

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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7th / 8th November 2015
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)
Remembrance Sunday



Jesus was a great observer of life; when he noticed the lady, on her own, putting money into the collection box in the Temple treasury, he knew exactly what she was doing. He was acutely aware of her total generosity to God. "If only everyone was as generous and as self-giving to my Father in heaven as this lonely, bereaved lady!"

The widow in the Elijah story more explicitly is preparing her last meal. There was a great famine in the land; there was, literally, no food. Yet this lady was prepared to share her final meal with the man of God, with Elijah. Her generosity was total.

These images of generous women are given to us today to touch in us that place of total generosity which is built into our human nature. Everyone is capable of complete self-giving – if only we have the motivation.

What does it take to give us such motivation? Maybe we need to look no further than the experience of our own parents, *or our own experience as parents*. When we reflect on how much our own parents sacrificed in order to give us a good start in life, when you reflect on what you are prepared to do for the good of your own families, we all begin to realise that *love is the motivation* for self-giving, for that generosity of body and spirit of which the women in the scriptures of today's liturgy displayed.

Jesus knows of what we are capable. He is drawing our attention to this extraordinary generosity of which human nature is capable. He knew that his own life was to end with such a total gift of self-sacrifice.

In the end, Jesus is inviting us to reflect on our own self-sacrifice, on what we have given up out of love. He is full of admiration and gratitude to you for all you do for your families. He encourages us always to notice this generosity of spirit in each other and to give thanks to God for the ability to be so self-giving, even sometimes at an heroic level.

Perhaps we need to be more grateful to the Lord for this gift of generosity. This is not a case of congratulating ourselves, but of standing in awe at the extraordinary gift of our human nature.

New items and information

Cake and Craft Stall – Next weekend, **Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th November 2015**, there will be a Cake and Craft Stall after both the 6 pm Vigil Mass and the 10 am morning Mass. All contributions of cakes, etc, will be very welcome; proceeds will be divided between Chivuna and CAFOD. For further information, please contact either Vin Cahill (01995 238184) or Betty Carter (01995 602106).

St Vincent de Paul Society – 1) The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 17th November, at Marie Pearson's house. Items for the agenda can be forwarded to Helen Forshaw or Philippa Catterall. 2) **SVP Conference Appeal** – Winter is once more upon us, and we again are appealing for bedding and warm clothing for those in need. Our parishioners last year were very generous. SVP here in Garstang has established strong links over recent years with the wonderful work undertaken by Sr Eileen at Ingol, and also with the Ace project at Caritas Care who assist those leaving prison and their families. So... if you have bedding, winter clothing for men, women and children, then please deposit these items in the box you will find at the back of church from next week. Thank you for your generosity. Any queries? Please ring Pat on Garstang 605793.

Church Shop – Christmas cards and gifts are now on sale in the Church Shop. All proceeds benefit either specific charities, or our church.

Thank you to everyone who placed orders from the Traidcraft Autumn/Christmas catalogue. As a result, the proceeds of £71.87 are being forwarded to the Friends of Chivuna for the clinic.

Invitation to Dedicate a Hymn Book to a loved one, so that *anyone* using the book can remember that person in prayer. The invitation is not to pay the cost of the books, as that has already been met. Please write dedications on sheets in the porch. (Please note that this does *not* mean that the hymn book belongs to you; please do not take them home.)

Lancaster Youth Service – (See posters at back of church.) There are some events coming up for young people:

- **Embrace** – 21st November in Liverpool, **FREE**. A gathering of young people from across the North-West for a day of celebration and workshops. www.embrace-liverpool.co.uk.
- **Advent Retreat** – 11th – 13th December at Castlerigg Manor. Book now on our website www.castleriggmanor.co.uk.
- **Lourdes 2016** has also been launched and full details are on the website. There are two options for this: 1) by coach from 21st to 30th July and 2) by flight from 22nd – 29th July 2016. Prices start at £550. The deadline for Lourdes is 28th February 2016. This seems far away, but places are taken up very quickly. If you would like to go, please sign up asap.

Women Together in the Diocese of Lancaster – Advance Notice – Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection on Saturday 28th November 2015, at Little Sisters of the Poor, Garstang Road, Fulwood, Preston, from 10 am – 3.30 pm. The theme is "Listen anyone who have ears to hear" (*Lk 8:08*) The day will be led by Father Kevin Lowry. Booking forms available in Presbytery office. See poster at back of church. For further information contact Sue Gornall, 01772 715 495; email suegoe@aol.com.

