

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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5th / 6th April 2014
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)



“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment,” writes Pope Francis at the beginning of his apostolic exhortation, ‘*Evangelii Gaudium*’, “to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter you; I ask all of you to do this unfaithfully every day.”

What does Pope Francis mean – “a personal encounter with Jesus Christ”? Our gospel today gives an example of such an encounter. Martha went to meet Jesus when she heard that he had arrived in their village. “If you had been here, my brother would not have died,” she told him.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” said Jesus, “If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” replied Martha, “I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Jesus, at this stage, hadn't even raised her brother from the dead. Yet she knew with all her heart, that Jesus was the Son of God. She encountered the real Jesus. She met him, and came to know him for who he really was. This is an encounter.

This is what Pope Francis is inviting us anew to do “unfaithfully every day”! He is inviting us to come out to meet Jesus each day, to make a deliberate effort to stand before Jesus, to look into his eyes, and to say: “I believe, Lord, that you are the Son of God, the chosen one of the Father.”

Most of us, like many of Jesus' disciples, walk with him, but don't encounter him. We are so familiar with Jesus, we take him for granted.

As we move into the last two weeks of Lent 2014, we are being invited by Pope Francis to really encounter Jesus “or, at least, have an openness to letting him encounter (us).”

Every day in the coming weeks, perhaps at some point each day, we can stand, sit, kneel, before Jesus, look into his eyes and say: “Yes, Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.”

Jesus waits for us.

First Eucharist Preparation – Session 5 will take place after the Easter holidays.

A Lenten Penitential Service is being held here at SS Mary & Michael's next **Saturday, 12th April, at 10.15 am.**

Greenery needed for Maundy Thursday Evening – If you can help, please leave it by the back door of the presbytery. *Thank you.*

Maundy Thursday – As the Blessed Sacrament is taken in procession to the altar of repose, we follow Jesus, as if to the Garden of Gethsemane. Try to spend a little time with Jesus in the Garden. If you are able to, there is a list at the back of church for you to tick a space.

Reconciliation begins in prayer – Reconciliation Wednesday – Sometimes, the first step to Reconciliation is praying for the person with whom we need to be reconciled. Make a commitment this Lent to join us on Wednesday, 16th April, from 6 – 8 pm as we gather for quiet prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for all of the situations in our lives that need the healing grace of Jesus' love. Our church will be open, and you are welcome to come for a few minutes or for an hour.

Stations of the Cross during Lent, are at 6.30 pm Each Friday.

St Vincent de Paul Society – this week is the last week for collecting foodstuffs for the various food banks in Preston. The collection will not finish this Sunday as was put in the bulletin last week. Please feel free to continue to contribute until the end of Lent. *Thank you very much.*

Gift Aid – A gift aid tax reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify me if you are no longer a tax payer or you paid insufficient tax during 2013/2014 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year, at the present standard rate of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1 donated. *Colin Swarbrick.*

CAFOD is now recruiting school volunteers. If you have some spare time, enjoy working with children and are interested in global issues in the context of our faith, do consider becoming a school volunteer. Contact the CAFOD office in Preston, tel No 01772 733 310. See the poster at the back of church for more details.

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).”

By this means your bequest is guaranteed to be solely for the benefit of your parish.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on the 13th April, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Previously Published Items

2014 Offertory Envelopes are ready for collecting at the back of church.

SS Mary & Michael's School Association needs your support for their "School Race Night" on **Friday 9th May 2014**. They are asking for sponsorship for the races which can be given either by taking out an advertisement for your business in the programme (£30 for full page or £20 for half-page) or by sponsoring a race (£50). There are eight races in total – full screen horse races. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01995 603 023. Also, if you are able to provide a bottle of alcohol as an additional prize, all donations are gratefully received! Please come along for a great night out. Tickets available from school.

In addition, the School Association are asking for donations of help and materials for the Whit Festival Float. These would include large quantities of chicken wire, old newspapers, wallpaper paste, red rope, red carpet, adults willing to sew, and gold car paint (if anyone has a care body repair workshop, we will be looking for a 9 ft papier maché Oscar to be sprayed gold!) If you are able to help, please contact the school office (603 023). *Thank you.*

Garstang Theatre Group are performing "The Sound of Music" from 8th – 12th April at Garstang Academy. Tickets available from Debbie and Roisin McCann. Please see poster at back of church for more details.

Please continue to remember in your prayers Jessica Holmes (2 ½ years old) who has leukaemia and is fighting for her life.

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, James Parker Richardson, Rose Skillen and Bob Miller. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Valerie White, Edward Horn (Elizabeth's brother), Clive Hammond, Joan Brown, Simon Crossley, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Robert Catterall, Jessica Holmes (2½ 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 5th – Sunday 13th April 2014

Sat	5 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	John Kirkman (Anniversary)
Sun	6 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	George Clarey (Lately Dead)
Mon	7 th	No Mass	
Tues	8 th	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Holy Communion
Wed	9 th	7.00 pm	Lynne & John Cooke
Thurs	10 th	9.30 am	Joan Patterson
Fri	11 th	9.30 am	The Ibison Family
Sat	12 th	9.30 am	Rev Canon William Joseph Houlihan
		10.15 am	Penitential Service
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Bill Bamber
Sun	13 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Tony Hall

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	9 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Fri	11 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
		06.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Sat	12 th	10.15 am	Celebration of God's Forgiveness (Penitential Service)

Special Days this Week:

Sun	6 th	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sun	13 th	Palm Sunday

Meetings this Week:

Wed	9 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs	10 th	7.30 pm	Evangelium

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	29 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 126	Children: 9	
Sun	30 th	8.30 am	Adults: 50	Children: 9	
		10.30 am	Adults: 119	Children: 32	Total: 345

Monies Received: Offertory (incl. Standing Orders): £1,068.51; Donation: £10; Funeral: £310; Votive Lights: £48.10; CAFOD (Lent Fast): £534.50; Shop: £6; 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 April here at SS Mary & Michael's. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.