

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th February 2016

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|-------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sat | 6 th | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Kathleen Gallagher and Kay Gallagher |
| Sun | 7 th | 10.00 am | Charles and Evelyn Langley |
| Mon | 8 th | No Mass | |
| Tue | 9 th | 12 noon | Robert and Elsie Tomlinson |
| Wed | 10 th | ASH WEDNESDAY | |
| | | 9.30 am | LISCF |
| | | 7.00 pm | John Tomas Graham |
| Thurs | 11 th | 9.30 am | John Gerald Ruane |
| Fri | 12 th | 9.30 am | Agnes and Ignatius Bullen |
| Sat | 13 th | 9.30 am | All Our Parishioners |
| | | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Tony Hall (Second Anniversary) |
| Sun | 14 th | 10.00 am | May Boyle |

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

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|-----|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Wed | 10 th | 6.45 pm | Rosary |
| Fri | 12 th | 10 – 10.30 am | Holy Half-Hour for Priestly Vocations |
| Sat | 13 th | 10 – 10.30 am | Confessions |

Special Days this week:

| | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mon | 8 th | St Jerome and St Josephine Bakhita |
| Weds | 10 th | ASH WEDNESDAY |
| Thurs | 11 th | OUR LADY OF LOURDES |
| Sun | 14 th | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT |

Meetings this Week:

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|-------|------------------|---------|---|
| Weds | 10 th | 7.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| | | | After Ash Weds Mass – Monthly Prayer Group (in Dining Room) |
| Thurs | 11 th | 7.15 pm | Journey in Faith |

Last Week's Attendance:

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|-----|------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Sun | 31 st | 6.00 pm (Vigil) | Adults: 127 | Children: 10 | |
| | | 10.00 am | Adults: 106 | Children: 27 | Total: 270 |

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,019.22; SVP Flood Appeal: £1,402.04; Shop: £10; Votive Lights: £50; Catholic Education: £5; Donation: £20. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

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

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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6th / 7th February 2016

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

As I read today's Gospel Reading, I was reminded of some spiritual advice I was once given, many years ago, about how we come to know God. It was about a process that we see in action in this passage.

Peter came to begin to know Jesus. The process happens in our lives over and over again. It has helped tremendously to form me in my spiritual journey through life and I would like to share it with you before I retire.

The process has four stages. We come to find God in every single experience that we have in life. What happens is this:

1) We have some experience in life – it may have happened recently, it may be something we recall from the distant past; 2) we reflect on the experience; 3) we respond to the reflection; 4) we are drawn into God's plan.

This happened to Peter in the gospel passage.

1. **The experience:** He heard Jesus speaking the word of God. He saw Jesus get into his boat without Jesus even asking permission and asked Peter to put out a few yards from the lake. Peter was too embarrassed to tell Jesus, "No, find someone else. I'm busy and I've been working all night and I want to get home to bed." Peter did what Jesus asked and listened to Jesus speak God's word. After a while Jesus asked Peter to set sail and put out his nets. Now Peter had had enough, and he resisted Jesus – but he still did what he asked. They caught so many fish, two boats were almost swamped.
2. **The reflection:** Peter reflected on what he had heard and seen.
3. **The response:** Peter fell at the feet of Jesus and said, "Go from me; I am a sinful man."
4. **Drawn into God's plan:** Jesus reached out to Peter, took him by the hands and said, "Do not be afraid. From now on it is men you will catch." Peter was drawn into God's plan.

This process happens with us every day in very simple ways.

1. **The experience:** Wednesday morning I popped in to the coffee morning here in the Plessington Chapel. The Chapel was packed with parishioners, couples and single people. I sat down at the first table I came to and was soon offered a cup of coffee and some wonderful lemon drizzle cake. The conversation was light-hearted and warm.
2. **The reflection:** I looked around the room and reflected on how warm and welcoming everyone was, and what a great mix the people were. I reflected when one parishioner said to me that we should swap the space of the Plessington Chapel for the Church itself and have the coffee morning in the church and Mass in the Plessington Chapel!
3. **My response:** What an amazing parish this is, and how people get on and do things without any need for the Parish Priest to nag at them.
4. **Being drawn into God's plan:** I found myself later giving praise to God and thanksgiving for the wonderful people of this parish and I prayed for you all – one of the jobs of a parish priest – I was drawn into doing what God wants of me.

The process is simple, the outcome brings great joy. Where it so often breaks down is, we have experiences, *but we never stop to reflect* so we never move on through the process!

