

New items and information

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 September 2016

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Today's gospel might be described as the fine print of discipleship, and no one particularly enjoys reading the fine print. It takes time to work out the consequences and implications of every sentence, but as letters to the financial help lines of the newspapers show, you would be foolish not to spare the time. This is especially true when a costly investment such as a pension or the purchase of a house is involved. In the light of the first reading, it is easy to see that this is an exercise in wisdom. Solomon's prayer encourages us to pray for a heart that not only knows the price, but appreciates the value of the quest of following Jesus.

To us, the opening saying is particularly difficult; following Jesus will not allow us to have any higher priority in life. Hating, however, is not used in the emotional sense. Matthew has it as "Love more than me". Luke is probably trying to introduce a stronger nuance; maybe he's even trying to shock us by pointing out the costly way that discipleship collides with our affections for our spouse or our family.

For Luke, the apostles are not the sole followers of Jesus to whom this applies, but to all of us who believe in him – and he has the two short parables which describe the practical forms of wisdom which are so necessary if we are to make the appropriate decision. I'm sure none of us thinks like that – cradle Catholics follow Jesus because they've been brought up that it's the right thing to do, but the ultimate conscious cost is rendered in the Greek as "saying goodbye to everything" and it is this thought that we should take with us from Mass today.

D'Arcy

St Vincent de Paul Society will be holding a special collection this weekend. For anyone who is interested, there are leaflets at the back of church explaining what the SVP does, and how the money you donate is spent. Please take one; they make for interesting reading.

Friends of Chivuna – There will be a meeting next Friday at 7.30 pm, preceded by Mass at 7.00 pm.

Healing Mass – There will be a Healing Mass celebrated at **2 pm next Saturday, 10th September 2016** in Church for all parishioners. **(There will be no morning Mass.)**

After Mass there will be an opportunity to chat with friends over a cup of tea in the Plessington Chapel. If you would like to attend and need transport, please contact either **Carl Billingsley on 01995 601 846** or **Helen Forshaw on 01995 603 944** beforehand. It would be appreciated if Eucharistic Ministers could take invitations to those they visit.

Invitations will be available on the altar rails this weekend, then from the back of church. **North West Children's Support Group** – Michael Costain ran 100 km/62 miles in 13 hours, 16 minutes last Saturday. He has raised around £1500 for the North West Children's Support Group and wishes to thank all who contributed to this grand total.

Well done, Michael!

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes – In just over two weeks, on 19th September, the group of fifteen people will be setting off for Lourdes. In this Year of Mercy our Pilgrimage will be representing the parish, and we hope the parish will be praying for us, as we will be praying for you. We would be very happy to take your petitions and prayers to leave at the Grotto, and to light any candles for your special intentions. There is a box at the back of church for your requests – please mark the envelopes PETITIONS, PRAYERS, and/or CANDLES. This box will remain in church until 18th September.

Monthly Coffee Morning – Yes, it really is a whole month since the last coffee morning – and wasn't it fun! This one promises to be just as good, so please come along for tea/coffee, seeing friends, eating delicious cakes, and chatting about – everything and nothing in particular! Plessington Chapel, next Wednesday, 7th September, from 10 am – 12 noon. *Everyone is welcome.*

Next Sunday is Education Day – There will be a collection for the Catholic Education Services.

Parish Draw – Congratulations go to Frank Higham and an anonymous winner for being our August draw winners. *Would you like the chance of being next month's winner? We have plenty of numbers available at a pro-rata rate of £12.50 for the rest of this year's draw. Catch Trish & Kev O'Hanlon at 6 pm Saturday Mass, or give us a call on 01995 604 292.*

Calder Vale Bluebell Teas – The Community of Calder Vale would like to thank everyone who came and hopefully enjoyed the Bluebell Teas 2016. We made a total of **£3,700** (which was a record sum) towards various village ventures; we saw lots of familiar faces from the church, and we are truly thankful for your continued support. Thank you once again. *Brenda and the Community of Calder Vale.*

The Closing Mass for the Year of Priestly Vocations will be celebrated on Tuesday, 27th September at 12.15 pm at the Cathedral at Lancaster. Everyone is welcome.

