

Dear Parishioners,

The Church is playing catch-up with our parish! Today all priests are asked to read a letter from Archbishops Vincent Nichols and Peter Smith on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It is a statement of our Catholic faith about marriage and written in the light of the forthcoming consultation by the Government on changing the legal definition of marriage. The letter also asks that we consider signing the Coalition for Marriage's petition. Well we did that last Sunday – but the petition is still available at the back for those who may have missed it. I was surprised at the number who signed last week – they were many more than have signed petitions in the past. The Archbishops also write that after Easter there will be a more detailed leaflet on the Government's consultation to assist Catholics to make their own response to the consultation.

During the week I read the reported comments of the Coalition's Equalities Minister, the Liberal Democrat Lynne Featherstone who claims that it's the Government's fundamental job to shape society, reflect the future and change things for the better. That sounds too much like '1984'. Sorry Lynne you score only 1 out of 3!

A card to indicate that the carrier is a baptised Catholic is to be distributed to parishes during the coming months as an initiative of the Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. One million cards have been made available to our 24 Catholic dioceses, including the new Ordinariate, as a reminder that all baptised are invited to know, develop and share their faith. The size of a credit card, it features on one side, a space for the owner to sign, a clear statement that the carrier is a Catholic and on the reverse, a list of six things that Catholics are called to do. So, I suppose the Bishop's are inviting us to become card-carrying Catholics!

I hope you are keeping to your Lenten resolution and if by chance you haven't started to do something for Lent, then there is no better time to begin than today. If you are on the internet, try the Jesuit site at <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html> A long address but with many good ideas!

Happy Lent, 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

Third Sunday in Lent (B) 11th March 2012

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Eucharistic Service at 9.15am

Wednesday & Thursday

Mass at 9am

Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

7.30pm Stations of the Cross & Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday (17th March)

11am - 12 noon Exposition 11am - 11.45am Reconciliation

12 noon Eucharistic Service 6pm - First Mass of Sunday

St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am

Tuesday - 7.30pm Stations of the Cross **Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Carol Turner x 2, Alice Fullalove, Special intention x 2,

Mary Bourke x 7, Kathleen Berry, Aileen Pinkard

SICK

Sally Hickling,

LATELY DEAD

Carol Turner, Mary Bourke. Joanne Ray (ex St Mary's teacher)

ANNIVERSARIES

Kathleen Berry, Alice Fullalove, Aileen Pinkard

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £829.60 Sabden £194.34 Many thanks

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

SOCIAL CENTRE 'SELFLESS LOVE' due to unforeseen circumstances this event is cancelled. **SUNDAY EVENING** In addition to the usual Quiz on a Sunday evening is 'Play your Cards Right'. Please come along - Everyone welcome

SOCIAL CENTRE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Memberships can be renewed from 8.30pm every Monday or Friday evening

LENT LUNCHES In our Parish Hall every Saturday during Lent. Theme this year is 'Stepping out in Faith'. NEXT Saturday 17th March the speaker will be Mick Johnson 'Open Doors' - supporting persecuted Christians. Lunch of assorted bread and cheeses with Tea or Coffee is £2. Everyone Welcome

OUR DAY OUT rehearsals continue Sunday 2pm in St Mary's Hall (Sabden). Still need male actor 30's—40's to play male teacher. If this is you please get in touch on 01282 433455. We would love to hear from anyone interested.

HOME PASCAL CANDLES - traditional Pascal candle for use within your home. Candle & Stand £11 per set. To order sign the form at the back of church

FOSTERING FOR CARITAS As the days grow longer, we see parents and carers spending time in the park with their children, having picnics, exploring and generally enjoying the time together. Have you ever thought about fostering a child and bringing the sunshine into their life? Caritas is recruiting carers and would be delighted to meet with you. More info 0161 817 2250 or visit their website www.caritassalford.org.uk/fostering

CARITAS VACANCY for a Team Manager (Fostering) - see poster in porch

LADIES GROUP TRIP This coming Tuesday 13th March. Cost £7 (coach) or £12 which includes a tour of Manchester Town Hall Coach leaves 8.45am PROMPT from Interchange—we must be off on time as the tour is booked for 10am. Still some seats and room on the tour. To book please ring Janet on 424657 or Daphne on 427912

CAFOD Lent Fast Day envelopes are still being returned so a total will be announced next week. A number of people have asked about the £ for £ scheme so we thought we would mention it again. The government Department for International Development has created a pilot initiative called UK Aid Match, matching £ for £ all money given in any Lent collection and fund-raising activities for CAFOD that take place between 17th February and 17th May.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT ends to-day, March 11th, but is this the start of a continuing habit of looking out for the F.T. logo?

LENT COURSE This coming Thursday in our Parish Hall at 7.30pm. This weeks subject is Catherine of Sienna

FOUND A camel/brown checked silk headscarf was left in our School Hall after the Youth Day on February 18th. Please collect from presbytery

THE GRAND Jimmy Cricket (Frankie's dad) is appearing on Friday 13th April at 7.30pm. Tickets Adults £10 Children (under 16) £5. Tickets available from The Grand

GIFT AID ENVELOPES for 2012/2013 - Hopefully these will be available for collection in the next couple of weeks

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE 8th, 9th & 10th June - see poster in porch

CLITHEROE

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting 7.30pm Monday in presbytery

K.S.C. Council Meeting Tuesday 7.30pm in presbytery

NEXT WEEKEND	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	P.Hardwick	D.Marsden & J.Byrne
Readers	G.Harkin	School
Eucharistic Ministers	L.Perrin & H.Mercer	C.Morgan, T.Mercer, P.Donnolly
Tea & Coffee Rota		L & ~B Collinson & R.Conti

SAINSBURYS ACTIVE VOUCHERS are being collected by St Michael & St John's Primary school. Please pop in Red Communications Box in porch.

BEAVER SCOUTS are wanting to do their Air Activity Badge and need to speak with someone who has flown an aeroplane, hot air balloon or helicopter. Can you help? If so please contact Julia Kennedy 01200 538793 or julia_kennedy83@hotmail.com

EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK A Remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is being compiled and will be placed at the back of church. We are asking for a donation of £3 for a white calla lily, which will decorate the church at Easter time. Teresa Mercer will be collecting the money after Sunday morning mass up to Easter.

WHALLEY FLOWER CLUB Hand crafted floral bag workshop with Jane Brown in our Parish Hall Wednesday 21 March 7.30pm £7 (£6 for NAFAS members)

HALLS FOR HIRE



for Birthday's,
Celebrations,
Funeral
Receptions,
Anniversaries etc
contact

ST MICHAEL & JOHN'S

Kevin Shepherd
01200 428915

ST MARY'S SABDEN

Suzanne Brown
01282 771517

**THERE WILL BE A S.V.P. QUARTERY COLLECTION
AT BOTH MASSES THIS WEEKEND**

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 42 Elma Bywater

WILD FLOWER GARDEN The daffodils appearing in the garden. 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's a box at the back if anyone would like to donate towards the purchase of seeds. We'll be back out in the garden when the better weather is here - look out for dates for working parties. Don't get rid of those unwanted gifts - we are having a stall and a raffle during Coffee on Sunday 18th March. Proceed towards the flower garden. Bring anything you may have for selling with a price clearly marked. Raffle tickets available after Mass

SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS Our Primary school are collecting Active Vouchers **ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL** collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch

**PLEASE NOTE ANY CHEQUES SHOULD NOW BE MADE PAYABLE TO
OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY PARISH A/C**