

Dear Parishioners,
2011 opened with the bombing of a church on 1st January in Alexandria, Egypt. It left 23 people dead. The year closed with Christmas Day attacks on three Christian churches in Nigeria, including a Catholic parish where at least 27 people died. In between there were numerous other assaults on Christians in many countries, including the October 9th massacre in Cairo when the Egyptian army in armoured vehicles charged into unarmed Coptic protestors before opening fire. 27 were killed and hundreds of others were injured.

According to the secular Institute for Human Rights, based in Germany, fully 80 per cent of all acts of religious intolerance today are directed at Christians. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe estimates that about 200 million Christians now suffer discrimination, harassment and outright violence.

Sadly, it's a safe bet that this situation will continue this year. So, what at parish level can we do to protest?

The diocese has arranged an **Altar Servers Day** for Saturday 10th March at the Cathedral Centre in Salford. I'll give our servers invitation letters for their parents but as we know, these do not always reach their destination, so parents please ask for the letters!

Two altar servers' albs have disappeared from the sacristy, sizes 36 and 46. These cost £50 each so please search your airing cupboards – they may have been taken for washing and then mislaid.

I can recommend a lecture to be given by Fr Denis McBride, a scripture scholar and brilliant lecturer, to introduce the readings from Mark's Gospel that we shall hear in Lent and Easter. Cost is £5, including tea and biscuits at St Gabriel's High School, Bury from 7.30 to 9.30pm this Thursday 2nd Feb.

It is at this time of the year that folk are faced with the reality of their Christmas spending. If you know anyone struggling with debt then please do recommend:

The CAP Clitheroe Centre at The Grand Venue, 18 York St.

The Citizens Advice Bureau, 19/21 Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane. Both are free, confidential and excellent debt advisory centres.

Frankie Mulgrew has returned to college for the concluding 18 months of his 7 year training. Please remember him in prayer.

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

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time (B)
29th January 2012**

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Mass at 9am

Saturday (4th February)

11am - 12 noon Exposition

11am - 11.45am Reconciliation

12 noon Eucharistic Service

6om - First Mass of Sunday



St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am **Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Fred Wilkinson, Harry & Monica Wiggan, Emilio Conti (3)

Sr Anette CP, Kotomi Arakawa

SICK

Anthony Cornwell, Sr Annette CP

LATELY DEAD

Emilio Conti, Kotomi Arakawa

ANNIVERSARIES

Fred Wilkinson, Harry & Monica Wiggan

There will be a retiring collection at both masses next weekend for Caritas - Gift Aid envelopes and information leaflets are available from the back of church

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £716.98 Sabden £147.04 Many thanks

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

SOCIAL CENTRE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Memberships can be renewed on Monday 6th and Friday 10th February 2012 from 8.30pm and every following Monday or Friday.

BALLROOM/LATIN AMERICAN DANCES in our Parish Hall on the following dates - 25 February and 28 April from 8pm - 11pm Price £5 Everyone welcome. Also on Saturday 24th March there will be a Samaritans fundraiser £10 including Supper. Tickets from Vicky 442987 or Linda 01254 665552 or pay on door.

BIBLE READING GROUP - please contact Elsie 01200 424714

PARISH DINNER this year will take place on Saturday 18th February. Cost will be £15 - please note no increase once again. Tickets will be on sale before and after both masses this week here in Clitheroe and also at Sabden before and after the 11am Mass. Thereafter they can be purchased from the presbytery or from any of the named people on the poster. Two course meal - **Main course** - Roast Beef, or Chicken, or Salmon Supreme or Vegetable Lasagne. **Sweet** - Fresh Fruit Salad or Pavlova or Profiteroles or Sherry Trifle

LADIES GROUP Many thanks for all the support at last Wednesdays meeting - around 180 people came. There was no charge for the speaker but a donation of £200 has been given to The East Lancs Hospice. Also a big thankyou to Bill Barker for the loan of the screen at such short notice and to Frankie for filling in whilst the equipment was being set up.

FRANCISCAN RETREAT CENTRE - programme available in porch

CARITAS vacancy for a Service Manager - see poster in porch

DAY OF RENEWAL with Fr Pat Deegan - see poster in porch

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER - leaflets for February available from porch

LENT LUNCHESES this year will begin on Saturday 25th February in our Parish Hall. Still no details of speakers yet - watch this space. We also need some more volunteers to help prepare and serve the lunches which consist of bread, cheese etc. If you would be prepared to give up a couple of hours (on a rota basis) on a Saturday morning during Lent then please contact Daphne on 01200 427912

CLITHEROE

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

NEXT WEEKEND ROTA

	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Manning	Mr & Mrs Ryder
Readers	M.Taylforth	S.Shore
Eucharistic Ministers	L.Perrin & H Mercer	J.Hall, S.Hall, A.Marsden
Tea & Coffee Rota		P & A.Geldard & T.O'Donnell

CHRISTMAS FAYRE still two unclaimed raffle prize - 70 Yellow Cup and Saucer and 148 Green (very pale could be mistaken for grey/blue) Stole - please see Janet **The Bucket Raffle (£100)** has still not been claimed - please check if you have the winning ticket which is pink 110. See Janet at presbytery
ROTA'S New rota's running from January to December. They are available from the box on the table as you enter the sacristy. Please collect yours as soon as possible.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 19 Olive Bromley

RED MISSION BOXES It's time to empty these again. Please bring your 'full' one in and swap it for an empty one which you will find on the windowsill at the back of church. There are some spare boxes available - perhaps you could take one if you don't already have one - it's a very worthwhile cause doing good work all over the world. Further information from Jane Davies



WILD FLOWER GARDEN If you look very carefully you will see the daffodils appearing in the garden. Now as spring approaches we will be re-seeding, this time with perennials which may not be a showy, but will return year on year and will only need topping up. There is a box at the back if anyone would like to donate towards the purchase of seeds. We will be back out in the garden when the better weather is here - look out for dates for working parties.

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

PARISH DINNER TICKETS are on sale £15 from Christine Cartwright on 01282 772237 or Jennifer Mead 01282 770702

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**