

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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**3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**  
**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**



The narrative of a visit by the Magi describes a valiant effort on the part of sages from afar to find Jesus and worship him.

Probably Matthew was pointing back through this example to the prophets who had proclaimed that all people should acknowledge the One God and accept his Anointed as their King.

The Magi, like most people, were fascinated by the wonders of nature; however, as they were wise, they recognised that the mysterious star pointed beyond itself. It's rather like Moses and the Burning Bush, a phenomenon that can only be understood in the light of God's Word. The star leads them, not directly to Jesus, but to Jerusalem, where the Word of God is interpreted for them by the Chief Priests and Scribes of the people.

We must use our intelligence and knowledge of the world to understand our vocation as caretakers and stewards of creation, but it is so easy to be led astray by false lights, which is why prayer and the Word of God are so necessary. Few of us have precious material gifts to offer, and we know that the value of the Magis' gifts lies in their symbolism. A more valuable treasure is the talents and time each person possesses. If we think and pray about our abilities and use them wisely, we not only offer our unique gift to Christ, but also show something of his Light to our world.

*D'arcy*

**New items and information**

**Father David** thanks everyone for their generous Christmas offerings; the exact amount will be published in next week's newsletter.

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January** – "That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace."

**Peace Sunday** – This month will see the 48<sup>th</sup> World Day for Peace celebrated here in England and Wales on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a second collection on that day to support Pax Christi who, with only four staff members, and some wonderful volunteers, are working very hard for the abolition of slavery, and to promote peace in our world. Last year, Pope Francis reminded us that many people think slavery is a thing of the past, but this social plague remains all too real in today's world, and he describes slavery as 'an open wound on the body of the human family – a running sore on the flesh of Christ'. Please support Pax Christi, who see slavery as being linked to issues of poverty, indebtedness and conflict, as many people are forced by the violence of war to leave everything behind and seek refuge elsewhere. *Thank you.*

**REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH ...**

If you wish to nominate your parish as a beneficiary under your will (as a Charity, bequests made to the Church will not attract inheritance tax) you may wish to consider the following wording:

"I give to the *Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (LRCDT)* for the benefit of the Parish of St Mary & St Michael, Garstang, the sum of £xxxx (and in words) free of duty and I declare that the receipt of the Financial Administrator of *LRCDT* at the Finance Office, The Pastoral Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA1 3BT shall be a good discharge (LRCDT Charity No. 234331)."

**Emergency Call-outs at RLI** – Requests for clergy attendance need to be initiated by the families, and will be passed on by the ward staff. The ward staff will then contact the hospital switchboard, which has an 'emergency bleep' to call out the Cathedral clergy. This procedure should ensure that a priest will attend. There are cards at the back of church which you can give when you go into hospital to specify that you want to give the Catholic Chaplain your name and the fact that you are a Catholic.

**Previously Published Items**

**St Vincent de Paul Society – Appeal for warm clothing** – now that winter is here we have replaced the box at the back of church, so any unwanted jumpers, jackets, trousers, gloves, socks, duvets, etc will once more 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.*

**Gap Year Opportunities** with the Youth Service at Castlerigg Manor. Now recruiting for September 2015. Check out all details at [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk) or contact Fr Philip on 01768 772711.

**Brave of Heart : A Weekend Retreat for Men** - 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> January, Cor et Lumen Christi, Wigton, CA7 9HU. To book, or for more information, visit [www.coretlumenchristi.org](http://www.coretlumenchristi.org), [stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org](mailto:stcuthberts@coretlumenchristi.org), or telephone 01697 345 623.

**Chorister Open Morning at Westminster Cathedral Choir School** – If anyone is interested in sending their son, aged six or seven, to one of London's top academic preparatory schools, and to join the world's leading Catholic choir, there is a leaflet at the back of church telling you how.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2015** Youth Section applications close at the end of January. Coach and flight options available. Fundraising opportunities available to help. Sign up at [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk).

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 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** Elaine Lamoury (Henry's sister-in-law) who died on Christmas Day. *May she rest in peace.*

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Eleanor Bolton, Florence Carter, Edwin Eydmann, Sheila Richardson, Alfred Wheatley, Ann Eastham, Fr Arthur Speight, Sarah Ann Garvey, Eira Weaver, John Edwards, Annie Bisby, Mary Alexander Kenyon, Gerard Swarbrick, Vincent Parker, Mary Dickinson and John Finley. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Joan Fishwick, Richard (aged 14) (needs a bone marrow transplant), Sheila Murphy, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Eddie Cunny
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Hugh and André Ferguson
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Mrs Sloman
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Holy Souls
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Helen Forshaw's Father-in-law
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Arnold Family
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	The Catterall Family
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Sheila Richardson (Anniversary)
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Monica Elder-Woodward (3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)
		10.30 am	Eleanor and Thomas Bolton

### **Devotions and Celebrations this week:**

Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 pm	Rosary
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### **Special Days this Week:**

Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	The Epiphany of the Lord
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	The Baptism of the Lord

### **Meetings this Week:**

Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Journey In Faith

### **Last Week's Attendance:**

Sat	28 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 103	Children : 2
Sun	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 62	Children: 6
		10.30 am	Adults: 87	Children: 15 Total: 275

**Monies Received:** Offertory (28.12.14): £1,627.52; Votive Lights: £98.50; Diaries: £3.50; Shop: not open. *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.