

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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3rd / 4th OCTOBER 2015

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

This weekend, the long-awaited Synod on the Family begins in Rome. The Church recognises the value of Family Life, but also recognises that one size doesn't fit all. There are many models of family life.

Yes, the family of a mother, father and children is the family that God intended – we see that in the first reading. But this doesn't exclude older people, past child-bearing age, getting married. Nor does it exclude young couples who are infertile getting married. Statistics tell us that 20% of young couples in the Western population cannot have children because of fertility problems. They still form a family.

Then couples can be bereaved so that a young widow or widower is left with children as a single-parent family. There are single-parent families where a relationship has broken up, leaving one partner with the children. Yes, there are many different forms of family.

And the Church acknowledges that she has a duty of care towards all. Thus Pope Francis insists on the responsibility we have to show the deepest compassion and kindness to all. It is no coincidence that Pope Francis is proclaiming a Jubilee Year of Mercy just after the Synod. To show mercy, to be loving with kindness, is to draw all families under the protection and love of the Church.

Jesus was very clear to tell us what God *intended* for the family. The Law of Moses, blessed by God, shows what God *allows*, what God accepts is the reality between men and women. This is not always what God intends, or what God condones, but this is how sinful and weak human beings are. God did not intend for humanity to become sinners – he condemned the actions of Adam and Eve. But God didn't just abandon us because we gave in to temptations, because we are selfish people. God sent his own Son to redeem us *whilst we were still sinners*. (St Paul, letter to the Romans, 5:8 "...what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.") He loved us so much that he sent his only Son to us, to share our broken humanity and to lift us out of the mess we get ourselves into, and redeemed us by his Precious Blood.

We pray that the Synod might give hope and consolation to broken humanity and to the many broken or less than perfect families of our world. Please take a leaflet on blue paper to help us to pray for the Synod.

New items and information

Please welcome Fr Tom Hoole who will celebrate the Masses this weekend, as Fr David is in Lourdes.

The Synod on the Family – Pope Francis meets with Bishops from all over the world and with other representatives to discuss the Church and the family. There are leaflets on pale-blue paper for you to take and to pray each day for the Synod.

Weekday Mass will be celebrated in the Plessington Chapel from next Wednesday, 7th October, for the winter months.

Are you interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith? If so, we will soon be starting our weekly gatherings, when any interested person would be very welcome to come along. We call this group our Journey in Faith group. Anyone enquiring about the faith would be welcomed on Thursday evenings. We meet in the Presbytery, behind the church, at 7.15 pm. *If you are interested, please contact Father David.*

This weekend we have a collection for our St Vincent de Paul Society. The work that the SVP do behind the scenes in this parish is invaluable, so please be as generous as you are able. *Thank you.*

Proposed re-roofing of the nave and associated works – The Grant Award from the Listed Places of Worship, Roof Repair Fund notified in March was formalised on 22nd April and acceptance of this grant by the parish was subsequently approved by the Diocesan Trustees on 28th April. A meeting held here in May with the Architect and Diocesan Property Manager agreed to proceed with planning of the proposed work. Since then, both bat and asbestos surveys have been carried out as well as a prequalification process for suitably qualified and accredited contractors. As a result of this process and the availability of suitable matching slates, which is currently running at six months, we are at present working towards a start of the work in spring 2016 with a contract period of around 20 weeks. Tenders went out to the prequalified contractors during w/e 14th September. Once these have been received in mid-October, we will be able to check our proposed budget against the actual tenders received. We anticipate this should lead to the appointment of a contractor to start next spring. A further update will be made once this has happened. *Manus Adamson*

Next weekend, Sunday 11th October, is the day of prayer for prisoners and their dependants. We have been asked to hold a retiring collection on that day- in aid of the work of PACT – the Prison Advice & Care Trust.

Monthly Coffee Morning

The October Coffee Morning will be held this coming

Wednesday, 7th October, from 10 am – 12 noon

in aid of **MacMillan Cancer Support**.

There will be a cake and produce stall (any contributions gratefully received).

Entrance will be £2, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Please come and support this very worthwhile cause, while having fun at the same time!

"An Evening of Music" – with Marion Gaughan, Louise Coupe, Ivan Gaughan and David Kennedy, is to be held this coming **Friday, 9th October, at 7.30 pm**, here at SS Mary & Michael's Church. Tickets, £5, are on sale at the back of church after weekend Masses, and on the door. ***Do come along and support what promises to be an excellent evening's entertainment. All proceeds to go the church roof fund.***

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 3rd – Sunday 11th October 2015

New Rotas for Counters and Cleaners – there are still some copies to collect from the Sacristy. If you are a counter or a cleaner and have not yet picked up your copy, please do so. **Hummingbirds** are holding a Vintage Afternoon on Saturday 17th October, from 2 pm in the Community Centre, and are asking for any pre-loved handbags, scarves or jewellery you could give us. Also donations of home-made goods, eg cards, jams, knitted toys, flower arrangements and garden produce; or anything suitable for a tombola prize would be gratefully received. All items can be left at the back of church – *many thanks! Anne Miller (604 030).*

Previously Published Items

Education Mass This will be a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on Friday 16th October 2015 at 7.00 pm. All parishioners are invited to join Bishop Michael Campbell OSA at the annual Diocese of Lancaster Education Mass. This invitation extends in a special way to all those involved in education and faith formation: priests, deacons, teachers in Catholic schools and Catholic teachers in state schools, catechists, youth ministry, children's liturgy, those in seminary. The Mass will be offered in thanksgiving for the Church's mission in education and asks for a blessing on her work throughout the coming year.

Invitation to Dedicate a Hymn Book to a loved one, so that anyone using the book can remember that person in prayer. The invitation is not to pay the cost of the books, as that has already been met. Please write dedications on sheets in the porch.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 11th October, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for baby Olivia Hudson who is to be baptised during the 10 am Mass this Sunday. Please welcome her and her family.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: John Towers, Jenny Jackson, Edward Ross, Hugh Ferguson, Richard Wrennall, Barry Speak, Rose Ellen Shorrock, Margaret Horn, Kathleen Barnacle and Cecily Gornall. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, 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 :

Sat	3 rd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	William and Ellen Greenall
Sun	4 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker (Anniversary)
Mon	5 th	No Mass	
Tues	6 th	No Mass	
Wed	7 th	7.00 pm	Hugh and André Ferguson
Thurs	8 th	9.30 am	Thanksgiving & Blessings for an 80 th Birthday
Fri	9 th	9.30 am	Special Intention (P.N.)
Sat	10 th	8.30 am (note time)	All Our Parishioners
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	Michael Gilfillan
Sun	11 th	10.00 am	Agnes Evans

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	7 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	9 th	10.00 – 11.00 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	10 th	No Confessions	
Sun	11 th	12 noon	Baptism of Sophie Lamoury

Special Days this Week:

Mon	5 th	DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL	
Tue	6 th	St Bruno	
Wed	7 th	Our Lady of the Rosary	
Fri	9 th	Blessed John Henry Newman	
Sun	10 th	Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents	

Meetings this Week:

Weds	7 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	26 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 140	Children: 12	
Sun	27 th	10.00 am	Adults: 120	Children: 24	Total: 296

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,002.56; Cemetery: £30; Donation: £20; Hymn Books: £20; United Utilities: £60; Votive Lights: £52; Shop: £5; Second Collection – Bishop's Administration Fund: £127.45. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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