

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 January 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

L is patient
I S KIND
O ALWAYS PROTECTS
V ALWAYS TRUSTS
E ALWAYS PERSERVERES
LOVE NEVER FAILS

The universality of Jesus' salvation, and the call of Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nations, should prompt us to assess the divisions in our modern world.

Jesus saw the working of God through the Prophets reaching out to the stranger and to those without any defence (the Widow). These were the privileged places for God's activity, but when he announced these examples to his own neighbours, he was threatened with lynch law.

He was just too ordinary to be taken seriously as part of God's plan.

Prejudice and lack of perspective can distort peoples' perception. Look at all the places in the world today that are divided against themselves; divisions based on race, tribe, class (such as caste) or different interpretations of the same religion (Shi'ite and Sunni). Our news reports show violence in many parts of the world caused by seeing people who are different as a threat.

The people of Nazareth saw the offer of salvation given to non-Jews as a threat to their status as the people of God. They could not accept that one of their own could have a vision of God's workings that transcended their traditional hopes, and sanctified tradition can give us too an identity that is too solid to accommodate the creative touch of God.

We need to hear the challenge of Jesus, the Prophet to the nations. We need to see the word working in changed social circumstances. The eyes and ears that will be able to perceive the meaning of the words and deeds of this Prophet are those filled with the kind of love praised by Paul in the second reading. Such love must be as tough as the fortified city and bronze wall to which Jeremiah was compared.

The modern Christian is called to have an ingenious and courageous love that faithfully announces the values of the Lord by deed as well as word. Such is the commitment of Jesus, Paul and Jeremiah.

D'arcy

New items and information

A Celebration of God's Mercy This Friday, 5th February, 7.00 pm – we welcome the Jubilee Year of God's Mercy with a time of prayerful reflection, a Celebration of the Word. Please come to reflect and pray as we move into this Year of Mercy, proclaimed by Pope Francis. The Celebration will be based on Pope Francis' prayer for the Jubilee Year.

Flood Relief – This weekend, we have the second collection for the victims of flooding in Kendal.

Tuesday, 2nd February – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candlemas Day, we will begin Mass with the Blessing of Candles, and short procession to place our candles before the statue of Our Lady..

Saturday, 6th February, 10.15 am – Please come to join our children as they make their First Confession. We will hopefully have two other priests to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father David.

Next weekend there will be a collection taken by our St Vincent de Paul Society.

Monthly Coffee Morning – Wednesday, 3rd February, from 10 am – 12 noon in the Plessington Chapel. It's that time again! Who would believe that we are already at the beginning of February! Come along for tea or coffee, cake or biscuits, and a chat with your friends – old, new, or yet to be met! Everyone is welcome.

Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes – Castlerigg Manor are appealing for young people to join the Lourdes 2016 pilgrimage for year 11+. There are two options for this – by coach from 21st July to 30th July, or flight from 22nd July – 29th July. Prices start at £550. Full details are on the website: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/yatm-events/lourdes-2016. Closing date for booking is 28th February 2016.

Cenacolo Community – A leaflet is enclosed with this bulletin with details of the Community, how it was formed, and how they raise funds. If you are not familiar with Cenacolo, this makes very interesting reading.

Ladies' Ecumenical Service – this will be held at the United Reformed Church on Tuesday, 9th February 2016 at 2.00 pm. If you would like to attend, please let Philippa Catterall know on 602797.

A big "Thank You" to everyone who joins in the monthly Whist and Domino drives on a Monday afternoon, and Coffee Mornings on Wednesday. Who would think that you could have such fun while doing so much good at the same time? You have raised a magnificent £250 donation to the Roof Fund. *Thank you all.*

Fairtrade Coffee Morning – Hannah Spencer is travelling to Nepal with VSO/ICS (Voluntary Service Overseas/International Citizen Service) in March for three months, to undertake humanitarian work after last year's earthquake. She is holding a coffee morning along with her Mum, Helen, to raise money for her project on restoring livelihoods in Kathmandu. (Her travel and expenses are paid by VSO). You are welcome to drop in between 10 am and 1 pm on **Saturday, 6th February**, to Resipole House, Gubberford Lane (opposite the end of Green Lane East). There will be Fairtrade tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and a small stall with Fairtrade/craft items. *Thank you.* Hannah is also raising money for VSO through her Justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/hannahspencerVSO.

Day of Renewal in St Clare's Church Hall, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH, on 27th February from 10 am – 4 pm. See poster at back of church.

