

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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2nd / 3rd January 2016

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



In the Old Testament, the Book of Numbers, Balak, King of Moab, employed a magus named Balaam to curse the chosen people, but after an encounter with God, Balaam ended up blessing them and prophesying that a star would emerge from Jacob and a sceptre from Israel; while in Genesis it says that "The sceptre shall not pass from Judah nor the Ruler's staff from between his feet until tribute be brought to him and the peoples render him

obedience," passages that Matthew would have known about and which he used to make a story both interesting and purposeful. Jesus is presented as the King-Messiah of the gentiles, recognised by them but not by his own people, the Jews.

From early in his life, he is a sign of contradiction, a threat to the establishment and the vested interests of his time. The struggle between the Kingdom of God represented by Jesus, and the kingdom of the world represented by Herod, the chief priests and scribes, begins with a conspiracy to locate the child and do away with him, and ends in Matthew's gospel with the seeming victory of the forces of evil when their conspiracy succeeds in bringing about the death of Christ. On the cross Christ will draw all people to himself just as Isaiah promised that one day all peoples would come to worship the Lord and share in his light and glory.

The Epiphany we celebrate is indeed a moment of revelation when we glimpse the Glory of God and the Light of the World in a stable in Bethlehem, and is also a moment of choice; a moment to accept or reject the one sent by God out of love for all humanity.

D'arcy

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 2nd – Sunday 10th January 2016

Sat	2 nd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Edward & Grace Ross (Edward's 1 st Anniversary)
Sun	3 rd	10.00 am	Brian Hargreaves
Mon	4 th	No Mass	
Tue	5 th	12 noon	For the Ross and Holland Families
Wed	6 th	7.00 pm	Eileen Frances (Lately Dead)
Thurs	7 th	9.30 am	Rita Whittaker – Return to Good Health
Fri	8 th	9.30 am	School Mass in school hall – Eleanor & Thomas Bolton

Sat	9 th	7.00 pm	Chivuna Mass
		9.30 am	Monica (Third Anniversary)
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Ethel Kenyon
Sun	10 th	10.00 am	Everyone who needs a prayer

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	6 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	8 th	10 am – 11 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	9 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this week:

Sun	3 rd	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Thurs	7 th	St Raymond of Penyafort
Sun	10 th	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Meetings this Week:

Weds	6 th	7.35 pm	Property & Finance Committee
Thurs	7 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	8 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna (preceded by Mass at 7 pm)

Last two Weeks' Attendance:

Sun	20 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 131	Children: 5	
		10.00 am	Adults: 142	Children: 28	
Christmas Day		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults and Children: 540		
		Midnight	Adults: 59	Children: 5	
		10.00 am	Adults: 116	Children: 28	Total: 748
Holy Family		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 91	Children: 4	
		10.00 am	Adults: 104	Children: 18	Total: 217

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders) 20th Dec: £1,067; 27th Dec: £908.10;
 Christmas Offerings: £1,822.05; Shop (20th Dec): £65; Votive Lights (over the entire Christmas period): £152.80; Tea Money: £35; Funeral: £600; Photocopying: £5; Altar Flowers: £195. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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

New items and information

Happy New Year to all parishioners! *Best wishes to you all from Father David and D'arcy.*

Many Thanks to you all for your great generosity in the Christmas Offerings. You donated £1,822.05!

Monthly Coffee Morning – It's time to shake off those post-Christmas blues! The mince pies are finished; the last of the turkey has been curried or fed to the dog; things are starting to return to normal! So why not come to our monthly coffee morning, next Wednesday, 6th January, from 10 am – 12 noon, to chat and exchange stories about your experiences over the festive season, meet up with old friends, and even maybe make some new ones! Everyone is welcome.

Friends of Chivuna – the next meeting is on Friday, 8th January, at 7.30 pm, preceded by Mass at 7 pm.

