

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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30th / 31st August 2014

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



Today we hear Matthew's first prediction of Jesus' suffering and death, which comes immediately after Peter's declaration (which we heard last week) of Jesus as the Son of God. The gospel writers are at pains to point out that Jesus being the Son of God involves the Cross, and that this is the sign of proof rather than his power to work miracles.

The Cross will be the ultimate sign of Jesus' obedience to carrying out the mission with which he has been entrusted, which is not to die to take away sin, but rather to reveal to us what God is really like, and this will involve his suffering and death. This is the path from which Peter tries to divert him and persuade him otherwise. I see this incident in similar terms to the testing of Jesus by the devil earlier in Matthew's gospel, in which Jesus is challenged, "If you are the Son of God..." Peter is addressed as Satan for trying to divert Jesus from his true role.

The sayings which follow the rebuke refer to complete dedication to the will of God rather than a fatalistic acceptance of suffering. As we see with the first reading, difficulties in being a Christian may well come from a positive source in that trying to put the teachings of the gospel into practice in our daily lives will cost us. How much will depend on our individual and personal circumstances, and we should keep in mind that even Jesus had to struggle to remain faithful to his mission. Mark, Matthew and Luke present this in graphic terms in the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, in which Jesus is presented as knowing where being faithful to his mission will take him, but deciding all the same to face it. It is this dynamic aspect of being a disciple which we might consider today, and it may well cost us more than the accidents or discomforts of life which we often consider to be our crosses.

D'arcy

New items and information

Collection for the Catholic Trust for England and Wales Levy is being taken this weekend, 30th/31st August. There has been an increase again in the overall levy, charged on the Diocese, partly due to an additional charge to fund the Bishop's Conference Prison Chaplaincy post. Our levy is based on our parish's offertory and this year, the amount required from our parish is **£1,352.75**. Please be as generous as you can, because this money will be collected by direct debit from our bank account, regardless of how much (or little!) we contribute. *Thank you.*

Monthly Coffee Morning – Hurrah! They're back again! Come along and compare your summer holidays with those of your friends, have a chat and tea or coffee and cake – it's all happening next Wednesday morning, 3rd September, between 10 am and 12 noon, in the Plessington Chapel!

Friends of Chivuna – The next meeting is at 7.30 pm this coming Friday, 5th September, preceded by Mass at 7.00 pm.

Chivuna – In the coming weeks, we will be asking our parishioners if they would like the chance of owning an etching given by an award-winning Lakeland artist – Barbra Cropper. Its value is £200. It is to be raffled by means of paying £1 to the charity, and then choosing a number from 1 – 200. Our artist friend will have chosen the winning ticket which is unknown until we have sold all our tickets (hopefully) then the announcement will be made after Sunday Mass. Please support this venture – we can assure you that the money raised will greatly assist our friends in Chivuna in so many ways. A further announcement will be made shortly. *Thank you for your ongoing support.*

What is Pope Francis saying to us? – You are invited to a day of prayer, reflection, input and discussion on Saturday, 20th September 2014 from 10 am – 4 pm at St Thomas's Church Centre, Marton Street, Lancaster LA1 1XX. If you are interested, there are booking forms at the back of church, or contact Anne Foley on 01772 555483 or email anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk.

Did you know...over the next four years, CAFOD will work with St Francis Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, to reach 9,900 individuals who are living with HIV? These activities will indirectly benefit a further 34,000 people. Providing quality medical, nursing and counselling home-based care, we are increasing the standard of life for people living with HIV and accelerating the prevention of HIV transmission through education. Our response to HIV is rooted in the teaching of the Catholic Church, with its emphasis on the innate dignity of the human person and their right to flourish.

Vocations Discernment Weekend - Do you think God may be calling you to something more in your life? Ever thought of the Priesthood? 19th – 21st September at Our Lady & St Joseph's, Carlisle, there will be a weekend for those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood in the diocese of Lancaster. For more information contact Fr John Millar (Assistant Vocations Director) jwmillar1@gmail.com or telephone 01228 521 509.

Previously Published Items

Date for your Diary – Friday, 26th September, 7.30 pm, Brian Dickinson will be giving an organ recital to raise funds for the church roof. £5.00 at the door. Please come along to support Brian, enjoy the music, and raise money for the church roof restoration.

Harvest Festival – We will have a Harvest Festival Mass at 10.30 am on **Sunday 28th September**. We could make this a special time, and possibly deliver small gifts to our parishioners who are sick or housebound. If anyone feels they could help with this in any way, or have ideas to make this Harvest a special time, please contact Margaret (603525) or Arlene (601677). *Thank you.*

Garstang Musical Productions are putting on a production of Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Iolanthe' from **22nd – 25th October**. All performances start at 7.30 pm and tickets will cost £9 (£6 for 16 yrs and under) and will be available soon from Car Care in Garstang, or by contacting Alan Armstrong on 01995 606603. ***Do come along for a really enjoyable evening!***

Traidcraft – The new catalogue is available from the back of church. Any orders placed support fair trade and raise funds for Chivuna Clinic. Thank you. *Faith and Justice Group.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 7th September, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Michael O'Neill who died last week after a long illness. His Funeral Mass is next Saturday, 6th September at 1 pm, followed by interment here at Sts Mary & Michael's. ***May he rest in peace.***

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Alfred Evans, Harry Kelly, Ronald Park, Denis Chapman, James Parker, Hilda Yates, Peter Thomas Davis, Matthew Maguire, Malcolm Mayo and Richard Pawlowski. ***May they rest in peace.***

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, 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, Marjorie Addison, 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.)***

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 30th August – Sunday 7th September 2014

Sat	30 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes
Sun	31 st	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Alex Stott (Anniversary)
Mon	1 st Sep	No Mass	
Tues	2 nd	12 noon	Mary Lloyd (Lately Dead)
Wed	3 rd	7.00 pm	Gerald Whittaker (Sick)
Thurs	4 th	9.30 am	Rachel Flood (Sick)
Fri	5 th	7.00 pm	Chivuna Mass – Private Intention
Sat	6 th	1.00 pm	Funeral Mass for Michael O'Neill
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Robert Catterall
Sun	7 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Catenian Mass for Vocations

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	3 rd	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	6 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition and Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Wed	3 rd	ST GREGORY THE GREAT
Thurs	4 th	St Cuthbert

Meetings this Week:

Wed	3 rd	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	5 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	23 rd	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 110	Children : 7
Sun	24 th	8.30 am	Adults: 53	Children: 12
		10.30 am	Adults: 102	Children: 15
			Total:	292

Monies Received: Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,035.53; Shop: £20; Votive Lights: £50.10; Cemetery: £50. ***Many thanks to you all.***

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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