Visit to Shrine at Medjugorje – 27th August – 3rd September 2016; from £535 per person sharing; £635 in single room. For more details see poster at back of church.

Previously Published Items

Father David re his retirement – This was Father David's statement to the parish: "Last November, I met with Bishop Michael and explained to him how my health was deteriorating, and I asked him if I might retire this year, 2016. The Bishop agreed that I should retire. I saw

him again on Tuesday, 12th January, and he asked me to retire from Easter Sunday, 27th March. Thus the last Mass that I will celebrate as your Parish Priest will be at 10.00 am on that day. I have been 14 years here at SS Mary & Michael's, and they have been very happy and grace-filled years. I thank you all for your love and support, and ask you for your prayers in my retirement. I hope to retire to a Diocesan property in Torrisholme, Morecambe, when this becomes available. The Bishop will appoint my successor in due course."

Parish Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2016 – Update – The date has now been finalised, commencing on Monday 19th September for 7 nights, returning on Monday 26th September. Fr Jerome Ainsworth will be the pilgrimage chaplain. The cost, including full board at the 3* Hotel Agena will be £675 plus additional charges for insurance (£25 up to age 85) and UK transport to/from Manchester Airport. (Amount to be confirmed.) For those interested in going, there will be a planning meeting shortly. (Date to be announced.) If you are interested and have not yet put your name(s) down, please add them to the list at the back of church.

Thank you.

St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal – Our appeal for bedding and winter clothing for those in need – men's, women's and children's clothing continues, and we are very grateful for your generous response. The box will remain at the back of church for the time being. Any queries, please ring Pat on 605 793. *Thank you.*

"Blessed are the merciful" – There will be a series of talks for the Year of Mercy held in the Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre: 3rd and 17th February, and 2nd and 9th March (all Wednesdays) beginning at 7.30 pm. Visit www.lancs-catholic-chaplaincy.uk; email lancatholic@gmail.com; or see poster at back of church for further details.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 7th February can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for Jackson Taylor, who is being baptised this Sunday at 11.30 am, and for Jenny and Finlay Richardson who are being baptised next Sunday, 7th February, at 11.30 am.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Father John Marsh, who died on Thursday. We do not yet have the details of his Funeral Mass. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Alice Winstanley, Robert Tomlinson, Michael McBride, Agnes Evans, Tony Derbyshire, Elizabeth Cook, Harold Harwood, Molly Winstanley, David Anthony Pyke, Hannah Marie Swarbrick, James Carter, Bill Jennings, Mary Whiteside and Eric Bayman. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Maureen Ingleby, Rod Pearson, Kenneth Johnston, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew's Mum), Jean Parkinson, 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, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, 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 the 10 am Mass:

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 30th January – Sunday 7th February 2016

Sat	30 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Richardson (Anniversary)
Sun	31 st	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	1 st Feb	No Mass	
Tue	2 nd	12 noon	Ross and Holland Families
Wed	3 rd	9.30 am (note time)	Jim Parry
Thurs	4 th	9.30 am	Brian Hargreaves
Fri	5 th	9.30 am	John Horn
Sat	6 th	9.30 am	Fr Gerald Muir (LISCF)
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Kathleen Gallagher and Kay Gallagher
Sun	7 th	10.00 am	Charles and Evelyn Langley

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	3 rd	Blessing of Throats after Mass for the Feast of St. Blaise	
Wed	3 rd	No Rosary	
Fri	5 th	10 – 10.30 am Holy Half-Hour for Priestly Vocations	
Fri	5 th	7.00 pm	A Celebration of God's Mercy
Sat	6 th	10.15 am	Celebration of First Reconciliation (First Confession)

Special Days this week:

Tues	2 nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	
Wed	3 rd	St Blaise; St Angar	
Fri	5 th	St Agatha	
Sat	6 th	SS Paul Miki and Companions	

Meetings this Week:

Tues	2 nd	6.30 pm	First Forgiveness Preparation (Session 4)
Weds	3 rd	10 am-12 noon	Parish Coffee Morning, Plessington Chapel
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Deanery Pastoral Council (at Cathedral)
Thurs	4 th	7.15 pm	Journey in Faith

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	24 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 119	Children: 10	
		10.00 am	Adults: 126	Children: 26	Total: 281

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,118.57; Donation from Whist & Dominoes to the Roof Fund: £250; Church Shop: £30; Votive lights (2 weeks): £101.50; Education: £52; Postcards: £5. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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