

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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**29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)**  
**"Stay Awake, be ready!"**



Advent is a time of heightened awareness. It is a time of noticing how our world is coping with existence, a time of noticing how we are coping with life.

Our world is not coping very well with disease – with Ebola, malaria, cancer... disease devastates lives and communities. Our world is not coping very well with man-made pain and crises – with the threat of ISIS

to the Middle East, with climate change and the extinction of species, with threats to food supply, with the fragmentation of societies caused by self-interest...

How well are *we* coping with life? Are we still putting ourselves at the centre of everything?

Advent is a God-given time for us to allow the Sacred Liturgy to speak to us and to remind us of the true reality of our world, of life – God is at the very centre!

“And yet, you Lord are our Father,  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hands.” *Is 64:8 (First Reading)*

Advent is a time to allow God to reassure us. The Word of God in the liturgy assures us that we were created out of an act of love, and are kept in being by a continuous stream of tender care. It assures us that human beings, even though made of flesh, which is born to decay, are so lovable that they are worth dying for, and that God became human to do precisely that.

This is a time, in the midst of human extravagance, for us to remember the extravagance of God's love. When our own excesses leave us feeling flat and purposeless – in darkness or a shadowland of emptiness, we remember how our God burst into human life – as a helpless baby – and turned our darkness into light.

***Let us allow the Lord to enter our lives again as we begin Advent.*** Let the words of the liturgy speak to your heart. Come to the Advent Carol Service this weekend and notice how much we need the Lord and what a difference he makes to our lives!

**New items and information**

**A Pastoral Letter** from Bishop Michael will be read at all Masses. Copies on salmon coloured paper at the back of church.

**Advent Carol Service** – The theme for this, the first week of Advent, is “Stay awake, be ready!”, and our Advent Carol Service at **3pm this Sunday** will reflect this. Do come along and help us to prepare the celebration of the Incarnation of the Son of God this Christmas.

**Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm**  
**(not 6.30 pm)**

**This weekend** there is a second collection for the Diocesan Poor Missions Fund. **There will be no coffee after the 10.30 am Mass this Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November.** Instead you are warmly invited to come for refreshments at **Hummingbirds Christmas Fair**, which will be taking place in the **School Hall** after Mass. Please do come along to support us.

**“My Day by Day” Advent Booklets** – These have been issued to the children through school. If your child does not go to SS Mary & Michael's School, but would like one of these booklets, there are copies at the back of church – one edition is for Infants, one for Juniors. **Monthly Coffee Morning** – This will take place next Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 10 – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel. Our Infant School Children will be singing Christmas Carols to us! Everyone is welcome – please come and enjoy an entertaining start to the Advent Season!

**Christmas Cards** – these are on sale in the church shop along with Advent calendars, cribs and many more gifts and cards, including Christmas Mass Bouquet cards; all at very reasonable prices.

**Friends of Chivuna** – the next meeting will be held next Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, preceded by Mass at 7.00 pm.

**St Vincent de Paul Society** –

- Next weekend, there will be a second collection for the SVP.
- SSMM Conference will be coordinating a Christmas Tea Party on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December** from 2 – 4 pm in the Community Centre. Do come for tea, chat and festive entertainment enjoyed with friends. We especially want to welcome some of our fellow parishioners who maybe can't get to Mass on Sundays. All welcome. If you need transport, please call Pat on 605793.
- Appeal for warm clothing now that winter is here – we have been prompted by a parishioner to replace the box at the back of church for this purpose, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks etc, also duvets, will again be gratefully received and they will be taken to Caritas Care who work with ex-offenders and homeless people in Preston. *Thank you very much – your help is very much appreciated. SVP Conference.*

**PACT** – We have had a letter from PACT thanking us for the £96.07 donation we collected on Prisoners' Sunday.

**Red Mission Boxes** – would you please bring your Mission Boxes in to the church to be emptied next weekend. *Thank you.*

**Bereavement Support** – Following the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November, we have arranged a workshop on listening skills on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December**, from 11 am for approximately 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in Bereavement Support, please come along to the Plessington Chapel. You will be most welcome.

**Whist and Domino Drive** – December’s Drive is taking place a week earlier than normal. It will now take place on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014**. *All welcome.*

**Cardinal Newman College Advent Vigil** – We have received an invitation to an Advent Vigil at the College, Lark Hill, Preston, PR1 4HD, followed by festive refreshments and Fairtrade stall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30 pm.

**Farmers Christmas Concert 2014** – This will take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm at Lancaster Auction Mart. The proceeds are split between Farm Crisis Network and Wyresdale Children’s Home in India. Tickets £4 available by phoning 01524 791090, 01524 791506, 01524 791935, or from Lancaster Auction Mart.

### Previously Published Items

**Golf Ball and Cake Sale** after 10.30 am Mass, next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Matthew, Daniel & Robert Tomlinson’s dog Tess has collected a lot of golf balls from the river near Garstang Golf Club!

**A Musical Celebration of Christmas** by the June Baker Singers will take place here in church on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. Please book the date, for a very enjoyable evening. All proceeds to the L’Arche Community in Preston for their new development. Tickets available soon.

**Journey in Faith (RCIA) 2014 – 2015** – The new Journey in Faith programme has started. Meetings are every Thursday at 7.15 pm in the presbytery behind the church. We are here to welcome anyone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic and who wants to find out more about the Catholic faith, and any enquirers are invited to come along to the meetings.

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 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** Marjorie Addison, who died on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Her Funeral Mass is here on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2pm. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Maureen Pyke, Margaret Stopforth, Nellie Bateson, William Kelsall, Joseph Smith, Grace Lillian Salles, May Ball, James Aloysius Horn, William Morrison, Robert Bilsborrow, Mary Bilsborrow, Lucy Walmsley, Richard Noel Bamber, William Norman Nixon, Winifred Storey, John Skillen and Marie McGrath. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Gerald Vandome, Sheila Murphy, Elaine Lamoury (Henry’s sister-in-law), 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, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, 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, Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Alison Green and Tim Park. *(When people whose names are placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)*

**Response to the Psalm at the 10.30 am Mass :**

### Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Sat	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	<b>PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME</b> Bill and Nellie Bateson
Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Angela and Bernard
Mon	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	2.00 pm	Funeral Mass for Marjorie Addison
Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.00 pm	The Faithful of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (KHS to attend)
Thurs	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Ray and Monica Stansfield
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Chivuna Mass – Bridie O’Connor (Anniversary)
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am 6.00 pm (Vigil)	Deceased Members of the Langley Family Bill Bamber (First Anniversary)
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	All Our Parishioners Gerald Whittaker

### Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Exposition</b>	
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions
Sun	7 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Holy Hour and Benediction

### Special Days this Week:

Sun	30 <sup>th</sup>	First Sunday of Advent (Collection for the Poor Missions)
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Francis Xavier

### Meetings this Week:

Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30 pm	Confirmations (Session 3)
Wed	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

### Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 120	Children : 8
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am 10.30 am	Adults: 47	Children: 6
			Adults: 121	Children: 16 Total: 318

**Monies Received:** Offertory: £1,062.45; Votive Lights: £49.20; Shop: £80; Donation: £20; Roof Fund Donations (2): £1,210; Photocopying: £5; Youth Services: £146.70; Postcards: £2; Tea Money: £50;. *Many thanks to you all.*

### Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in December here at Sts Mary & Michael’s. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.