

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 September 2014

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)



The gospels were written after St Paul had written most of his letters. So, in today's Mass, when we read the words in St Paul's letter to the Romans: "Love your neighbour as yourself," we are reading the earliest occurrence of this fundamental Christian commandment in the New Testament.

St Paul recognises that if a community is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to a pagan, secular society it can't be done by words alone. The message of Jesus must be lived. If a community is to obey the last command of Jesus: "Go to all nations and proclaim the Good News," then the community must be one of love. It must be obvious to non-believers that this is a message with a difference. The message of Jesus is "to love one another as I have loved you," or as St Paul puts it: "Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself."

When you really love another person, you are able to forgive them when they mess up or when they are ratty or unkind to you. A community that has found a way of doing this becomes a very attractive community to belong to. I know that I have my off days and sometimes I am not very nice to be with. To be part of a community that forgives me and accepts me becomes a community that draws others. We all need to be accepted, especially when life is not easy.

The early Church attracted vast numbers of people because it was clear that it was a community where people genuinely loved one another. The Church was a community of sinners who found themselves accepted and not condemned. The people realised that this couldn't happen in a merely human community. Only in a community where Jesus lived, could people forgive each other like this.

Jesus died for us whilst we were still sinners. Sinners condemned him and brought about his most cruel death – and he forgave them! He pleaded with his Father on their behalf: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Today, Jesus powerfully reminds us what kind of parish, what kind of Church, what kind of family, we are being called to live in – one where we love our neighbour as ourselves!!!

New items and information

Next weekend Fr Kevin Hughes MHM, from the Mill Hill Missionaries, will be here to make an appeal on behalf of the Missions at all the Masses. This will *not* include a special collection on the day, as this is a membership appeal only.

Also Next Weekend The Catholic Church in England and Wales will be celebrating Racial Justice Sunday. It is a day on which all Christians are called to pray earnestly for an end to racism and racial inequality. Please pray for this intention in your own prayers. The Catholic Church in England and Wales is contributing to the efforts to overcome racial injustice in our nation through the pioneering work of the Bishops' Conference Office for Migration. This work has seen a unique partnership forged between the Church and the statutory authorities in combating human trafficking and modern-day forms of slavery, and supporting some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people. *To support this work and that of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice, a second collection will be taken next weekend.* Your donation, however great or small, will help to make a difference. If you would like more information, please go to: www.cbcew.org.uk/human-trafficking. If you wish to make a donation online, please go to www.catholicchurch.org.uk/donations.

St Vincent de Paul Society – the next meeting of the SVP will take place on Tuesday, 16th September, 7.30 pm, in the Plessington Chapel. Bishop Michael has reminded us that September is Awareness Month for the SVP. The aim is to raise the profile of the Society and all its work. With this in mind, please see the attached leaflet titled "What does SS Mary & Michael's SVP do?"

Thank you to everyone who sponsored a child's education in Chivuna. I will be at the back of church after all Masses this weekend with the photograph of the sponsored child if you would like to collect it. If you're not able to make it, I will leave it in a named envelope at the back of church to be picked up at your convenience. *Cathy Place.*

Church Shop - A huge thank you to Sam Roberts & Margaret Hibberdine for their work in the church shop, unfortunately we are losing them to pastures new - it will be their new parishes' good fortune!! So we are looking for some new helpers at the 6.30 pm and the 8.30 am Masses. It is not an onerous task & quite enjoyable. Please contact Jen Horn 01995 602341.

Youth Group – The Youth Group started a new year on Friday. The next meeting will be on Friday 12th September at 7.00 pm in the Castle Lane Community Centre. The Group is open to all young people in Year 7 and above. *We are also looking to recruit some new adult helpers for the group.* No experience is necessary other than a willingness to be there. If you would like more information, please chat to Rachel Cortes, our Parish Youth Worker, on 07508 365 249 or Paul McCann on 601354.

Ruth Walbank, 16, is looking for a lift to Salford (Quays), Manchester, Monday – Friday. Her working hours are between 9.00 am – 6.00 pm at MediaCity. Tel: 07837 274 160.

