and try to live accordingly.

D'Arcy

A Big Thank You to Nathan Whiteside for six years' service as Altar Server. God bless him and his family. *Bill Bateson*

Monthly Coffee Morning – Now the New Year has well and truly got underway, and is not “new” any more, this is a very good time to come and have some fun, shake off winter blues, meet and greet friends, old and new, all the while enjoying tea, coffee, and some of the best baking Lancashire has to offer! Next Wednesday, 1st February, from 10 am till 12 noon, in the Plessington Chapel. *Everyone is welcome!*

Journey in Faith – The next meeting will be held next Thursday, 2nd February, 7.15 pm.
Beer Festival 2017 – 3rd & 4th February at Cockerham Village Hall, to raise money for the **North West Children's Support Group**. Beer, pies and live music from The Flatlanders and other great bands. Cocktails and a Gin bar also available. **Tickets £5** available from Paul on 01524 751 373. For further information, speak to Helen Whittaker or Debbie McCann.

Caritas – As from next Sunday, there will be a collection box at the back of church. We are again appealing for winter clothing for Caritas who support ex-offenders. We were grateful last winter for the generous support from our Parish. If items need collecting from your home, please ring Pat and Jim Costain on 605793. *Thank you.*

Syrian Refugee Appeal – Update – The containers of goods left Lancaster in mid-December (see photographs in the narthex) and arrived in Lebanon on 30th December. The donations of clothing, toiletries, medical aids, soft toys etc, is being distributed by a local charity, Rahma Relief Foundation, to the refugees who arrive at the transition camp in great need. Once again, *thank you* for your generous donations and support. It has been a lifeline to many. *Anne and Frank Miller.*

Office for the New Evangelisation – Upcoming events: 1) **Formation Day for Readers**, 18th February at 11 am in Our Lady & St Edwards, Preston. 2) **Rite of Election**, 4th March at 2 pm in Lancaster Cathedral. 3) **Novena to St Joseph, Guardian of Christian Families**, 11th – 19th March at 7 pm each night in St Joseph's, Skeffington Road, Preston. If anyone is interested and wants to know more, there are copies of the letter advertising these events at the back of church, and see posters on the notice board.

Did you know....CAFOD's belief in human dignity inspires its work with some of the poorest communities around the world? Seeing that all people need more than food – they need love, warmth, respect, a chance to be educated and the opportunity to work – this is seeing all peoples as made in God's image. Treating everyone with human dignity is integral to our faith, and the vision of dignity being a “divine gift” continues to inspire us in our daily work. Thank you for all you do to make this possible.

Society of St Columban – We have received a letter of thanks from the Missionary Society of St Columban for the money we sent them (a total of £882 altogether). They are remembering all our parishioners in the Masses and prayers of the community in Solihull.

Previously Published Items

Lourdes – Travelling with the Youth Service (Castlerigg – Youth at the Manor) is a great way for young people to get to know the story of Lourdes and grow in faith through service, prayer, catechesis and time spent with other young Catholics. Open to ages Year 11+, prices from £650 for coach travel (flight information will follow). Our coach journey

starts on 19th July, and this year we are excited to be spending 24 hours in Nevers en route. There we will visit St Bernadette's relics and learn more of her story, as well as having the chance to spend the day exploring Nevers before continuing on our journey to Lourdes. In Lourdes we will be staying in a 4-star hotel and we will arrive home on Saturday 29th July. Book now, forms are on our website: <http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/yatm-events/lourdes-2017> **See poster at back of church.**

A huge thank you to the parishioners who, during the roof renovations from July to December, turned up every week to ensure the church was cleaned for the weekend Masses and several funerals. Now our cleaning teams are returning to normal duties of a couple of hours every 2 – 4 weeks. If anyone would like to join us, you would be most welcome! Please contact Jim Fletcher (608815) or Anne Miller (604030) for more details. It's cheaper than joining the gym!

Parish Draw – Congratulations go to Noreen Hargreaves and Gillian Richardson for being our January winners. We are looking for a couple of extra people to help collect subscriptions for the Parish Draw. This will only take up a couple of weeks in March each year. If you would like to help, please contact Trish & Kev on 01995 604 292. *Thank you*

Thank you to all the supporters of the Monthly Coffee Mornings and the Whist & Domino Drives. The money you raised has gone towards buying another two chairs for Father Tom's kitchen! *And all while having fun!*

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 5th February can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Ruth Fairey, Joan Finlay, Robert Edwin Brown, Alice Winstanley, Robert Tomlinson, Michael McBride, Agnes Evans, Tony Derbyshire, Elizabeth Cook, Harold Harwood, Molly Walmsley, David Anthony Pyke, Hannah Marie Swarbrick, James Carter, Bill Jennings and Mary Whiteside. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Patricia Randall, Kathleen Murphy, Christine Cobain, Ros Drake, Fr Joe Duggan SJ, Allan Whipp, Theresa Harrison, Margaret Hibberdine, Billy (5 years old), Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Craig Smith, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, Rod Pearson, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (he has responded well to brain tumour treatment, even able to move up to secondary school this year. The family appreciates your prayers and asks that they continue as he is not out of the woods yet), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio 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.)**

Response to the psalm at the 10.00 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 28th January – Sunday 5th February 2017

Sat	28 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Brown
Sun	29 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	30 th	No Mass	
Tue	31 st	12 noon	A Special Intention and Blessing
Wed	1 st Feb	7.00 pm	Father Tony Keefe
Thurs	2 nd	9.30 am	Mary Ellen McGeever (RIP)
Fri	3 rd	9.30 am	Mary and Bernard Rigby
Sat	4 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Jack Checken
Sun	5 th	10.00 am	Thomas Finnegan (Lately Dead)

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	1 st Feb	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	3 rd	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	4 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Sun	29 th	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YR A)
Tue	31 st	St John Bosco (Priest)
Thurs	2 nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (Candlemas, Feast)
Fri	3 rd	St Blaise (Bishop & Martyr); St Ansgar (Bishop)
Sat	4 th	The Blessed Virgin Mary
Sun	5 th	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Meetings next Week:

Wed	1 st	10 am – 12 noon	Monthly Coffee Morning
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	2 nd	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	22 nd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 116	Children: 2
		10.00 am	Adults: 109	Children: 14 Total: 241

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,078.75; Cemetery: £150; Votive £45; Wedding: £350. **Many thanks to you all.**

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in February at Garstang Methodist Church.

Hymns at 6 pm Mass:

Ent.	874 – Take my life
Gloria	527 – Duffy
G.A.	Plainsong
Off.	600 – All that I am
Sanctus	576
Rec.	679 – The day thou gavest

Hymns at 10.30 am Mass:

Ent.	908 – Blest are the pure in heart
Gloria	529 – Celtic
G.A.	717 – Alleluia Verse 4
Off.	608 – Take my hands
S, M, D	556, 557 (v 2), 558 – Mass of Peace
A.D.	591 - Celtic
Com.	615 – Happy are those who are invited 302 – Breathe on me, breath of God
Rec.	898 – Make me a channel of your peace