

Dear Parishioners,

The approaching arrival of a baby in a family is a time of great anticipation, excitement, preparation, plans and dreams.

Today we begin a new church year, a new liturgical year and it begins with Advent, a time of preparation not for a birth but to commemorate a birth; the most momentous birth in history, the birth of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately Advent has all but disappeared as Christmas festivities have backed up into December so that by the time Christmas arrives -- it is all over! In Clitheroe last year I saw a Christmas tree stripped of decorations and put out with the bins early on Boxing Day morning!

So we, like John the Baptist, have to make a special effort to observe Advent and here are a few suggestions.

★If you buy an Advent calendar, check that it is a religious calendar that encourages children to explore the religious meaning of Christmas. Free Advent calendars are available at the back of the church. (Our Year One and Two and Sabden pupils have received one already) Advent calendars are on sale also on the piety stall.

★Children's 'My Day by Day' booklets are on sale (50p). One is for infant aged children and the other for junior school children.

★Remember, too, that our church in Clitheroe is open every day so when passing pop into church, ask your children to explain the advent wreath and say a prayer.

★I encourage you to buy a 'Walk with Me' booklet (£1) that will help you spent a few moments every day preparing to graciously welcome Christ at Christmas.

★This evening there is an ecumenical Advent service in St Mary Magdalene's at 6.30 featuring Advent (not Christmas!) carols, followed by light refreshments.

★On Friday also at St Mary Magdalene's, beginning at 5pm, a Short Secret History of Santa followed by a walking nativity through the town finishing with carols at the park gates by the town crib. It will finish by 6pm allowing the charity Santa-Dash to race through. All children are invited (and adults!) to come dressed as either shepherds or angels.

★Come to Advent morning Mass (or Eucharistic service) in Clitheroe at 9am and 9.15am on Friday in Sabden. Happy Advent, 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

First Sunday of Advent (B) - 27th November 2011

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9.15am

Wednesday & Thursday

Mass at 9am

Saturday (3rd December)

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

Mark Jezierski, Marjorie Worswick, Marjorie Higgins x 3, Claire Tomlinson, Thomas Tomlinson, Vivienne & family

SICK

Mark Jezierski,

ANNIVERSARIES

Marjorie Worswick, Claire Tomlinson, Thomas Tomlinson, Julie Tresnan

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £725.64 Sabden £113.40 Many thanks
SOCIAL CENTRE Future Events in the Top Lounge - **NEXT Saturday 3rd Dec**
Johnny Solo **Thursday 15th December** in the Top Lounge - Annual Christmas Carols with Slaidburn Band

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

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL this year at The United Reformed Church 16 - 18 Dec. Theme this year is snowflakes. We would be grateful for donations of white, cream, silver or gold snowflakes to decorate our tree. Please place them in the box labelled at the back of church - both Clitheroe and Sabden before Sunday 5th Dec

WALSINGHAM only a few places remain available on the 2012 Pilgrimage Mon June 18 - Thurs 21 Cost £185 + Insurance deposits £20 To book ring Maureen 443499

LADYEWELL Lancashire's County Shrine. For the two Feast Days of Our Lady, Dec 8th - Immaculate Conception and Dec 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe, special devotions Sat Dec 10. Mass at 12 noon packed lunch, followed by devotions.

CLITHEROE

LADIES GROUP TRIP to Lancaster then on to Barton Grange to Christmas showroom and maybe have a bite to eat in their lovely café. Wed 7th Dec Cost £9 - 9.30am from Interchange. Ring Daphne 427912 or Janet 424657 to book

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Many thanks to all those parishioners who helped and all of you who came to support last Sunday. The final total raised amounted to £2170.92 There are still some Christmas cakes for sale - see Janet Bucket Raffle £100 still unclaimed - pink ticket 110. See Janet. There are still some unclaimed raffle prizes for a list please see poster in porch. Prizes may be claimed at presbytery

LITTLE CHURCH desperately need more volunteers to help out each Sunday. You would only be needed once every six weeks. You would need to be here about 10 minutes before Mass to help set up and you can be involved in planning Little Church sessions if you want to. Please contact Geraldine Hennigan 01200 425504

ECUMENICAL EVENTS (more on back page) . during Advent are **The Pop Choir** at U.R.C. on Sunday 11 December, **Joy to the World** - Christmas Concert Saturday

17 December at Trinity. **Radio Lancashire Sings Christmas** on Thursday 22nd December at Low Moor Club, The Wagon and Horses and St Michael & St John's Social Centre

GREENERY WANTED for decorating the church at Christmas. Please bring anytime from 1-21 December
ADVENT LUNCHES start Tuesday 29 November for details see poster in porch. Our Primary School Children will be singing at the opening of the crib after this service on Tuesday

NOVEMBER PARISH DRAW £100 4 E.Morgan, £25 122 T.Pearce, £10 - 145 P.Tomlinson, 170 N.Dudman, 94 G.Gorrigan, 98 R.Holgate, 217 J.Clegg

S.V.P. QUARTERLY COLLECTION

This weekend
26/27 November.
As this collection goes towards the Christmas gifts, please be as generous as usual.

WELCOMERS NEXT WEEKEND Sat - M.Manning Sun - A & J Marsden
READERS Saturday - A.McGuire Sunday - P.Sutcliffe
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS Saturday - B.Worden & A.Southworth
Sunday - G.Lambert, E.Lambert, A.Marsden
J.Marsden, M.Marsden, E.Thomson

TEA AND COFFEE

LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY - next Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. Buffet Supper first followed by 'WHO KNOWS' !!!!!

CRAFT GROUP Many thanks to anonymous donor of 3 bags of beautifully knitted articles. Would you like to make yourself known to us so we can thank you personally?

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT with our Primary School Choir Friday 16th December in our Parish Hall 2pm - 4pm. Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies will be served further information school 01200 422560

*Christmas Cards etc are now on sale on the stall near the War Memorial
Please put money in C.T.S. box mounted on the wall. All individually priced*

HALLS FOR HIRE For Birthday's, Celebrations, Anniversaries, Funerals, Receptions etc contact ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S Kevin Shepherd 01200 428915
ST MARY'S SABDEN Suzanne Brown 01282 771517

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 45 John Shorter There are some numbers still available for this draw, please join in it's only £1 per week.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE this coming Saturday at 2pm in the Hall. Items needed are toys, toiletries, candles, bottles, cakes and groceries anything saleable. Items can be left in sacristy or in box in porch. Help will be needed on the day - please volunteer. Father Christmas will be available from 2pm - 3pm. The Grand Draw for the iPad will take place at this event. Come along and enjoy the fun and games. The hall will be decorated for the fayre on Monday this week 7pm - do come along and help.

PREMIER LEAGUE TICKETS We have been given 4 tickets for any premier league football match at Bolton. We will have a competition for these starting at the Christmas Fayre with 100 bids at £5 per bid. We will need to sell all bids before winner will be disclosed.

FOR SALE Items for Advent on sale after Mass

CHRISTMAS WREATHS We will again be selling Christmas wreaths at the Christmas Fayre. If you wish to order one please put your name on the list in the porch. We will be making up the wreaths on Thursday 1 December from 9.30am - please come along and help. If you have any suitable greenery please leave by the hall during the week before.

CHRISTMAS DRAW tickets available after Mass - please take and sell. There will be a prize for the person selling most tickets. To take part just place all your monies and counterfoils in a sealed envelope, with your name on the front. All prizes now sponsored

SABDEN VILLAGE SERVICE OF LIGHT Today 27th November 4pm at the Baptist Church

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch