

## Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Prayer to St Martha – Special Intention
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 am	The Rossall Family
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Monica Stansfield (Anniversary)
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>8.00 am (note time)</b>	Joan Preston
Thurs	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Basil Sartin
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Rushworth and Connolly Families
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Betty Ibison
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Ethel Kenyon

### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Weds	6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Rosary</b>	
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Confessions</b>	

### Special Days this Week:

Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup>	THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

### Meetings this Week:

Tues	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Eucharistic Preparation (with parents)
Weds	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Deanery Pastoral Council (Cathedral)
Thurs	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup>	7 pm – 8.30 pm	An evening of reflection and information on the gift of consecrated life
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	1 <sup>st</sup> Holy Communion Rehearsal (in church)

### Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 133	Children: 8	
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Adults: 123	Children: 35	Total: 299

### Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders and an annual; cheque): £1,331; Votive Lights: £32; Shop: £10; Ecclesiastical Education Fund: £285.50; Funeral: £200; Postcards: £5; Photocopying: £5; Roof Fund Donation: £1,000. **Many thanks to you all.**

### Churches Together in Garstang & District

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

## 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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### 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2015 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



In St John's Gospel, Jesus uses "I am" sayings to tell us about himself:

I **am** the Good Shepherd;

I **am** the Bread of Life;

and in today's Gospel:

I **am** the Vine.

In today's Gospel, Jesus takes the image further:

I am the Vine;

My Father is the vine dresser;

and You are the branches.

He is describing the intimate relationship between us, himself, and his Father. In this relationship we are not subjects of God, we are not just his people, we are not even just his friends. We are organically part of the very divinity, and we are that part of God which produces the lush fruit, the grapes, which makes God the giver of all good gifts to humanity!

This doesn't make us gods because as the branches, we can't exist without the vine or without the vinedresser.

Grapes do not grow from the trunk of the vine, but from the branches. The fruit that our world sees and enjoys is not grown from Jesus – the trunk of the vine, nor from the Father – the vinedresser, but from us – the branches.

Jesus was telling his friends that their very purpose in life was to be the fruit-bearing branches of the vine. He was telling us that we can't bear abundant fruit on our own – we have to be attached to the trunk of the vine, to Jesus. It is through Jesus that we are nourished. The branches of the vine draw their sap from the trunk. If the people at the time of Jesus had known about photosynthesis and the role of light and sunshine in the process of leaves and fruit growing from the branches, the image could have been extended further by likening the sunshine to the essential role of the Holy Spirit in this process!

The role of the vinedresser, however, is stressed he, the Father, is the one who knows how to tend the vine and make it produce more and better fruit by cutting off the dead branches and clearing the vine.

If we had an actual vine here in church or at home, we would have a living image of this intimate relationship between God the Father, Jesus his Son, the Holy Spirit and us. If we had a vine at home, it would be in the conservatory or the greenhouse where it could capture most sunlight – we need to be where **we** can best be exposed to the Holy Spirit!

When we see the bare, pruned vine trunk come into leaf and produce rich grapes, we really do come to marvel at the intimate relationship that God has created for us!

## New items and information

### An Evening of Reflection and Information on the Gift of Consecrated Life to the Church as lived in Secular Institutes

– This is the Year of Consecrated Life. Next Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Sister Zela OSU, who is a member of the Ursuline Community and is one of the Church's women living Consecrated Life will be sharing with us. She is well known in the Lancaster area since she has served in St. Thomas More Parish for many years. Secular Institutes are not well known in the Church and this will be a great opportunity for us to learn more. This is a meeting open to everyone in the parish. If you are interested, please come along and show your support.

**Monthly Coffee Morning** – Next Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, from 10 am – 12 noon. Do come and join us for tea/coffee, delicious cakes, and friendly company and chat.

**Bluebell Time Again!** at Calder Vale. Teas will be served every Sunday in May from 1 pm – 5 pm in the Village Hall. Proceeds from the teas go towards the Mission Room and village ventures. Come along and enjoy the Bluebell walk through the wood and make the day complete with our famous Bluebell Tea. Local produce – rhubarb, honey, plants etc for sale. Also on **10<sup>th</sup> May** a table-top sale in the Mission Room – tables for sale at £5. To book, ring Nicky on 602 384.

**Parish Draw** – First draw of the new year: 1<sup>st</sup> prize: T & A Delaney; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: T Horn. If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year, please do so asap. *Thank you.*

**London Marathon** – Many thanks for the support, good wishes and sponsorship. I finished in 4 hours 8 minutes and 50 seconds, slightly delayed by cramp at 20 miles, but helped on by a very efficient physio! I hope to collect any remaining sponsorship over the next two weekends. I even appeared to TV for a couple of seconds! *Frank Miller.*

**Did you know...** CAFOD has committed £200,000 to help our partner Caritas Nepal following the powerful earthquake in Nepal? Over 5,000 people have been killed, around 8,000 injured and more than eight million people affected. We are providing food and water, support with hygiene and sanitation, emergency shelter and essential household goods. CAFOD has also deployed a specialist team to provide technical expertise. We hold the people of Nepal in thought and prayer and are grateful for your generous response

**“The Crossing” from Hynning to Boarbank across the Bay** – For young people between 18 and 35: what are you doing on the weekend of **29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May**? Why not walk with other young people, religious and priests as a way of celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life? The Cross Bay Walk starts Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30 pm, is about six miles, and takes approximately three hours. Cost is by donation. Registration is essential! For more details and for a full programme, please contact the Booking Secretary at Hynning – [hynningbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hynningbookings@yahoo.co.uk), or phone 01524 732 684. *Also see poster at back of church.*

**Youth at the Manor** – A trip to Castlerigg can change a young person's life! Castlerigg Manor residential centre has been a dedicated youth centre for almost 50 years. It is a unique environment where young people consider and reflect on life and faith, and grow in confidence and self-esteem. There are leaflets at the back of

church for anyone who is interested. Visit [team@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:team@castleriggmanor.co.uk); twitter @castleriggmanor; visit our facebook page Castlerigg Manor; or telephone 017687 72711 for further information.

## Previously Published Items

### **The Right to Life Annual Sponsored Walk (The Jim Dobbin Memorial Walk)**

will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 1 pm. The 8-mile circular walk starts and finishes at St Michael & St John RC Church, Lowergate, Clitheroe, BB7 1AG. If you are interested in taking part, there are entry and sponsorship forms available from the back of church.

**Faith and Justice** – We still need 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.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 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** Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood) who died on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Her funeral was on 29<sup>th</sup> April in Pilling. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Emma Seery, Tom Cassidy, Teresa Topping, Fred Garvey, Teresa Garner, James Pedder, Winifrid Bilsborrow, Monica Hargreaves, Stephen Richardson, Henry Banks, Violet Eydmann and Mary Speight. *May they rest in peace.*

### **We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled**

**parishioners, families and friends, including:** Lucienne Ferguson, 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, 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 the 10 am Mass:**