New items and information

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday Marking the beginning of Lent. It is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. There will be two Masses on that day with the distribution of ashes; 9.30 am with the KS2 children from school, and 7.00 pm, both in church. "My Day by Day" Lent booklets for Juniors and for Infants will be given out in school. For any children who do not attend St Mary & St Michael's School, but who would like one of the booklets, there are spares at the back of church – please help yourselves.

Monthly Prayer Group – This will be held in the Presbytery dining room after the Ash Wednesday Mass. All are welcome.

SVP flood appeal: Grateful thanks to all our Parishioners for an amazingly generous response. A total of £1,402.04 was raised. I have now sent this to Fr. Pollock at Kendal to be distributed to needy families. This amount included £40 from Phoenix W.I. **Due to the flood appeal there will not be an SVP collection this month. Many thanks to you all.**

Ladies' Ecumenical Service – this will be held at the United Reformed Church next Tuesday, 9th February 2016 at 2.00 pm. If you would like to attend, please let Philippa Catterall know on 602797.

Did you know... we're really pleased to announce that CAFOD has once again successfully secured match funding, for up to £3.5 million, from the government for our **Lent appeal?** Every pound you donate to CAFOD will be matched by the UK government. It's a testament both to the integrity of CAFOD's work with partners overseas, and to the incredible generosity of the Catholic community in England and Wales. This **Lent Fast Day, Friday 19th February**, we have an exceptional opportunity to make an even bigger difference to people living in poverty. **Thank you.**

Our Lady & St Joseph's Church, Carlisle, has been made a shrine church for the duration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The opening had to be postponed due to the floods in the parish. The shrine of the Divine Mercy will now be inaugurated on 4th March at 3 pm. For further information see poster at back of church.

Previously Published Items

Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes – Castlerigg Manor are appealing for young people to join the Lourdes 2016 pilgrimage for year 11+. There are two options for this – by coach from 21st July to 30th July, or flight from 22nd July – 29th July. Prices start at £550. Full details are on the website: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/vatm-events/lourdes-2016. Closing date for booking is 28th February 2016.

Parish Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage 2016 – Update – The date has now been finalised, commencing on Monday 19th September for 7 nights, returning on Monday 26th September. Fr Jerome Ainsworth will be the pilgrimage chaplain. The cost, including full board at the 3* Hotel Agenda will be £675 plus additional charges for insurance (£25 up to

age 85) and UK transport to/from Manchester Airport. (Amount to be confirmed.) For those interested in going, there will be a planning meeting shortly. (Date to be announced.) If you are interested and have not yet put your name(s) down, please add them to the list at the back of church. **Thank you.**

Day of Renewal in St Clare's Church Hall, Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH, on 27th February from 10 am – 4 pm. See poster at back of church.

Visit to Shrine at Medjugorje – 27th August – 3rd September 2016; from £535 per person sharing; £635 in single room. For more details see poster at back of church.

St Vincent de Paul Society Conference Appeal – Our appeal for bedding and winter clothing for those in need – men's, women's and children's clothing continues, and we are very grateful for your generous response. The box will remain at the back of church for the time being. Any queries, please ring Pat on 605 793. **Thank you.**

"Blessed are the merciful" – There will be a series of talks for the Year of Mercy held in the Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre: 17th February, and 2nd and 9th March (all Wednesdays) beginning at 7.30 pm. Visit www.lancs-catholic-chaplaincy.uk; email lancatholic@gmail.com; or see poster at back of church for further details.

Wednesday Word for the weekend Mass of 14th February can be found on yellow paper at the back of church.

Please pray for Jenny and Finlay Richardson, who are being baptised this Sunday at 11.30 am.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Ernie Bayman, Elizabeth Swarbrick, Martha Horn, Stephen Turton, Winnifride Swarbrick, Ted Lydiate, John Bailey, Harry McNamara, Mary Bilsborrow, Joseph Rossall, Walter Donovan, Joan Webster, James Richardson, Margaret Silworth and Mary Pedder. **May they rest in peace.**

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Maureen Ingleby, Rod Pearson, Kenneth Johnston, Peter Ibison, Marie Corrigan, Elaine Mary Thomson (Drew's Mum), Jean Parkinson, Ann and Jackson Wickes, Thomas Lowe (Bert's brother), Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Antonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, 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 placed on this sick list have recovered their health, please let us know.)**

Response to the psalm at the 10 am Mass: