

Dear Parishioners,
 20 years or so ago the Jesuits decided that St Michael and St John's should have a permanent altar, facing the congregation, to replace the temporary wooden altar that was introduced in response to the changes in the liturgy inaugurated by the 2nd Vatican Council. However the structure of the church prevented this. There is such a steep drop in ground level from Lowergate to the sanctuary end of the church that underneath the sanctuary area there is a 14 feet high cellar over which the original high altar rests on a massive stone slab which is supported by cast iron columns and 14 inch deep wooden beams, a wonderful example of Victorian engineering. This structure could not support an additional stone or marble altar, the construction of which would require massive and expensive underpinning of the sanctuary floor. To be seen by the entire congregation a new altar has to stand on the same level as the high altar. Wood is the only material light enough to rest here. But it is generally accepted by architects and interior designers that wood does not go well with marble and stone.

Last year, while on in-service training in Lisieux in France, I visited a church that has a new forward facing bronze and glass altar. It immediately caught my eye because it preserved the architecture of the sanctuary and left the original stone high altar in full view of the entire church. An idea began to grow!

At the Reformation, to emphasise that the Eucharist is a meal and to deny the sacrificial nature of the Mass, stone altars were forcibly removed from churches and replaced by wood tables. But Catholic doctrine holds that the Mass is both a sacrifice and a meal and so is celebrated on an altar that is preferably constructed of stone but is also clearly visible to the congregation.

The new forward facing glass altar meets both these requirements, opens up the magnificent original altar to the body of the church, is lighter than a solidly and well-designed wooden altar would be and being made of toughened glass retains a link with stone!

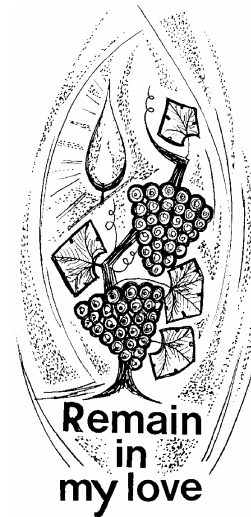
More next week about the altar

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

5th Sunday of Easter (B) 6th May 2012 St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday
 Mass at 9.30am (sung) followed by Coffee

Monday & Friday
 Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
 Mass at 9am

Saturday (12th May) - Pro Life Day of Prayer
 9am - 12 noon Exposition
 11am - 11.45am Reconciliation
 11.30am - Rosary
 12noon Mass
 12.30pm - 5.45pm Exposition
 6pm First Mass of Sunday (quiet)

St Mary's Church Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am (sung)

Friday - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Private intention, Mary Cushion, William Lambert, Philip Lawton,
 Sr Ignatius Julie SND, Nello Luciani

SICK

Sally Hickling, Margaret Cross (nee O'Donnell) Australia

LATELY DEAD

Nello Luciani

ANNIVERSARIES

William Lambert, St Ignatius Julie SND, Philip Lawton

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £682.11 Sabden £128.21 Many thanks
Ecclesiastical Education Fund Clitheroe £373.04 Sabden £76.36

**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

LADIES GROUP TRIP NEXT Wednesday May 9th to Southport. Set off from Interchange 8.45am. Only three seats left on coach. Cost £9 Ring Daphne 427912 or Janet 424657 to book

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

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel 0161 941 3498, website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE & BISCUITS in the Ribble Valley Mayors Parlour on NEXT Saturday 12th May 10am - 12noon. Admission £1. Bring and Buy Stall

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS Mass in preparation for the will take place in Salford Cathedral at 7.30pm Friday 25th May. See poster in porch

MAY PROCESSION A May procession in honour of Our Lady at St Joseph's, Audley Range, Blackburn on Sunday 13th May at 1.15pm ending with a moment of Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction.

RWANDA GROUP TRUST Annual get-together on Sunday 20th May at Alston Lane Church Hall, Grimsargh at 2pm. Jacob's Join. Everyone welcome

CARITAS Annual Garden Party on Saturday 9th June at The Barlow RC High School, Didsbury 1pm - 4pm. There are some Raffle tickets £1 each, available from the Parish office.

CYCLE CHALLENGE Geraldine Hennigan and Jane Miller are taking part in the Women for Women Cycle Challenge in Sri Lanka in September 2013. This is a 400km bike ride in aid of the Genesis Research Trust (promoting science for the health of women and babies). To raise money for this we are holding a Coffee Morning with homemade cakes and a Bring and Buy book sale. We hope you will join us on Friday 18th May 10am - 12.30pm at Hetton House, Eastham St, Clitheroe. Everyone welcome. Further details ring 07813 782130

CLITHEROE

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK runs from 13th - 19th May. Would the loyal band of helpers be willing to help again this year? then please let Janet know. We need someone to

COLLECT ONLY the envelopes (which will have already been delivered) on the following areas - Henthorn Road, Faraday Avenue, The Crescent, Seedall Avenue and Bayley Fold, Riverlea Gardens, Walker St, Holden St, Bright St and Taylor St. If you would be willing to do so again let Janet know.

K.S.C. Council meeting Tuesday 8th May at 7.30pm in presbytery

TEA DANCE Wednesday 16th May in our Parish Hall. Dancing 2pm - 5pm. Admission £3.50 including delicious afternoon tea. Everyone welcome

NEXT WEEKEND	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Valovin	C.Riley & M.Marsden
Readers	C.Carr	P.Sutcliffe
Eucharistic Ministers	B.Worden & A.Southworth	R.Embery, I.Parkes, P.Sutcliffe
Tea & Coffee Rota		P.Geldard & T O'Donnell

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/CONFIRMATION CARDS at very reasonable prices are on sale at the back of church - hurry, they are selling fast

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

FOOD BANK Clitheroe Christians in Partnership propose that we look into the setting up of a food bank and would like to form a committee composed of representatives from each of the churches to explore the feasibility of such an enterprise as there is a local need.

More information from Rita Heyes on 01200 443834 or rita@hayesr.plus.com

PRO-LIFE DAY OF PRAYER will be held NEXT Saturday 12th May. Exposition from 9am - 5.45pm, with Mass at noon. List of times for 'watchers' before the Blessed Sacrament can be found at the back of church. Please try to come for half an hour. See poster in porch for more details.

JUMBLE SALE A big thankyou from the K.S.C. to all who supported and helped at the Jumble Sale last weekend, we raised £348

SABDEN

BONUS BALL (SABDEN) The bonus ball this week is no 6 Joan Thompson

VOUCHERS Our Primary school are collecting both Tesco & Sainsburys vouchers. Please note Sainsbury's scheme has now finished. Can you please hand in the vouchers as soon as possible so that we can add them up. Each year we waste 100's of tokens that are handed in too late.

MOTHER AND TODDLER GROUP will start in St Mary's Hall on Monday 11th June at 9.30am. £1 including Tea or Coffee and snacks for the children. We would however be grateful for any donations of Toys and Books. Please contact Katy Collins on 01282 680617 or Suzanne Brown on 01282 771517

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

GARDEN PARTY there will be a meeting this Tuesday 8th May at 7.30pm in the hall to organise this event and ALSO Fr Birmingham's Jubilee, as well as other fund raising ideas. Please come along or pass on any ideas you have, this may be also a good time to discuss the idea of a bell.

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING May 12th from 10am - 12noon in St Mary's Hall, Sabden. Entry £1.50 per head - Raffle, Tombola and Cake stall

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