

Dear Parishioners,

On 5th January the Falconer Commission on Assisted Dying published its Report. Yet despite the fanfare nothing has changed. The Report repeats the same claims and demands that the euthanasia lobby has been promoting for years. It is simply another step in the campaign which has already twice lost the vote in Parliament by a substantial majority.

Falconer's Commission is unbelievably biased in its membership. Of 12 members, nine were widely known as pro-euthanasia campaigners. As a consequence over forty organisations (including the British Medical Association) refused to appear before it or give evidence because of its obvious bias and campaigning aims.

So, to disguise its intention, the Commission's report treads softly: euthanasia should only be permitted if the patient has less than 12 months to live. This is the thin edge of the wedge! Repeatedly on TV and radio, the cases chosen to justify their demands are of people with long-term illnesses who would not qualify under this recommendation: cases of Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and other progressive illnesses that are guaranteed to terrify people. The fact that it is almost impossible for doctors to predict the length of life for any patient is totally ignored. The case of the Lockerbie bomber, Al Megrahi, exemplifies this.

Strict safeguards are also promised. Well, Holland has safeguards, yet each year around 1,000 of the 4,000 people undergoing euthanasia never requested it. Indeed Dr Els Borst, former Netherlands Health Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, the architect of the Dutch Euthanasia Law admits that it has led to a decline in the quality of the care of terminally ill patients and that now more should be done in Holland to protect "people who want to die naturally"!

No surprise that in this county every human rights disability group opposes euthanasia.

Anglican priest George Pitcher advises anyone who doubted the ultimate aims of the Commission to look at the evidence presented by Joyce Robins, the co-director of patient concern. She told Falconer: 'I think we can only go for terminal illness at the moment, so this doesn't actually apply to the people who are probably about to go into care homes. But, you know, baby steps.'

They never give up and neither should we!

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time (B)
5th February 2012**

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

10.30am Requiem Mass - Marjorie Wood

Saturday (11th 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

Ann Wharton, Mary Cushion, Special intention, Marjorie Wood

SICK

Eileen Thompson, John Noonan

LATELY DEAD

Marjorie Wood

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Cushion, Stephen Pryle, Stanislaw Barnowski

**There will be a retiring collection at both masses this weekend for Caritas
Gift are available from the back of church**

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £695.25 Sabden £127.25 Many thanks

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

SUNDAY EVENING In addition to the usual Quiz on a Sunday evening this week (5th February) we are introducing a 'Play your Cards Right'. Please come along - Everyone welcome

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

FRANCISCAN RETREAT CENTRE - programme available 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

PARISH DRAW January Winners £100 103 M.Illingworth, £25 F.Kerr, £10 - 86 E.Davies, 152 A.Wells, 132 R.Sims, 163 B.Parkinson, 142 A.Thornber

K.S.C. DANCE TONIGHT SATURDAY 4th February in our Parish Hall. Dancing to John Lancaster. Pay on door £6 including Hot-Pot Supper

NEXT WEEKEND ROTA

	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	T.Wilkinson	P.Dixon & E.Thomson
Readers	C.Carr	E.Lambert
Eucharistic Ministers	B.Worden & A.Southworth	C.Morgan, T.Mercer, P.Donnely
Tea & Coffee Rota		S.V.P.

ROTA'S January to March rota's are available from the box on the table as you enter the sacristy. Please collect yours as soon as possible.

ROSARY OF THE UNBORN will be said after Mass/Service each day this week for all pro-life intentions. Our Lady of Guadalupe Pray for us

CARITAS vacancy for a Service Manager - see poster in porch

Good Quality Diaries (with order of mass) have now been reduced to less than half price. You will find them on the table near the greeting card racks situated in front of the War Memorial. Please put money in C.T.S. box

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 11

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.

STEVE ROBINSON will be here next Sunday

FUNDRAISING MEETING Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm in Hall

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**