

Dear Parishioners

Only two days after Christmas I passed a house where the decorations had been taken down and the tree was out by the dustbins. In Britain we get Christmas the wrong way round. During Advent which should be a time of spiritual preparation for the feast we instead celebrate it in advance. Then after Christmas Day only a hangover remains. The Catholic practice is to prepare in Advent, begin the celebrations with Christmas Mass and continue the festivities over the 12 days of Christmas until 6<sup>th</sup> January, the date of the original feast of Epiphany. The Crib then remains until this Sunday, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the celebration of Jesus' public ministry. In European Catholic countries the Crib remains standing until 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. So Christmas shouldn't be a fleeting party: it is preceded by preparation in Advent and followed by a further period of reflection and prayer in January. Maybe next year we should leave the Crib in place until February 2<sup>nd</sup>? We'll discuss this at the next Forum on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

The parish community is indebted to all who were involved in parish activities and the ceremonies over the Christmas period and all who prepared both churches for the feast. Special note should be made of the cleaners who gave up their bank holiday morning on the 27<sup>th</sup> to clean up the muck that unavoidably was transported in on snowy feet and to Jane Brown and the team whose planning and hard work ensured the success of the Christmas Tree festival. The Mayors of Ribble Valley and Clitheroe chose the winning trees. Our school won the 1st Category prize and our scouts won the second. The event brought many visitors to the church.

Congratulations to little Sabden which raised a splendid £1,800 at their Christmas Fare!

A marriage counsellor recently commented "People spend tens of thousands of pounds on their wedding, but that's just one day. Marriage preparation is a little bit of insurance for the years to come and in the end is much more important than a cake or a dress". This year's marriage preparation course begins this month on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> in the Presbytery at 1.30pm. Any couple wishing to marry here this year must attend this course.

Following the Christmas break, the RCIA programme resumes on Tuesday at 7.30 and the Maintenance committee meets on Thursday.

Finally, did you manage to bring someone home for Christmas?

Fr John

# 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 Baptism of the Lord - 9th January 2011

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



#### **SUNDAY**

Mass at 9.30am

#### **MONDAY & FRIDAY**

Eucharistic Service at 9am

#### **TUESDAY**

Mass at 10am

Requiem Peter Cunningham

#### **WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY**

Mass at 9am

#### **SATURDAY (15th 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

#### **MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Anthony Cornwell, Robert Graham Moss, Winnie Walsh, Frank Hill,  
George Illingworth, Rose Bannon, Patrick Concannon, James Concannon,  
Jane Cottam, Mary Ragnall x2

#### **SICK**

Simon John, Anthony Cornwell, Winnie Walsh

#### **LATELY DEAD**

Jane Cottam, Peter Cunningham, Frank Hill, Margaret Muldoon

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Helen Crompton, Fr Bernard Dobson SJ, Robert Graham Moss, Mary Ragnall  
George Illingworth, Rose Bannon, Patrick Concannon, James Concannon

## WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday - M.Valovin Sunday - C.Riley & M.Marsden

## READERS

Saturday - M.Rigg Sunday - Family Mass group

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday - B.Worden & A Southworth  
Sunday - G.Lambert, C.Morgan, D.Lambert

## TEA & COFFEE ROTA

D.Morgan & K.Farnsworth

## OFFERTORY

St Michael & St John's £754.14 Sabden £234.00

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

A 'Review Meeting' for members with the committee will be held on Sunday 16th January at 7.30pm in the Top Lounge to discuss plans for 2011. All members welcome

**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.

**TEA DANCE** Wednesday 19th January in our Parish Hall. Dancing from 2pm - 5pm. Admission £3.50 including an excellent Afternoon Tea. Come and dance the afternoon away - everyone welcome.

**K.S.C. COUNCIL MEETING** This coming Tuesday January 11th at 7.30pm in the presbytery

**K.S.C. JUMBLE** A date for your diary Saturday February 19th

**RIBBLE VALLEY VISUALLY IMPAIRED GROUP** invite you to join them in our Parish Hall on Monday January 10th at 7.30pm for a talk to be given by the Ribble Valley Census Manager, Caroline Gee who will give advice on filling in the Census form (to be taken in March) particularly for disabled and elderly people. Everyone Welcome.

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

**CAFOD** 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 TODAY 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. **Please meet at 6.50pm on the Car Park opposite the Parish Centre.**

**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

**KATHERINE HOUSE, SALFORD** List of courses available in porch

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

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

## SABDEN NEWS

**BONUS BALL (SABDEN)** The bonus ball this week is no 26 Robert Bywater. There is a vacant number for the bonus ball if anyone wants to join - contact Harry or Carol. Winners please collect winnings from Carol or Harry.

**CHRISTMAS DRAW** Last call for unclaimed draw tickets - please search your pockets, handbags and drawers - 3 prizes still unclaimed. 235 Whisky, 217 Small Hamper, 202 Red Wine. Please let us know if you have a winning ticket S.A.P. Contact Susan White 01212 433455

**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.