

Dear Parishioners

The Government has warned that the age of retirement will rise in the near future. This will not affect Catholic clergy whose retirement age, providing they enjoy reasonable health, is 75. All rules have exceptions and in this diocese 15 parishes are served by priests who have opted to work past their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. 58 priests are retired and are dependent on the Retired Priest's Fund for support. Parishes contribute to this fund which last year amounted to £160,000. (So far St Michael and St John's haven't done so because in the past it rightly supported retired Jesuits.) However the cost of maintaining our retired priests last year was £580,000, a shortfall £420,000!

Some may question why retired clergy are so dependent? Well, for a start, we live in presbyteries attached to churches and this accommodation goes on retirement. Priest's salaries are not the best in the county. My salary is less than three thousand pounds a year plus board and retired priests receive on average a weekly state pension of less than £100. (Offerings from weddings, mass stipends, baptisms and the like go to parish income and not to the priest.)

Our retired priests have given their lives to the parishes that they have served and deserve a comfortable and secure retirement. This is why there is a special retiring collection today and why the bishop has asked that those who are able to consider making a standing order in favour of this fund. All donations may be gifted aided. Consider too, the possibility of making a bequest in your Will.

The Pope's recent visit was a great success that bolstered not only our Catholic community but also all faith groups in our country.

It also gave me food for thought. A challenge that Catholic parents face as never before is their children's refusal to go to Mass. Yet we saw thousands of young Catholics involved in the Pope's visit. Do you think that we should explore the possibility of some form of meeting or forum for parents to discuss this challenge and share ideas? Secondly should we introduce a little sung Latin, the Kyrie for instance, into Sunday Mass? And finally we are planning another RCIA programme, (details next week) so please encourage those whose interest may have been aroused by the visit to attend and explore. Fr John

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden  
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**27th Sunday of Ordinary time 3rd October 2010**

## *St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe*

**Saturday 2nd October**

Eucharistic Service at noon 6pm Mass

**Sunday**

Mass at 9.30am

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

Eucharistic Service at 9am

**Tuesday**

10am Funeral Service for Edward Jones

**Friday**

Requiem Mass 11am for Elaine Aspinall



## *St Mary's Church Sabden*

**Sunday** - Mass at 11am **Friday** - no 9.15 Mass

### **MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Jacqueline Cowell, Ann Holden, Rosa Barnowski, Giovanni Marchese,

**SICK** Gerry Jacques, Vincenzo Ditri, Valerie Lambert

**LATELY DEAD** Rita Ronnan, Matthew Hodson, Edward Jones, Elaine Aspinall

**ANNIVERSARIES** Ann Holden, Giovanni Marchese,

### **WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND**

Sat - M.Valovin Sun - P.Drews & R.Conti

### **READERS**

Sat - C.Riley Sun - P.Sutcliffe

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat - R.Carter & B.Taylor Sun - T.Mercer, C.Morgan, E.Lambert

### **TEA & COFFEE ROTA**

Embery Family

***There will be a retiring collection at both masses THIS weekend for The Retired Priests' Fund. Gift Aid envelopes are still available from the porch and back of church***

**OFFERTORY Clitheroe** - £623.46 **Sabden** - £203.00 Many thanks

**APF MISSIONS** Quarterly collection amounted to £367.81. Many thanks

**ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S PARISH CENTRE** Opens after Mass on Saturday evening. Why not come in for a relaxing evening, re-kindle old friendships and make new ones. Don't forget Sunday evening is our regular Family Quiz Night between 8pm—10pm **BINGO** on Tuesday evenings.

**PARISH DRAW** The first draw has taken place this weekend, but its not too late to join. For those of you who haven't had a ticket before the Parish Draw runs from September through to the following June (10 months). A ticket will cost £10 a year and you are allocated your individual number which remains yours for the whole ten months. If you would like a ticket then fill in one of the blue coloured slips available in the porch and pop it in the red Parish Communications box (situated low down on the wall in the porch) or see Janet at the presbytery

**EUCCHARISTIC SERVICES** We would like more volunteers to help with these services which replace

Mass when a priest is not available. The service takes about 20 mins and consists of readings from Scripture and Holy Communion. Three people are needed at each service - a prayer leader, a reader and a Eucharistic Minister. At the moment we have a rota of about ten people helping with this work, which means that Holy Communion is available each day even when Fr John is not available. Most of us are aged 70 plus. Services are held at 9am on weekdays and 12 noon Saturday. Please contact Lily 426949 to be included on the rota.

to buy plants.

**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER** October leaflets now available FREE from porch

**SPONSORSHIP MONEY** Still some sponsorship money outstanding from both the June Walk for H.C.P.T and the Morecambe Bay walk for Right to Life. Please put any money owed in an envelope put your name on and pop it onto the collection plate at mass. Many thanks

**MORRISONS 'LET'S GROW'** vouchers are being collected by our primary school please pop any you may wish to donate into the parish communications box in the porch or hand them in at the presbytery or school. We also collect used batteries. Many thanks

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** this year is on Sunday 21 November and preparations are going well. It will be in the newly decorated Hall after morning Mass opening at approx 10.45am. There will be the usual stalls and Father Christmas will, hopefully, have time to come along. A new stall this year is a Craft stall with economically priced items suitable for children to buy for parents etc. They will then be able to get their purchases wrapped so they have a surprise for Mum/Dad on Christmas Day.

**LADIES GROUP** Committee meeting on Tuesday 12th October at 7.30pm in the presbytery

**ROSARY OF THE UNBORN** each day next week

SOCIAL CENTRE -TOP BAR

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday 30th October  
**HALOWEEN PARTY NITE**

Saturday 20th November  
**MAMA MIA NITE**

Organised by Sheila & Liz

**CAFOD** "Hurst Green Flea Market in the Village Memorial Hall on Sunday October 10th from 9am to 4pm. Hot and Cold food and drinks available. The parish CAFOD group will be having a stall, all proceeds will go to the Pakistan Floods Appeal. Bargains galore, come and browse and support a good cause at the same time.

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE CRAFT STALL** Next meeting Tuesday 12th October 2pm to 4pm in the presbytery. If you've anything to report, show, in progress, need advice or just want a couple of hours out - come along. Everyone welcome

**PARISH DRAW SEPTEMBER WINNERS** £100 - 71 K.Cowgill, £25 -58 P.Marsden, £10 - 25 L.Quinton, 28 F.Worden, 129 S.Kerr, 198 J.Schofield, 34 H.Bradley

**PAPAL VISIT 2010** Following the recent visit of Pope Benedict, the Universe are publishing a colour souvenir brochure which will be on sale in a couple of weeks time. To avoid disappointment you may pre-order your copy - just enter your name on the yellow notice in the porch, or in the case of Sabden at the back of church. The cost, payable when you receive your copy is £3.50

**FAITH TODAY** - October issue is now on sale at the back of church price £1.95. Please put money in C.T.S. box

**SABDEN NEEDS HELP! HELP! HELP!** Over the last few weeks we have publicised the need for parishioners to help on the Hall Cleaners Rota, Sacristan Team and Tea & Coffee Rota but unfortunately had very little response. We really do need YOUR help urgently and would ask you to reconsider helping. Lists are provided at the back of the church on which to put your name. Thank you

**BONUS BALL (SABDEN)** The bonus ball winner is No 5 Glenys Campbell Could the winner please collect winnings from Carol or Harry.

**ST MARY'S PARISH HALL (SABDEN)** Please note that the person you need to contact if you wish to book the hall is now Tony Hargan and his telephone number is 07711 635084

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE (SABDEN)** There is a meeting on Monday 11th October at 8pm in the hall to arrange the Christmas Fayre and other fund raising events for the hall fund. All welcome.

**SABDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL** are collecting used batteries and Nestle cereal tins please hand them in at school or leave them in the container in the porch.

St Michael & St John's Parish Hall  
**GRAND RE-OPENING**  
(after refurbishment & redecoration)  
*present*

**PHIL COOL**

One of Britain's most unique comedy artists.  
**FRIDAY 12th NOVEMBER** at 7.30pm  
Tickets £15 available from Terry in the Social Centre 423073, Janet at the Presbytery 423307,  
Mike Bradley 07768 746709,  
Les Collinson 07890 042319 or  
Damian Buggie (Sabden) 01282 770709  
Tickets will also be sold (SMSJ)after both masses Saturday and Sunday

ST MARY'S PARISH HALL  
SABDEN

**BLACKBURN  
PEOPLE'S CHOIR**

A good all round selection of music from Gospel to Show Songs from sacred music to Popular music

**Saturday October 9th  
at 7.30pm - Tickets £5**

Tickets are also available from the presbytery at St Michael & John's