

Dear Parishioners, On Saturdays in the past a frequently heard remark in Catholic homes was: "I'm off to Confession." But today the vast majority of Catholics make little use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, so named because it reconciles us to God, the Church and each other. Baptism forgives sin but it doesn't take away our human frailty. Humanity's shared experience is that we fail others, ourselves and God on many an occasion. Jesus said he came to call not the righteous but sinners. This includes me because as the Apostle John told the Christians in his early community "If we say we have no sin in us we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." So there is no escaping the fact that we all are in need of God's forgiveness. By first acknowledging our failures and then receiving God's assured forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we unburden the conscience, renew the soul and strengthens our resolve to follow Christ more closely. To understand this sacrament read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel. Nowhere did Jesus express more beautifully what happens in this Sacrament than in the story of a son who wilfully lost his way but who, against all his expectations, when he had nowhere else to go, was welcomed home by his long suffering Dad. Like that lad we too go astray, we get lost and tie ourselves in knots and may even give up on ourselves but all the while our Father waits for us with an infinite longing. When we return he takes us into his embrace, offering nothing other than unconditional forgiveness and love. This is what Jesus did to the sinners he met and he saw the forgiveness of sin as the unique sign of the arrival of God's kingdom. Healing the spirit was more important to him than the healing of the body. This wonderful experience of healing is available in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This week on Tuesday at 7.30 in St Michael and St John's and on Wednesday at the same time in St Mary's our First Communion children will receive this sacrament for the first time and you are invited to join them. Don't worry about time or a crush, Frs Birmingham and Wareing will be on hand to help. In addition the Sacrament is available during Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings and on Saturdays at 11am. So go on, give yourself a spring clean in time for Easter!

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. Palm crosses will be blessed in St Michael & John's at both Masses. Of necessity, because this is the larger of our two churches, Clitheroe will host the major Holy Week services. So the Palm Sunday procession which commemorates Christ's triumphal procession into Jerusalem is reserved for Sabden at the usual Sunday time of 11am.

All Holy Week and Easter services will be printed in next week's newsletter.
Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent (B) 25th March 2012

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am (sung) followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9.15am Reconciliation 7.30pm

Wednesday & Thursday

Mass 9am

Friday

Eucharistic Service 9am

7.30pm Stations of the Cross & Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday (31st March)

11am - 11.45am Reconciliation

12 noon Eucharistic Service 6pm - First Mass of Sunday (quiet)

St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am **Tuesday** - 7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 7.30pm Reconciliation **Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

William H Brett, Trudi Mansfield, Mary Bleazard, John & Mary Dewhurst,
Vincenzo Ditri x 2, Bryan Roberts, Michael Boyer x 2

SICK

Sally Hickling, Caroline Mulholland

LATELY DEAD

Michael Boyer, William Brett, Denis Balmbra

ANNIVERSARIES

Trudi Mansfield, John & Mary Dewhurst, Mary Bleazard, Bryan Roberts,
Marion Hutchinson, Alice Wilkinson, Pauline Altham

**NEXT SUNDAY - CLITHEROE BLESSING OF PALMS & MASS AT 6PM & 9.30AM
SABDEN, BLESSING OF PALMS, PROCESSION & MASS AT 11AM**

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £807.64 Sabden £242.21 Many thanks

THANKYOU for money for Altar flowers for Easter

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

SOCIAL CENTRE 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

OUR DAY OUT see opposite

CARITAS ROAD SHOW Saturday 21st April at Cathedral Centre Salford , 9.45am - 4pm See poster in porch. **St Michael & St John's** - please see Janet for booking form and parking arrangements. **Sabden** booking form etc attached to poster.

LENT COURSE This coming Thursday in our Parish Hall at 7.30pm. This weeks subject is St Therese of Lisieux.

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 - These are ready for collection from the table as you enter the sacristy.

