

Fr Luis Ruiz, SJ

From its inception, one of the principal works of the Society of Jesus had been the founding of missions, particularly in the Far East. In our times the greatest successor to St Francis Xavier, who died looking towards China, and Matteo Ricci, who first penetrated the forbidden city of Beijing, has been Fr Luis Ruiz, who after an extended lifetime of loving and giving and it must be said, merriment, died in Macao on 26th July and still working at the age of 97.

Returning home to Spain from China after the war, he passed through Macao, a tiny peninsula just west of Hong Kong, then belonging to Portugal, where he found himself surrounded by destitute men, women and children living side by side with millionaires who kept their wealth to themselves. So in the high Ignatian tradition he resolved to do something himself, and thus became the peninsula's one-man conscience and provider of social services. He founded and ran schools, hospitals, an orphanage, homes for the aged, refuges for the destitute and for lone mothers and programmes of rehabilitation for the families of refugees. As he moved ceaselessly around among the wretched and rejected he brought them love and hope and indeed laughter. When I met him in Macao he told me about a great football match he'd just been watching by the sea-side. He didn't know the score: too many goals to count! "Both goal-keepers blind!" he explained, laughing. And it wasn't a callous laugh. Fr Ruiz was someone in whose presence blindness doesn't seem to matter all that much.

You could feel his energy. He was always on the move except when asleep, and he would fall asleep suddenly and briefly at any time. He preferred the corridors of his office or his train to a bedroom: "More air, less mosquitoes." My last sight of him in Macao was a diminishing back view as he set off on a motor scooter up a very steep hill into driving rain shortly before midnight with the intention of saying mass on the frontier at 6.00am the following morning.

And two years later he crossed the frontier after receiving an appeal on behalf of a group of lepers living in utmost destitution in the Chinese Republic, which he answered instinctively and at an age at which most of us would be in deep retirement he extended his operation at a call to serve the limitless needs of the destitute and rejected of the Chinese Republic, where he eventually founded 44 leprosaria.

To all this work the rich of Macao and of the world at large gave nothing. It was all built on the generosity of small people, like us, acting on Fr Ruiz constantly repeated watch-word: "Nothing so happy as make people happy!".

P.HARDWICK

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

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The Assumption - 14th August 2011

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am

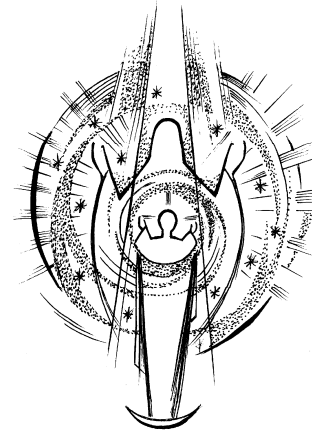
Saturday (20th August)

11.15am - 11.45am Sacrament of Reconciliation

11 - 11.55am Exposition 11.30am - Rosary

Noon—Eucharistic Service

First Mass of Sunday 6pm



St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am

Friday - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Michael Nolan

SICK

Dorothy Hunt, Jeff Cowgill

LATELY DEAD

Frank Salwiczek, Giuseppe Marchese

ANNIVERSARIES

William Taylor, Helen Taylor, Bill Taylor

There will be a retiring collection at St Michael & St John's today, for the work of the late Fr Luis Ruiz SJ who died recently at the age of 97 after many years of service to the destitute in China, especially the lepers.

WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday - J.Bentley **Sunday** - P.Dixon & E.Thomson

READERS

Saturday - C.Carr **Sunday** - M.Barrett

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday - B.Worden & A.Southworth

Sunday - C.Morgan, T.Mercer, P.Donnolly

TEA AND COFFEE

B.Barker & K.Peel

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £651.16 Sabden £161.99

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S PARISH CENTRE Meeting for members Sunday 4th September now at 7pm (to accommodate the Sunday quiz at 8.30pm) to update members on recent developments, to increase membership, to extend the committee and to assist with planning for the future. **JOHNNY SOLO**, popular artist Sat 10th September.

S.V.P. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th August

TABOR Copies of the September - December programme are now available from the porch. Note especially 'Dare to be different' - a new young adult group, John Bell Workshop - a hymn writer from the Wild Goose group of Iona and 'A Call to Serve', a day for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.

URGENTLY NEEDED More volunteers for Eucharistic Services Monday to Friday please telephone Lily on 01200 426949

CAFOD QUIZ NIGHT Friday 19th August 7.30pm at St James the Less Parish Centre, Rawtenstall. Cost £5 includes quiz entry and Pie and Peas Supper. More details ring Dominic 07999 512102 or Elysia 01706 215176

LIFTS FOR ELDERLY PARISHIONERS We are again appealing for people with cars to help bring elderly parishioners to mass at weekends, Please ring Julie Woodhead 01200 428009

CONCERT Rossendale Male Voice Choir and Ladies choir at Preston Guild Hall Sat Sept 10th. Coach to leave Interchange 6.15pm. Cost £20 inc ticket & travel. Proceeds to Rosemere Cancer Foundation. See Daphne 427912 or Janet 424657. For more details see poster in porch

BABYSITTING University student is offering a babysitting service. Member of Parish, reliable, trustworthy and good with children. Further details Anna McGuire 01200 428121

CAFOD The National EDC Appeal for the East and Horn of Africa will close next weekend. Gift Aid envelopes are next to the CAFOD box at the back of church and can be put into Mass collection baskets or handed in at the presbytery. Thank you. Our Lady of Africa, pray for us.

LADIES GROUP TREASURE HUNT Wednesday 31st August in Downham with supper afterwards at the Assheton Arms. Cost £12 inc supper. Those who do not want to do the Treasure Hunt just come along for supper - see Janet or Daphne for a menu. Also we are now taking names for our next Ladies Group trip on October 5th to Bradford for shopping or whatever you wish to do and then on to the Bronte Parsonage at Haworth.

TEA DANCE in our Parish Hall Wednesday 17th August 2pm - 5pm. Modern and Sequence Dancing admission £3.50 including excellent afternoon tea. Everyone welcome.

WALSINGHAM RAFFLE Raffle tickets 20p each, will be on sale after both masses the next couple of weekends in aid of the shrine of Our Lady

COME AND SEE 2011 The Irenaeus project for spirituality - Saturday and Sunday 17th/18th September at Christ the King High School, Southport. Keynote speaker Sr Helen Prejean Cost £40. See Janet for booking form. More details can be seen on the poster in porch.

LADIES GROUP COFFEE MORNING Our Annual Charity Coffee Morning in the Ribble Valley Mayor's Parlour will be held on Saturday 3rd September. Our nominated charity this year is the Parkinson's Disease Society. Once again we are appealing for your support. Our ladies will be at the back of church in the lead up to the day selling tickets and if you have any suitable prizes for our Tombola stall they may be handed in to members of the Ladies Group or left at the presbytery.

ANNUAL MASS for deceased members of our parish will be at 11am in St Joseph's Cemetery on Bank Holiday Monday, August 29th

SABDEN NEWS

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 19 Olive Bromley. Please collect winnings from Carol or Harry. There are still 2 spare numbers for this weekly draw if anyone would like to join in, again see 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.

PARISH FORUM next Parish Forum Wednesday 14th September at Sabden

FASHION SHOW St Mary's will be having a fashion show in early October. Hope to be able to give a definite date in next weeks newsletter. We shall be requiring models if anyone would like to volunteer.

K.S.C ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK HANDICAPPED CHILDRENS PILGRIMATE TRUST (HCPT)

Will take place at 1.30pm on
Sunday
September 18th.



Sponsorship forms
are available from
Arnold Marsden or
any K.S.C. member