Previously Published Items

Traidcraft Autumn/Christmas Catalogues are now available from the back of church. If you are able, please support some of the world's poorest producers with your purchases, whilst raising money for Chivuna clinic. *Helen Spencer.*

Church Shop – A parishioner has donated a number of CDs to be sold in the church shop. “Lancaster sings for Lourdes”, which has a normal price of £10, will be sold for £5, and “I love to tell the story” by Ken Duccini at a price of £3.50.

North West Children's Support Group – The North West Children's Support Group are celebrating their 40th Anniversary with a Birthday Party at the Crofters on 17th September at 7 pm. Our wonderful supporters within the parish are very welcome to attend! Tickets cost £15 for adults (16+) and £10 for children (5 and under go free). The ticket price is to cover costs only, this is not a fundraiser! If anybody would like to buy tickets, please contact Debbie McCann on 601354 or Helen Whittaker on 600254.

Noddfa – There will be a retreat at Noddfa from Monday, 10th to Friday 14th October. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Jean Andrews on 603 802 or Elizabeth Horn on 602 024, and they will be in touch with you.

Dates for your diary - Fr Luiz Ruscillo will lead a series of reflections on the Parables in the Gospels on Tuesday evenings, 7pm - 8pm at the Education Centre, on the following dates: 27 September; 11 and 18 October; 15 and 22 November.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 11th September can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Denis Chapman, James Parker, Hilda Yates, Peter Thomas Davis, Matthew McGuire, Malcolm Mayo, Richard Pawlowski, Dorothy Towers, Moira Adamson, Benedict Joseph Johnson, Bob Horn and Harvey Smith. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Theresa Harrison, Margaret Hibberdine, Billy (5 yrs old, suddenly gone blind and paralysed, taken into Great Ormond St Hospital), Pat Nickson, Gerard Gough, Bob Cross, Chris O'Connor, Craig Smith, Leo Rabbett, Anne Walmsley, Brian Moss, Jim Winstanley, Fiona Catterall, John Sweeney, Rod Pearson, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Jean Parkinson, Ann Wicks, Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Sheila Murphy, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, 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 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 3rd – Sunday 11th September 2016

Sat	3 rd	6.00 pm (Vigil)	A Golden Wedding
Sun	4 th	10.00 am	Alex Stott (RIP)
Mon	5 th	9.30 am (please note)	Brian Hargreaves
Tue	6 th	9.30 am	Ethel Pearce (Lately Dead)
Wed	7 th	7.00 pm	Teresa Blake (RIP)
Thurs	8 th	9.30 am	Deceased Members of the Langley Family
Fri	9 th	7.00 pm (note time)	Chivuna Mass – Rev J Woodcock
Sat	10 th	2.00 pm (note time)	Mass for the Sick & Housebound (Healing Mass)
		6.00 pm (Vigil)	Arnold & Monica Hargreaves
Sun	11 th	10.00 am	Frank Purkis

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	7 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
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Special Days this week:

Sun	4 th	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Mon	5 th	St Herbert (Hermit)	
Thurs	8 th	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
Fri	9 th	St Peter Claver (Priest)	
Sun	11 th	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – Education Day	

Meetings this Week:

Wed	7 th	10 am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning, Plessington Chapel
		7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	9 th	7.30 pm	Friends of Chivuna

Last Week's Attendance:

Sun	28 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 146	Children: 10		
		10.00 am	Adults: 113	Children: 15	Total: 284	

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders and an annual payment): £1,630.65; Votive Lights: £46; Shop: £10; Photocopying: £5; Donation from Bluebell Teas: £100; Catholic Trust (Special Collection) £227; Tea Money: £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.

The Holy Father's Mission Intention for September

“That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become ever more aware of their mission to evangelise.”