ROTA'S Please collect your rota from the sacristy. Those of you on the rota who Gift Aid will find yours included in your envelopes. Others are in the small box alongside.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE Spring Concert Tuesday 27th March - see poster in porch

LADIES GROUP - This coming Wednesday 28th March in our Parish hall at 7.30pm there will be a talk by Dee Ellis on 'How I Became a Butlins Redcoat'. Admission £1.50 including light refreshments. Everyone welcome

LADIES GROUP TRIP our next day out will be on Wednesday May 9th to Southport. Set off from Interchange 8.45am. In the afternoon we have booked at Southport Floral Hall for the show 'We'll Meet Again', celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee (see poster in porch) Cost £20 (inc show & coach) Anyone who does not want to go to the show the price is £9 (not £8 as in last weeks newsletter). Ring Daphne 01200 427912 or Janet 01200 424657 to book.

VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOL for both Tesco and Sainsburys are being collected by St Michael & John's Primary school. Please pop in Red Communications Box in porch.

JESUIT & FRIENDS Spring issue now available from porch - FREE

NOVENA a magazine of Catholic Devotions now on sale at back of church £3.50.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER leaflet for April now available free from porch

DIVINE MERCH SUNDAY at St Joseph's, Audley Range, Blackburn on Sunday 15th April. See poster in porch

CAFOD Introducing Biera. The Parish group has a CAFOD partnership with Biera (pronounced Bee-er-a) through the connect 2: scheme. Biera village stands in the far north of Ethiopia, set in a valley dwarfed by mountains. Families who have been here for generations live in small, solid houses, each brick carefully hand chiselled from stone. Ancient churches nestle into the sides of the rock. The Catholic priest is Abba (Fr) FITWE, 77. See his picture on the CAFOD notice board together with a map locating just where Biera is.

CLITHEROE

BAPTISMS We welcome Ciaran and Connor Maguire who were baptised recently and Libby Michelle Olivia Richardson and Jessica Eila Boothman baptised last Sunday.

LADIES GROUP TRIP a umbrella was left on the coach (to Manchester) a couple of weeks ago coach - please collect from presbytery.

NEXT WEEKEND	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Manning	Volunteers
Readers	M.Rigg	P.Donnely
Eucharistic Ministers	R.Carter & B.Taylor	A.Marsden, C & J Leeming
Tea & Coffee Rota		B.Parkinson/M.Maffia/M.Manning

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.

NEW CARD STOCK The piety stall at the back of church has been re-stocked. There is a wide variety of greeting cards available at very reasonable prices - Birthdays - Sympathy - Weddings - Baptisms Wedding Anniversaries - Birth Congratulations - Thinking of you - Thank you - Get well, as well as a good selection of Mass cards again for every occasion - Sympathy - Birthdays - Get Well - Wedding Day. Easter Cards are also now on sale as well as Confirmation and First Holy Communion cards. Rosaries and Rosary bracelets are also available together with lots more. New Mass books at only £2 - a bargain. There are also two versions of the new Roman Missals available, £8 or £10 (exceptional value for money). If you would like one then put your name on the order form available in the Sacristy.



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

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no15 H.Dewhurst

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

CARDS Easter cards for sale in porch. Individual 50p or packs for £1. Also Mass, first Communion cards etc

THANKYOU to everyone who helped make last weeks raffle and bring and buy such a success, just less than £100 was made. Thanks to a number of donations we now have enough to lay new top soil and plant this years seeds. Feel free to join in the working parties even if you can only spare an hour or so. Unclaimed reffle nos - 106-110, 146-151, 156-160, 176-180 please claim after mass.

OUR DAY OUT a date has now been fixed 21-23 June. We have a good cast of young people and rehearsals are going well. We would still like to interest some adults in playing the teacher roles. It's a good and interesting play. It will be great fun please join us if you can. Rehearsals Sunday 2pm - 4pm up to Easter, then will be Tuesday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Tuesday at 7.30pm

GIFT AID ENVELOPES Please collect from back of church