

## St Mary and St Michael's Catholic Church GARSTANG AND CALDER VALE

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### 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



Today we have Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. In fact, I once read that Mark's Gospel is a "restless rush to the Passion". Jesus journeys to Jerusalem knowing that he will meet opposition; by his second day in Jerusalem they are plotting his destruction, and by the end of the second day, they are plotting his death. The only gesture of compassion that Jesus receives in Jerusalem comes from a complete stranger – the woman who anoints him for death – with an oil

from a plant native to India, and hence very expensive.

During Jesus' trial, Mark uses the opportunity to show who Jesus really is. When before the Sanhedrin, the High Priest asks Jesus whether he is the Christ, and Jesus then refers to himself as "I am" and "The Son of Man"; the High Priest cannot fail to notice this culmination of titles, and so has to condemn him. However, since blasphemy was not an issue that interested Pilate, the title that now emerges is "King of the Jews". Thus Mark skilfully presents Jesus as fulfilling the expectations of the people, while at the very time of acclaim, Peter is denying Jesus, and rejection by his closest friends is complete. Notice also the misquoting of Jesus being made to say "I am going to destroy this Temple," while after the cleansing of the temple, John quotes him as saying "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up."

Today's Passion is the original end to Mark's Gospel, and it leaves quite a bit unsaid. Did Jesus ever appear to his disciples in Galilee as he promised? We know he did, but not from Mark's account. Will Jesus keep his promise to return in power and glory? This certainly has not happened yet.

It is as if Mark is saying that the Gospel is not over yet; we have to conclude the Gospel by living out its values. What Mark began as the past life of Jesus Christ ends with the invitation to imitate him in the present, until he comes again to establish the reign of God.

*D'arcy*

*(Above – Repainting of Giotto The Entry into Jerusalem c. 1305 including the Passion)*

### New items and information

**Government Grant** We received this formal announcement this week: 'SSMary & Michael's Church, Garstang, Preston has successfully secured a grant of £37,700 from the Government's *Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund* to address urgent roof repairs that will ensure it is weathertight, safe and open for use. It is one of 502 grants from a total funding package of £30 million that have been announced for urgent roof repairs for places of worship across the UK by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Fund is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture Media and Sport. More details are available at [www.lpowroof.org.uk](http://www.lpowroof.org.uk).' Many thanks to Manus Adamson who prepared and submitted the grant application.

**To-day, Calder Vale/Palm Sunday Walk** – Following a Lenten Lunch at 12 noon in the Village Hall – to which all are invited – the walk takes place at 2 pm from the Low Square. The procession proceeds with the donkey up to St John's in the Vale Church, where there will be refreshments. All are welcome.

**Easter Flowers** – There will be a second collection after Masses this weekend to help towards the cost of flowers for Easter. Any contribution will be gratefully received. **Flower arranging** will take place on Maundy Thursday morning this year, from 9.00 am. If anyone is able to help, please come along; if anyone has any greenery to give away, please leave it by the back door of the presbytery before Thursday.

**Available this weekend:** the Diocesan free paper, The 'Voice' and the Holy week poster for your homes.

**Many Thanks to the Whist & Dominos Group** for the donation to the Roof Fund of £100.

**Many thanks also** for the donation of £170 from a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

**Monthly Coffee Morning** next Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, from 10 am – 12 noon, in the Plessington Chapel. Don't be an April Fool! Come along and have some fun – cake, tea & coffee, and a comfortable chat with friends. Everyone welcome!!

**Traidcraft** – Thank you to those who have already placed orders from the catalogue. The last day for orders will now be Easter Sunday. Profits from sales go to Chivuna Clinic.

**Faith and Justice** – We are needing someone to form a new Faith and Justice Group in the Parish. If you feel this could be for you, but do not know what it might entail, please contact Father David for more information.

**Mission Boxes** are now ready to be picked up from the church porch, together with a mission magazine. If you have a mission box which was not emptied this time, please also take a magazine. If you would like to have a mission box in your home, there are some spare ones in the church porch. A total of £214.10 was banked.

**Old Hymn Books with Dedications** – Parishioners are welcome to take old hymn books with dedications to their loved ones. Anyone wishing to do so should place their name on the narthex list, together with the name of the person whom they have dedicated. If the book can be traced, it will be handed over. The list will remain open for three weeks (from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April). *If you have accidentally taken a hymn book dedicated to someone other than your own family members, please could you return it.*

**Did you know.....**in Myanmar, following Cyclone Nargis which took 150,000 lives in 2008, CAFOD partner Caritas Myanmar, has been giving village disaster risk reduction training, so now people are better prepared? If a disaster happens now, people know what to do and there will be less damage and less loss of life. It costs £300 to run an emergency drill. Every pound you donate to CAFOD will be matched by the UK government, so you only need to raise £150 to fund an emergency drill. Your support is protecting lives. Thank you!

**Women's Vocation Discernment Day (for 18+)** – This is being held at Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan Residence, 228 Garstang Road, Preston, PR2 9RB on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015. See poster at back of church.

#### Previously Published Items

**Charity Auction** – The North West Children's Support Group are holding their Annual Bric-a-Brac Auction on **Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015** in SS Mary & Michael's School Hall. Viewing starts at 10 am, with the sale starting at 12 noon. If you are able to donate items for the sale, the Hall will be open on Friday evening, or if you need items collecting, please call Helen & Barry on 01995 600254, or Debbie & Paul on 01995 601354, or Paul and Angela on 01524 751373. *Thank you for your ongoing support.*

**'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. The workers provide daily regular healthcare to 14 million people. The charity needs support to fund fuel, protective clothing, training and maintenance for the local couriers to cover vast areas of harsh terrain. On 26<sup>th</sup> April, I am running the **London Marathon** to raise funds for this charity, and your support would be very welcome. There are sponsor forms at the back of church, or donate online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FrankMiller>. Thank you.

Frank Miller.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 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** Kate Simkin who died last Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Her funeral service will be held here at SS Mary & Michael's, this Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, at 2.40 pm. Our love and our sympathy go out to all her family. *May she rest in peace.*

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

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** 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 10 am Mass:**

#### Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Tom Ashcroft (Lately Dead)
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Judith Swarbrick
Mon	30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	31 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Lourdes
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	<b>9.30 am (note time)</b>	Hugh and André Ferguson
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	
		11.30 am	Chris Mass at the Cathedral
		2.40 pm	Funeral Service for Kate Simkin
		7.30 pm	Marjorie Kirkman
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	
		8.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	
		10.00 am	Eva Carter

#### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	5.30 – 7.30 pm	Confessions in Plessington Chapel & Exposition
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30 pm to Midnight	– Keeping watch at the Altar of Repose
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00 am	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross (to Greenhalgh Castle)
		11.00 am	Children's Stations of the Cross
		3.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### Special Days this Week:

Sun	29 <sup>th</sup>	Passion (Palm) Sunday
Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Holy Thursday
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good Friday
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Friday
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER DAY

#### Meetings this Week:

Wed	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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#### Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 132	Children: 6
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Adults: 198	Children: 90

**Monies Received:** Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,121.32; Roof Fund Donations: £270; Votive Lights: £50.80; Shop: £10; Charity: £5. *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. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.