

## 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> May 2014

### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)



It was on the very day of the resurrection that two of Jesus' followers went off together, despondent, empty, sad, feeling that life was a failure; all they had hoped for had been dashed and cruelly destroyed by the savage death of Jesus just two days earlier. They perhaps felt the pressing need to get away from the overwhelming and oppressive atmosphere of the upper room where the rest of the apostles and disciples were gathered under a dark black cloud of hopelessness – Jesus, the light of their lives, was gone.

And Jesus came to meet the two, where they were, on the road as they walked. He talked with them of the scriptures, but the darkness of loss remained. They asked him to eat with them – something was beginning to stir, but they didn't know what. And then it happened!

Jesus took bread and blessed it and broke it. The veil was suddenly lifted, and they knew that Jesus was with them! As soon as the truth dawned, Jesus disappeared from their sight. They left their meal unfinished, and even though it was dark by now, they went back the way they had come, almost running in their joy. "We must get back to the others, to tell them the Good News!"

When they got back, they found that Jesus had also appeared in the meantime to the rest of the disciples. The excitement and joy was intense – Jesus was alive! Death had not destroyed him! All their despondency disappeared! Life was back on track! New life filled them – they didn't understand, but they knew that Jesus was still with them!

The same risen Jesus, meets us every day on our way – especially when everything is going wrong, when we are tired and despondent, he comes and walks with us. But how often do we not recognise him?!

Like the two disciples, we have the breaking of bread. If we sit at the table of the Mass, really, desperately, wanting to see Jesus, to know he is alive and with us, *we will find him and recognise him in the breaking of bread in the holy Eucharist!!*

### New items and information

**Benediction and Holy Hour** will take place this Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, at 3 pm.

**Roof Fund** – This weekend we are re-launching the appeal for our church's Roof Fund. To this end we are distributing with the newsletter

- a letter from Fr David on salmon-pink paper to update you on the appeal;
- yellow gift-aid envelopes for personal donations.

When you make a donation, please place the envelopes in an offertory collection, or through the presbytery letter box.

**First Holy Communion Preparation** – Session 5 will take place this coming Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 6.30 pm.

**Vocations Group** – the next meeting is next Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, at 4 pm in the Presbytery. Father Andrew Allman, our Diocesan Vocations Director, will be attending the meeting. This group is open to anyone interested in fostering vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in our parish.

**Monthly Coffee Morning** – This will take place this Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, from 10 am until 11.45 am. As you will note, this is a quarter hour shorter than usual, as Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon. However, the pleasure at seeing friends, chatting, and enjoying refreshments will be as normal!

**Parish Examiner** – We are seeking someone who has some background in accountancy/banking/business who would volunteer to be our Parish Examiner. Once a year when our parish accounts have been prepared, the diocese, in accordance with charity legislation, requires that our accounts are examined according to the instructions from the Diocesan Auditors. Would anyone be prepared to take on this essential task in the service of the parish? Please speak to Father David.

**SS Mary & Michael's Race Night** – All Parishioners are warmly invited to attend a race night to be held in our school on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, at 7 pm to raise money for school funds. Tickets are available for £2.00 each. There will be a licensed bar, and chip butties will be available at the interval. Please help to support this fun event. Tickets are available at the school office or from the back of church after 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May. For further details, please call Tammy on 605637.

**Maundy Money** – The Saint Vincent de Paul Society thanks parishioners for the Maundy Money which was collected on Holy Thursday. £204.80 was raised, for which we are very grateful.

**CAFOD – Did you know...?** Two British MPs have been learning about CAFOD's renewable energy work in Kenya? Mark Hoban and Catherine McKinnell recently visited projects using renewable sources of energy to improve the lives of local people. At a health centre they saw how CAFOD-funded solar panels to refrigerate vaccines have proved more reliable and sustainable than gas. This has meant that people are not being turned away because the gas had run out and the vaccines had spoilt. CAFOD's sustainable development works. Thank you for supporting it.

**Date for your Diaries: Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> June from 2 pm – 4 pm** – An Afternoon Tea Fundraiser will be held in the Presbytery Garden. Further information will be given nearer the date.

### Previously Published Items

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** – Is your marriage important to you and your family? We invite you to experience a **Marriage Encounter Weekend at Minsteracres 9 – 11 May 2014**. It is a unique way for you to revitalise your marriage away from the distractions of life. Weekends funded by donations. For more information and booking contact Harry & Muff Wilde 01538 385802 or go to our website [www.wwme.org.uk](http://www.wwme.org.uk).

**Counters** – We are appealing for new counters to join the rota. It would involve counting the collection after 10.30 am Mass on a Sunday; at the moment it would be once every five weeks, but the more volunteers we have, the less frequently they would need to serve. Please speak to Father David if you feel that you could help in this way. *Thank you in advance.*

**Wednesday Word** – To help us prepare for Mass on the 11<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** Aden Montalbo who is to be baptised at 12.15 pm this Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time:** Teresa Topping, Fred Garvey, Teresa Garner, James Pedder, Winifred Bilborrow, Monica Hargreaves, Stephen Richardson, Henry Banks, Violet Eydmann, Mary Speight and Peter Nickson. *May they rest in peace.*

**We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including:** Sheila Carrol, Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth's brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old with leukaemia), Michael O'Neil, Molly (3 years old) and family, Ruth Fairey, Ted Mitchell, Jackson Wicks, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Ciara, Anthonio Dilao, Jamie & Marialyce Bilborrow, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley (Brian's brother), Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Davies, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, Paula Nicholson, 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> May 2014**

Sat	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Ian Cookson (Birthday Memories)
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	George Clarey
		10.30 am	Agnes and Joseph Rossall
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>No Mass</b>	
Tues	6 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Cath Price (Sick)
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>12 noon (note time)</b>	Bill Bamber
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Jerome and Annie Grayston
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Tony Hall
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Rev William Joseph Houlihan
		6.30 pm	Arnold and Monica Hargreaves
Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Ethel Kenyon (Anniversary)

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

Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Benediction & Holy Hour
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 10.30 am	No Confessions
		1.30 pm	Altar Servers' Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladyewell

### **Special Days this Week:**

Sun	11 <sup>th</sup>	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
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### **Meetings this Week:**

Tue	6 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	First Eucharist Preparation (Session 6)
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Deanery Pastoral Council at the Cathedral
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Vocations Group
		6.30 pm	Stewardship Group
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith
Fri	9 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality
		7.00 pm	Parish Development Group
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.15 am	First Eucharist Rehearsal

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

Sat	26 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 130	Children: 6
Sun	27 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am	Adults: 72	Children: 13
		10.30 am	Adults: 118	Children: 34
			Total: 373	

**Monies Received:** Easter Offerings: £1,197.83; Offerings (27<sup>th</sup> April) including Standing Orders: £1,181.28; Cemetery (Headstone): £40; Votive Lights: £41.20; Shop: £18.50; Photocopying: £5. *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.