

Dear Parishioners,

Stephen Rossetti was an intelligence officer in the US Air Force, is a psychologist, university lecturer and a Catholic priest. He conducted a survey of 2,500 priests and revealed its surprising results in a book published last week called "Why Priests Are Happy".

He explained: "There have been a number of studies in the United States over the last few years with exactly the same findings: About 90% of priests report that they are happy. In my research, it was 92.4%. In a similar study, the National Opinion Research Center polled 27,000 Americans and found that clergy in general were the most satisfied and happiest of all Americans. This is especially remarkable since over 50% of Americans report being unhappy with their jobs."

When asked why this is never reported in the media, he said: "First of all, good news doesn't make the news. Tragedies and scandals fill our front pages but the faces of our many happy priests do not. Second, and just as important, the secularisation of our culture breeds a kind of negativity toward organised religion. There is a secular belief that practicing the faith is constraining and joyless".

"The fact of priestly happiness is a fundamental and powerful challenge to the modern secular mind. But for us Christians, it only confirms the truths of our faith. Jesus prayed, 'That my joy might be yours, and your joy might be complete'. Joy is one of the unmistakable fruits of the Holy Spirit".

"To be truly and fully Christian is to know God's gift of joy. It only makes sense that those men who have dedicated their lives in the service of God as priests would be slowly and gently filled by God with an inner happiness and joy."

Close friendships contributed to this joy, Fr Rossetti commented: "Developing a healthy relationship with others helps us to connect with God. Many times Jesus himself spoke of love of God and love of neighbour as two sides of the same coin. The statistical results confirmed this: To love our neighbour and to build a charitable relationship with friends, family and others helps us to love God, and vice versa. All of these are important in becoming happy people."

Well, that was an American study but I'm pretty certain that the priesthood in the UK presents a similar picture.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

Tel 01200 423307 Website: olotv.org.uk

Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9th October 2011

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

School Harvest Mass 9.15am

Saturday (15th October)

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 - 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

John Concannon, Private intentions, Christine Blackledge, Jeff Cowgill x 2, Eric & Jacqueline Cowell, Ann Cartwell, Teresa Embery

LATELY DEAD

Jeff Cowgill, John Concannon, Betty Squires

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Haslam, Teresa Embery, Christine Blackledge, Eric & Jacqueline Cowell.

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £648.28 Sabden £159.371 Many thanks

Retired Priests Appeal Clitheroe £270.32 Sabden £51.22

SOCIAL CENTRE . **Future Events in the Top Lounge - Saturday 1st October - Duo - October 29th** - Andy Ash - Singer. **Friday 11th November** - Race Nite.

Saturday 3rd December Johnny Solo

Please note: the Social Centre is now open 7 days a week from 7pm and Sunday lunchtime from 12noon - 3pm

THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE a talk by Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB at St Gabreil's R.C. High School, Bury, on Wednesday 12 October at 7.30pm-9.30pm. Suggested Donation per person, to meet expenses, £5. See poster in porch

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION There's another petition going round regarding Religious Education in the EBacc since the P.M has now stated that they have an open mind about RE. Please take a couple of minutes to sign. <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/129>

H.C.P.T.SPONSORED WALK Will all please pay their sponsorship so a total can be published. Donations are still being accepted. If you wish you can put your money in an envelope - clearly marked with your name and for the attention of Arnold Marsden on the collection plate.

CATHOLIC SINGLES an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel: 0161 941 3498 or visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk Email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

NEWMAN ASSOCIATION Series of talks have been arranged. See poster in porch.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE INFORMATION EVENINGS - See poster in porch

CAFOD This Sunday October 9th the CAFOD group will be running a stall at the Flea Market in Hurst Green Village Memorial Hall. Open to the public 9am - 4pm, hot and cold food and drinks available all day. Come along and find a bargain!

R.C.I.A.MEETING an Introductory and Information meeting Sunday 16th October at 7.30pm in the presbytery. If you want to find our more about Catholics and our faith please feel welcome to come along. Contact Mary Sellers 01200 428653

STONYHURST COLLEGE Five St Francis Xavier Awards available for 2012 available to young people who may be potential candidates whose families are not able to pay full fees. See leaflets in porch

BIBLE READING anyone interested in joining us please ring Elsie on 01200 424714

WALSINGHAM Another meeting will take place on Tuesday October 11th at 7.30pm in the upstairs Social Centre Committee room for those who are interested in the pilgrimage in 2012

ARE YOU A CARER? Did you know that here in the Ribble Valley the charity Crossroads Care supports and gives respite to carers. If you need help or advice please contact Laura Grasby 01200 422104 or email admin-rvc@btconnect.com

PARISH DRAW Janet will be collecting draw money after Mass on Sunday morning

PARISH ACTION GROUP Next meeting Thurs 27 Oct 7.30pm, in the presbytery

A CALL TO SERVE

A day for Eucharistic Ministers & Readers led by the Carmelite Friars at Tabor in Preston.

**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER
10am - 4pm**

Bring a packed lunch, drinks provided. Please car share as parking is limited. Booking essential. If you would like to go please put your name on the list in the porch. Enquiries to Teresa Mercer 429960

TEA DANCE Wednesday 19th October in our Parish Hall - 2pm - 5pm. Traditional and Sequence dancing with excellent afternoon tea - all for £3.50!. Everyone welcome to come along for a dance, a chat or just the afternoon tea.

CLITHEROE

WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND Sat - T.Wilkinson Sun - P.Drews & R.Conti
READERS Saturday - C.Astin Sunday - School

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday - L.Perrin & H.Mercer

Sunday - J.Hall, S.Hall, A.Marsden

Embery Family

TEA AND COFFEE

CLITHEROE BIBLE SOCIETY are organising 'BIBLE QUESTION TIME' on Tuesday 18th October 7.30pm - 9pm at St Mary Magdalene's Parish Church. Refreshments available. Come and ask your difficult questions.

SCHOOL MASS On Thursday at 9.15am the school will celebrate Harvest Time. Food may be handed in at school which afterwards will be sent to Maundy Grange.

APF MISSION BOXES Apologies but due to unforeseen circumstances the Red Boxes will not be emptied this quarter. Please collect current booklets if desired from the church porch.

ROTA'S There are still some of the current 'Rotas' for Welcomers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers left in the box in the sacristy. Please collect yours as soon as possible.

MODERN BALLROOM AND LATIN DANCING in our Parish hall with bar to refresh you on Saturday 15th October and Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm. Cost £5

ADVANCE NOTICE K.S.C. Jumble Sale Saturday November 5th

LADIES GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 10th October at 7.30pm in the presbytery

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 29 Mike Firth Please collect winnings from Carol or Harry. There are a numbers still available for this draw, please join in it's only £1 per week.

BULBS Thankyou to the two people who have donated bulbs for the garden
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch

Next Sunday, 16th October, our First Communion children and their families begin their preparation programme. We shall also celebrate Harvest Sunday. Parishioners are invited to bring gifts of food on Sunday morning. All food will be donated to the Maundy Grange Centre.

HALLS FOR HIRE

for



**Birthday's,
Celebrations,
Anniversaries
Funeral
Receptions
etc**

contact

ST MICHAEL & JOHN'S
Kevin Shepherd
01200 428915

ST MARY'S SABDEN
Suzanne Brown
01282 771517