Did you know.... thanks to your donations, CAFOD is working with our partners to provide emergency aid to refugees as they arrive in Greece? Providing food packs, baby kits, including nappies and milk, rain jackets to help people cope this winter and establishing chemical toilets and showers. As well as working in Greece, CAFOD is providing food, healthcare and emergency supplies to thousands of refugees in Serbia, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and to people within Syria whose lives have been torn apart.

Previously Published Items

Are you interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith? If so, we have started our weekly gatherings, when any interested person is very welcome to come along. We call this group our Journey in Faith group. Anyone enquiring about the faith will be welcomed on Thursday evenings. We meet in the Presbytery, behind the church, at 7.15 pm. *If you are interested, please contact Father David.*

The Corn Mill Nursing Home – If any current or past Ministers of Holy Communion would be willing to join the rota for taking communion to the Catholic residents of the Cornmill please get in touch with Frank Miller on 01995 604030.

Wednesday Word – To help us prepare for Mass on 15th November, the new copy of the Wednesday Word can be found at the back of church, on yellow paper.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: Annie Rawlinson, Terry McCann, Josephine Monica Seton, Joseph Smith, Elizabeth Minnie Fitzpatrick, Edward Cunney, Johnson Cook, Jim Costello, Margaret Ward, William Helme, Margaret Dilworth, John Cookson, George Gidlow, William E Barton and Imelda Newsham. *May they rest in peace.*

We ask the Lord to encourage and give health to our sick and disabled parishioners, families and friends, including: Veronica ‘Ronnie’ Regan, Thomas Lowe (Bert’s brother), Ewan (an 11 year old boy undergoing treatment for a brain tumour), Judith, Phillip, John Fairey, Pat Hickey, Maurice Iddon, Sheila Murphy, Rosemary Davies, Brian Hargreaves, Anne Brockbank, Michael McCarthy (living in France), Dorothy Evans, Lucy and Family, Kathryn, Susanne, Jessica Holmes (4 years old with leukaemia), Mark Noblet, Anthonio Dilao, Bernadette O’Neill, Tom Horn, John Ashcroft, Margaret Shepherd, Sharon Hodgson, 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 :

Mass Times & Intentions, Saturday 7th – Sunday 15th November 2015

Sat	7 th	6.00 pm (Vigil)	John and Winifred Carr
Sun	8 th	10.00 am	Gerald Whittaker
Mon	9 th	No Mass	
Tues	10 th	12.15 pm	Mass at Cathedral for the deceased people and clergy of the Deanery
Wed	11 th	7.00 pm	(For Vocations to the Priesthood) Eddie Cunney (1 st Anniversary)
Thurs	12 th	9.30 am	The Lowe & Fitzpatrick Families
Fri	13 th	9.30 am	John Donnelly (Lately Dead)
Sat	14 th	9.30 am	All Our Parishioners
		06.00 pm (Vigil)	William Southworth (Birthday Anniversary)
Sun	15 th	10.00 am	Brendan Murphy

Devotions and Celebrations this week:

Wed	11 th	Rosary	
Fri	13 th	10 - 11 am	Holy Hour for Priestly Vocations
Sat	14 th	10 – 10.30 am	Confessions

Special Days this Week:

Sun	8 th	Remembrance Day
Mon	9 th	DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
Tue	10 th	St Leo the Great
Wed	11 th	St Martin of Tours
Thurs	12 th	St Josaphat

Meetings this Week:

Weds	11 th	7.30 pm	Choir Practice
		7.35 pm	Property and Finance Committee
Thurs	12 th	7.00 pm	Hummingbirds Management Committee
		7.15 pm	Journey in Faith – with enquirers

Last Week’s Attendance:

Sat	31 st	6.00 pm (Vigil)	Adults: 115	Children: 0
Sun	1 st	10.00 am	Adults: 125	Children: 22 Total: 262

Monies Received:

Offertory (including Standing Orders): £1,052.41; Postcards: £5; Cemetery (Headstone): £50; Sick & Retired Priests Fund (part): £100; Shop: £55; Votive Lights: £50.30. *Many thanks to you all.*

Churches Together in Garstang & District

Ecumenical Morning Prayer will be held at 07.45 am each Tuesday in November at the United Reformed Church. Shopper’s Service (Pause for Thought) is at 12.15 pm every Thursday, at Garstang Methodist Church.