Previously Published Items

Date for your Diary – **Friday, 26th September**, 7.30 pm, Brian Dickinson will be giving an organ recital to raise funds for the church roof. £5.00 at the door. Please

come along to support Brian, enjoy the music, and raise money for the church roof restoration.

Harvest Festival – We will have a Harvest Festival Mass at 10.30 am on **Sunday 28th September**. This will be a special time, and small gifts will be delivered to parishioners who are sick or housebound. If anyone feels they could help with this in any way, or have ideas to make it even more special, please contact Margaret (603525) or Arlene (601677). *Thank you.*

Vocations Discernment Weekend - Do you think God may be calling you to something more in your life? Ever thought of the Priesthood? 19th – 21st September at Our Lady & St Joseph's, Carlisle, there will be a weekend for those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood in the diocese of Lancaster. For more information contact Fr John Millar (Assistant Vocations Director) jwmillar1@gmail.com or telephone 01228 521 509.

Traidcraft – The new catalogue is available from the back of church. Any orders placed support fair trade and raise funds for Chivuna Clinic. Thank you. *Faith and Justice Group.*

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 14th September, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for Ella Fairclough who was baptised last weekend.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Canon Nick McArdle who died on 2nd September. His Reception is at St Bernadette's, Lancaster, at 7 pm on Tuesday, 9th September, and his Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, 10th at 11.30 am, also at St Bernadette's. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Malcolm Mayo, Richard Pawlowski, Dorothy Towers, Moira Adamson, Benedict Joseph Johnson, Bob Horn, Harvey Smith, Eve Porteous and Teresa Swarbrick. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Teresa Bonnar (Bowerswood), Rachael Flood (née Mears), Michael McCarthy (living in France), Lucia Salcedo, Dorothy Evans, Jack Parkinson, Kath Price, Sheila Carrol, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Victoria Wang, Susanne, Jessica Holmes, Molly and family, Ruth Fairey, Mark Noblet, Christopher Lawson, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O'Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Tony Moran, Marjorie Addison, Sharon Hodgson, Christine, Peter Holland, Ian Moran, Tony Winstanley, Wilf Rainford, Alyson, Michael Hendry, Christopher Simpson, Auntie Sophie, Christopher Brown, Simon Thompson, Michael Ryan, Sheila Cookson, Francisca Rainford, 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 10.30 am Mass :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 6th – Sunday 14th September 2014

Sat	6 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Robert Catterall
Sun	7 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Catenian Mass for Vocations
Mon	8 th	No Mass	
Tues	9 th	7.00 pm	Deanery Mass & Reception into St Bernadette's, Lancaster, of the body of Canon Nick McArdle
Wed	10 th	11.00 am	Funeral Mass for Canon Nick McArdle at St Bernadette's, Lancaster
		7.00 pm	Private Intention
Thurs	11 th	9.30 am	Rachel Flood (Sick)
Fri	12 th	9.30 am	John Andrews(Anniversary)
Sat	13 th	9.30 am	Private Intention
		6.30 pm (Vigil)	Alan Bradley
Sun	14 th	8.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		10.30 am	Arnold & Monica Hargreaves

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	10 th	6.45 pm	Rosary
Sat	13 th	10 – 10.30 am	Exposition and Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Mon	8 th	NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Tues	9 th	St Peter Claver
Fri	12 th	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Sun	14 th	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS Racial Justice Sunday (Special Collection) (APF Mill Hill Appeal, but no special collection)

Meetings this Week:

Tues	9 th	4.00 pm	Liturgy & Spirituality Group
Wed	10 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Property & Finance Committee

Last Week's Attendance:

Sat	30 th	6.30 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 102	Children : 7
Sun	31 st	8.30 am	Adults: 53	Children: 12
		10.30 am	Adults: 110	Children: 15
			Total:	292

Monies Received: Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,087.62; Votive Lights: £48.60; Catholic Trust for England & Wales (Special Collection): £336.91; Donation: £25; Roof Fund: £10; 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 September at St Thomas's. Shopper's Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, also at Garstang Methodist Church.