The SVP Party (12th December) was not spoiled by the weather. It was gratifying that so many people braved torrential rain to attend, or to help us. We thank all who gave food, helped serving tea and washing up, preparing and tidying the venue, and those who attended. Our schoolchildren made amazing decorations, gifts and cards. D'arcy and Liz supported us in many ways. Thank you, thank you all. ***Garstang SVP Conference.***

Prisoners' Sunday – Our collection for the work of Pact – Prison Advice & Care Trust in this Parish raised £114.15, and the following message of thanks has been received: “Rachel Albans, who works with parishes who befriend ex-offenders, sends this message to you all: ‘On behalf of the countless people coming out of prison striving to make a fresh start, I would like to offer my thanks. Your donations are helping us outreach to more people coming out of prison and help them on the first vital few months after release’”.

Did you know....Applications for the CAFOD Gap Year, *Step into the Gap*, are now open? Aged 18 – 30? Passionate about global justice? Want to put your faith into action? *Step into the Gap* is a unique opportunity to volunteer in the UK, gain experience, develop leadership skills and visit CAFOD partners overseas. Working in one of our UK placements for a year, you'll learn more about yourself, your faith and the world we live in, and you'll inspire others to make a difference. It's a September 2016 start; deadline for applications is 11th March 2016. Visit <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Education/CAFOD-Gap-year>.

Previously Published Items

Leonard Cheshire Home, Oaklands, are looking for a volunteer to drive one of their residents to Sunday morning Mass in one of their small vans, or if they didn't want to drive, to accompany the resident in the van and stay with him during Mass and accompany him back to Oaklands. If you think you could help in this way, please contact Cathy Openshaw, Volunteer Co-ordinator, email Catherine.openshaw@leonardcheshire.org.uk, or telephone 01995 602290.

St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal – Winter is once more upon us, and we again are appealing for bedding and warm clothing for those in need. If you have bedding, winter clothing for men, women and children, then please deposit these items

in the box you will find at the back of church from next week. Thank you for your generosity. If you have any queries, please ring Pat on Garstang 605793.

Lourdes – Possible Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016 – In order to look at the possibility of arranging a parish pilgrimage to Lourdes, it would be helpful to know the numbers of people who may be interested. Dates have not been finalised yet, but more information will be available after Christmas. If interested, please put your name on the list at the back of church. *Elizabeth Horn.*

Why not join the Choir? – The choir is an integral part of every Christian church. This is not just convention but has evolved over two thousand years because music, singing in particular, is an important part of worship. When we sing we pray in a way which enables us to savour the words we use, giving glory to God more effectively. The ambience of God's house results from many factors, but none is more powerful than that of liturgical music. This requires a choir dedicated to producing a programme of music consonant with church tradition and liturgy. There is far more to this than simply plucking popular tunes out of the air! Good churches invariably have good choirs. If our parish is to remain good, it must sustain a good choir. Please think seriously about joining your choir. It is necessary to have some sort of voice, but despite so many claiming total lack of singing ability, there are very few people who honestly cannot sing. No ageism is involved; all ages are welcome and there are no “screen tests”! All we ask is commitment. These days we see so much half-heartedness and apathy in the Christian faith we should treasure; joining the choir could be the first step in remedying this. *Dr. Carter*

Wednesday Word – Sorry – no Wednesday Word this week.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Mary Ibison, Elizabeth Quick, Agnes Cross, Celia Swarbrick, Mary Agnes Ibison, Alice Bernadette Swarbrick, Jim O'Brien, Margaret Walmsley, Frank Piela, Peggy Barton, Ellen Law, Marie Kendall, Robert Ibison, Alice Ibison, Michael Hoyle, Mary Ainsworth, Richard Swarbrick, Winifred McArdle, William Boden, Eleanor Bolton, Iain Watson, Florence Carter, Edwin Eydmann, Sheila Richardson, Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, Father Arthur Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, John Edwards and Annie Bisby.

May they rest in peace.

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Mrs Jean Parkinson (Jim's wife), Ann and Jackson Wickes, 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, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), 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 at 10 am Mass: