

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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4th / 5th APRIL 2015

EASTER SUNDAY



No one saw the stone covering the entrance to the tomb being rolled away. No one saw him leaving the tomb... All they saw was an empty tomb.

Yes, the three women, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, saw an angel in the tomb (Gospel at the Vigil.) When Peter arrived (Easter morning Mass gospel), all he found were the burial cloths in which the body of Jesus had been wrapped.

The reaction of the disciples to the empty tomb was amazement and fear. Amazement because they expected to find Jesus' mangled corpse covered in dried blood, and fear because they didn't know who had stolen his body and why? Only the beloved disciple believed that Jesus had risen from the dead before actually seeing him.

It was only when Jesus showed his risen self to Mary of Magdala (she at first thought he was a gardener), then to the disciples in the upper room and on the road to Emmaus, that their amazement and fear turned into joy!

They were slow to believe.

Each time Easter comes around, the Lord invites us to believe anew that he has truly risen, that he walks among us and accompanies us on our journey through life.

Yes, Jesus has risen! He has overcome death, death that all of us face. Death is no longer the inevitable fate of all of us. Death is now the entry into a new life – a life without pain or suffering, a life of light; we have escaped from the darkness, we have become the people of light because Jesus is alive!

New items and information

Baby Aimande Xavier will be baptised this Sunday at 12.15 pm. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Eastertide Calendar 2015 – Copies of these have been given to the children who are at our school. If any children come to Mass but do not attend our school, there are more copies at the back of church – please take one.

Collection Envelope Boxes – If you use envelopes for your donations to the parish, the new boxes are here; please pick them up from the back of church.

North West Children's Support Group – Once again we are asking for your help in providing refreshments for our Auction on Saturday, 18th April. If you would be willing to make some sandwiches or cakes, please put your name and phone number on the list at the back of church. Plastic sandwich pack will be provided. They are always much appreciated and highly praised, and help to boost our profits. *Thank you for your continued support.*

Children from our Parish School studied and then enacted scenes from Holy Week. Those fortunate enough to be able to watch the story unfold over three days could not help be impressed by the simple, prayerful and meaningful way in which they portrayed the events. The silence after the Good Friday enactment in school was profound. Well done children and teachers!

Divine Mercy Sunday will be held at 2 pm on 12th April (the Sunday after Easter) at St John the Evangelist, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, starting with Holy Hour and the Penitential Rite followed by the veneration of the picture of Jesus of Mercy. Chaplet at 3 pm followed by Benediction and the Holy Mass. Refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Previously Published Items

Government Grant We received this formal announcement last week: 'SSMary & Michael's Church, Garstang, Preston has successfully secured a grant of £37,700 from the Government's *Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund* to address urgent roof repairs that will ensure it is weather-tight, safe and open for use. It is one of 502 grants from a total funding package of £30 million that have been announced for urgent roof repairs for places of worship across the UK by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Fund is administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture Media and Sport. More details are available at www.lpowroof.org.uk.' We now have to wait for the Government to appoint a Case Officer before we can proceed. Many thanks to Manus Adamson who prepared and submitted the grant application!

Women's Vocation Discernment Day (for 18+) – This is being held at Little Sisters of the Poor, Jeanne Jugan Residence, 228 Garstang Road, Preston, PR2 9RB on Saturday, 11th April 2015. See poster at back of church.

Charity Auction – The **North West Children's Support Group** are holding their Annual Bric-a-Brac Auction on **Saturday, 18th April 2015** in SS Mary & Michael's School Hall. Viewing starts at 10 am, with the sale starting at 12 noon. If you are able to donate items for the sale, the Hall will be open on Friday evening, or if you need items collecting, please call Helen & Barry on 01995 600254, or Debbie &

Paul on 01995 601354, or Paul and Angela on 01524 751373. *Thank you for your ongoing support.*

Faith and Justice – We are needing someone to form a new Faith and Justice Group in the Parish. If you feel this could be for you, but do not know what it might entail, please contact Father David for more information.

Mission Boxes are now ready to be picked up from the church porch, together with a mission magazine. If you have a mission box which was not emptied this time, please also take a magazine. If you would like to have a mission box in your home, there are some spare ones in the church porch. A total of £214.10 was banked.

Old Hymn Books with Dedications – Parishioners are welcome to take old hymn books with dedications to their loved ones. Anyone wishing to do so should place their name on the narthex list, together with the name of the person whom they have dedicated. If the book can be traced, it will be handed over. The list will remain open for three weeks (from 23rd March to 13th April). *If you have accidentally taken a hymn book dedicated to someone other than your own family members, please could you return it.*

'Riders for Health' is a small charity doing big things delivering healthcare to outlying rural areas in Africa. It provides health workers with motorcycles and training to access remote areas. The workers provide daily regular healthcare to 14 million people. The charity needs support to fund fuel, protective clothing, training and maintenance for the local couriers to cover vast areas of harsh terrain. On 26th April, I am running the **London Marathon** to raise funds for this charity, and your support would be very welcome. There are sponsor forms at the back of church, or donate online at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FrankMiller>. Thank you.

Frank Miller.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 12th April, 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 Barbara Nelmes who died recently. Her funeral service will be held here at SS Mary & Michael's, followed by interment, this Tuesday, 7th April, at 11.30 am. *May she rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Aileen Dearn, George Swarbrick, Mary Bowles, Canon Alban Cochrane, Joe Walmsley, Joseph Nickson, Mary Wellings, John Adamson, Joseph Davis, Jack Metcalf and James Parker Richardson. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Lucienne Ferguson, Maurice Iddon, Josie Maddock, Dina Carter, Richard (aged 14, has had 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 (3 ½ years old with leukaemia), Molly and family, 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, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, 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.)*

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 4th– Sunday 12th April 2015

Sat	4 th	HOLY SATURDAY		
		8.00 pm (Vigil)	Dennis Vincent Wilkes	
Sun	5 th	EASTER SUNDAY		
		10.00 am	Eva Carter	
Mon	6 th – Sat	11 th (am) – No Mass		
Tues	7 th	11.30 am	Funeral Service for Barbara Nelmes	
Sat	11 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Kenneth Last (Lately Dead)	
Sun	12 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker (Birthday)	

No Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Special Days this Week:

Easter Sunday

Sun to Sat Easter Octave

Meetings this Week:

None

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	28 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 145	Children: 10
Sun	29 th	10.00 am	Adults: 116	Children: 38
Holy Thursday	2 nd	7.30 pm	Adults: 94	Children: 2
Good Friday	3 rd	6.00 am	Adults: 39	Children: 2
		11.00 am	Adults: 70	Children: 35
		3.00 pm	Adults: 81	Children: 4

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,047.18; CAFOD: £41.25; Chivuna: £41.25; Easter Flowers: £124.20; Votive Lights: £46.60; Shop: £25. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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