

Dear Parishioners

This is an extract from a reflection by Lord David Alton.

"Westminster Hall is at the very heart of Britain's parliamentary democracy and it was here that former Prime Ministers, political and civic leaders, gathered to hear Pope Benedict XVI remind us that religion still has a vital role to play with our culture.

The Pope began his address by recalling *"the countless men and women down the centuries who have played their part in the momentous events that have taken place within these walls and have shaped the lives of many generations of Britons, and others besides."*

"In particular", he added, *"I recall the figure of St Thomas More, the great English scholar and statesman, who is admired by believers and non-believers alike for the integrity with which he followed his conscience, even at the cost of displeasing the sovereign whose 'good servant' he was, because he chose to serve God first. The dilemma which faced More in those difficult times, the perennial question of the relationship between what is owed to Caesar and what is owed to God."*

Pope Benedict then addressed More's dilemma of how in modern societies, men and women of conscience can be *"the King's good servant but God's first"*:

"These questions", he said, *"take us directly to the ethical foundations of civil discourse."* It is not enough to live by social consensus – or opinion polls. Religious faith, he said, helps to purify and shed light on the ethics which should underpin political decisions: *"Religion, in other words, is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation."*

Without the *"corrective"* role of religion, the Pope explained, *"reason too can fall prey to distortions, as when it is manipulated by ideology, or applied in a partial way that fails to take full account of the dignity of the human person."*

I wondered what legislators who had legalised the creation of animal human hybrid embryos, the abortion of disabled babies up to and even during birth, who had imposed party policy on previous conscience questions, such as abortion, or who had supported measures which penalise the poorest members of society, made of this call to place human dignity at the heart of the political equation.

Pope Benedict also made an explicit plea for religious toleration – and for the celebration of public holidays such as Christmas – and as well as the upholding of conscience he called for the alignment of faith and reason."

How is your Advent progressing? Have you made time for Christ?

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

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Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

Third Sunday of Advent - 12th December 2010

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am

Monday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Mass at 9am

Saturday (18th December)

11am - 11.45am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

11am - 11.55 noon Exposition 11.30am Rosary

Eucharistic Service at noon

First Mass of Sunday 6pm

St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am

Friday - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Mary Cushion, Alice & Patrick Emerson, Joan Kelly's intentions,
Denis Schofield, Catherine Hargreaves, Dolores Baldwin

SICK

Margot Barlow, Margaret Donnelly

LATELY DEAD

Catherine Hargreaves (nee Turner)

ANNIVERSARIES

Denis Schofield, Margaret Watkins, Dorothy Brown

WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND Sat - T.Wilkinson Sun - P.Drews & R.Conti
READERS Sat - A.McGuire Sun - Family Mass
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Sat - L.Perrin & H.Mercer
Sun - T.Mercer, C.Morgan, E.Lambert
TEA & COFFEE ROTA J.Rigg

OFFERTORY Clitheroe - £637.84 **Sabden** £162.60 Many thanks
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL IN SABDEN WHO RAISED £1,600
IN THE CHRISTMAS FAIR WITH MONEY STILL COMING IN.

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.

MEMBERSHIP Membership fees may be renewed from January 7th 2011 every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings. Fees to increase to £10 for adults, £6 for OAP's and students. The Christmas raffle will be drawn out at the Slaidburn Band Carol Concert on December 16th.

CRB CHECKS Any parishioner who works with either young, vulnerable or old people must have CRB clearance. This includes Eucharistic ministers, SVP and Little Church helpers. I know it is a hassle but we have to comply with the Law! Anthony Barrett the parishes' protection officer will be in the sacristy after Mass to give help with forms etc.

RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND The Bishop has written in gratitude for the generous

SOCIAL CENTRE -TOP BAR

Thursday 16th December
SLAIDBURN SILVER BAND
Christmas Carol Concert

Friday 31st December
NEW YEARS EVE
Free and easy nite

response to this first annual appeal for the retired priest's fund. He is particularly grateful to those who have taken out standing orders in favour of this fund.

CATHEDRAL BOOK SHOP The diocese has opened a new bookshop in the Cathedral Centre. For further details see the diocesan website www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

THANKYOU to Bernie Calvert for donating a Christmas tree for our Parish Hall.

LADIES GROUP The new 2011 programmes for our Ladies Group are now available from the porch. Our Annual Ladies Group meal will be on Friday 14th January at Waddow Hall 7pm for 7.30pm. Cost £17.50 inclusive. If you would like to come along please see either Janet 424657 or Daphne 427912 for the menu.

K.S.C. Annual Christmas Quiz night this year on Wednesday 29th December.

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S PARISH CENTRE

Have a vacancy for a cleaner to carry out weekend cleaning duties and provide cover for weekday cleaner for time-off for leave or illness.

To provide additional caretaking duties by arrangement. Regular hours

Saturday 9am - 12 noon
Sunday morning 9am - 12 noon.

Rate of pay £6 per hour.
Additional hours by arrangement.
Rate £6 per hour

To arrange an interview contact
Mrs Evans on

01254 828820 during office hours or
mobile 07970 783680 or contact the
steward Terry Peters in person or by
phone on 01200 423073

Please note items for the 26th December edition of the newsletter should be in by 9am on Thursday 23rd December

FR CHALONER of St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge would like to thank all who sold or bought raffle tickets for their Annual Raffle. List of winners in porch (all claimed)

K.S.C. meeting next Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm in the small meeting room in presbytery

CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE Next Wednesday 15th December Admission £6 including buffet refreshments and free raffle. Everyone welcome and guaranteed a good time.

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S SCOUTS our scouts are bag packing at Sainsburys from 11am - 3pm on Sunday 19th December. All proceeds to Scout Headquarters

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES If you are willing to help with deliveries the cards are now available from the sacristy. If you are one of those who have already volunteered you will find yours in a separate box with your name on.

ADVENT LUNCHESES at United Reformed Church this coming Tuesday. Service 12.30pm followed by lunch at 1pm. Speaker this week Marina Barrett (St Michael & St John's). See poster in porch

UNIVERSE & CATHOLIC TIMES Up to press (Friday afternoon) we have not received this weeks edition of either The Universe or Catholic Times. They may however arrive on Saturday in which case they will be available for collection from the sacristy (cannot display them at the back of church this week)

JESUITS & FRIENDS MAGAZINE Winter 2010 edition available free from porch

CHRISTMAS CONCERT St Mary's College 14th December - see poster in porch

CHRISTMAS CARDS, DIARIES WILL BE BACK ON SALE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH FROM MONDAY ONWARDS. BACK OF CHURCH PLEASE PUT MONEY IN CTS BOX

SABDEN NEWS

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball winner is no 11 Joan Billington. Winners please collect winnings from Carol or Harry.

CHRISTMAS DRAW There is a list of winners up in the porch. Please let Janet know if you have a winning ticket.

ST MARY'S PARISH HALL (SABDEN) To book the hall contact Tony Hargan and his telephone number is 07711 635084

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL are collecting batteries and nestle cereal tins. Please hand them in at school or in the container in the porch.

COAST - THE QUIZ This years quiz is inspired by the 'Coast' TV programme. Quiz sheets £1, will be on sale after mass on Sunday at St Michael & St John's and available in the porch at St Mary's Sabden from this weekend. Contact John Shorter on 01282 771878. All profits to St Mary's Parish Hall fund.