

This is a transcript of Pope Benedict's *Thought for the Day* broadcast by BBC Radio 4 on Christmas Eve.

"Recalling with great fondness my four-day visit to the United Kingdom last September, I am glad to have the opportunity to greet you once again, and indeed to greet listeners everywhere as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our thoughts turn back to a moment in history when God's chosen people, the children of Israel, were living in intense expectation. They were waiting for the Messiah that God had promised to send, and they pictured him as a great leader who would rescue them from foreign domination and restore their freedom.

God is always faithful to his promises, but he often surprises us in the way he fulfils them. The child that was born in Bethlehem did indeed bring liberation, but not only for the people of that time and place - he was to be the Saviour of all people throughout the world and throughout history. And it was not a political liberation that he brought, achieved through military means: rather, Christ destroyed death for ever and restored life by means of his shameful death on the Cross. And while he was born in poverty and obscurity, far from the centres of earthly power, he was none other than the Son of God. Out of love for us he took upon himself our human condition, our fragility, our vulnerability, and he opened up for us the path that leads to the fullness of life, to a share in the life of God himself. As we ponder this great mystery in our hearts this Christmas, let us give thanks to God for his goodness to us, and let us joyfully proclaim to those around us the good news that God offers us freedom from whatever weighs us down: he gives us hope, he brings us life.

Dear Friends from Scotland, England, Wales and indeed every part of the English-speaking world, I want you to know that I keep all of you very much in my prayers during this Holy Season. I pray for your families, for your children, for those who are sick, and for those who are going through any form of hardship at this time. I pray especially for the elderly and for those who are approaching the end of their days. I ask Christ, the light of the nations, to dispel whatever darkness there may be in your lives and to grant to every one of you the grace of a peaceful joyful Christmas. May God bless all of you!

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG
Tel/Fax 01200 423307 Email: smsj@btinternet.com
Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

The Epiphany - 2nd January 2011

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



SUNDAY
Mass at 9.30am

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
FRIDAY**
Eucharistic Service at 9am

TUESDAY & THURSDAY
Mass at 9am

SATURDAY (8th January)
11am - 11.45am
Sacrament of Reconciliation
11am - 11.55am 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

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and every blessing in 2011

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Ron Kelly, Margaret Donnelly, Tom MacAuley, Simon John,
Campbell family, Jean Snape, Ciara Burns, Jane Noonan,
Jimmy McConnon, John Marsden

SICK

Margaret Donnelly, Simon John, Anthony Cornwell

LATELY DEAD

Jane Cottam, Peter Cunningham

ANNIVERSARIES

John Marsden

WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday - M.Roberts Sunday - P.Dixon & B.Byrne

READERS

Saturday - C Riley Sunday - P.Sutcliffe

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday - L.Perrin & H.Mercer

TEA & COFFEE ROTA

Sims Family

OFFERTORY **CLITHEROE**

19th December £579.37 Christmas Day £1943.73

26th December £537.52

SABDEN

19th December £214.00 Christmas Day £178.45

26th December £189.81

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.

CAROD There will be a meeting of the group on Sunday January 9th at 7.30pm in the presbytery. Would you like to come along?

LADIES GROUP The new 2011 programme for our Ladies Group are now available from the porch. Our Annual Ladies Group meal is on Friday 14th January at Waddow Hall 7pm for 7.30pm. If you have not already returned your menu choice we must have it by Sunday 9th January. Cost £17.50 inclusive. If you would like to join us please see either Janet 424657 or Daphne 427912 for the menu.

TABOR RETREAT HOUSE programmes for January - July 2011 are now available from the porch

ST MARY'S COLLEGE, BLACKBURN is an outstanding Catholic sixth form college with a national reputation for excellence, is seeking members of the Roman Catholic community who may wish to serve on its Governing Board. St Mary's serves young people in 36 parishes in Blackburn with Darwen and across Hyndburn, Pendle, Rossendale and the Ribble Valley. The opportunity to serve the Roman Catholic education system is challenging and stimulating - but not necessarily as time-consuming as you may assume. If you are interested - or think you may be in the future - please find out more by contacting Mrs Cathy Holmes, Clerk to the Governing Board, on 01254 580464 or be email at c.holmes@stmarysblackburn.ac.uk

ROTA'S FOR 2011 Please see Janet if you have not already received yours

K.S.C. DANCE In our Parish hall NEXT Saturday 8th January £6 including supper - Dancing to John Lancaster. Tickets from Les on 427029 or Arnold 427096.

LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR are appearing at THE GRAND on Sunday February 6th. Doors open 7pm. Tickets £17.50. See poster in porch.

LADIES GROUP Committee Meeting Thursday 6th January at 7.30pm

SABDEN NEWS

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball (last week) was no 40 Carol & Harry Waterworth, this week no 17 Michael Pilling There is a vacant number for the bonus ball if anyone wants to join - contact Harr or Carol. Winners please collect winnings from Carol or Harry.

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 tokens. Please hand them in at school or in the container in the porch.