

Note: The following has been written by some guy with a keyboard. It has not been written by a priest and is not officially approved by the Church. I've done my best to get it right, but I'm not the Pope...

We believe in one God. Before anything existed there was God who brought all things in to existence and nothing exists that was not created by him. God did not create because he needed something or was lonely, God is entirely self-sufficient. God is. Why would a God who doesn't need or want for anything choose to create anyway? Because God is love. When we love someone we give them gifts and want nothing in return except their happiness. So it is with God. Even though there was nothing we could offer him that he did not already possess, God gave us existence simply because that is what love does. Love gives and asks nothing in return.

We have no arguments with evolution or any other scientific explanations for the development of the universe from the big bang to the evolution of human beings because we believe that the very laws of physics were created by God. It is a sign of the greatness of God that he did not make matter and then hammer it in to the desired shapes and forms, but created matter itself in such a way that it would be naturally ordered towards the fulfilment of his divine plan. He saw that it was good.

God created many weird and wonderful creatures but none so strange as human beings whom he made in the image of himself. Although he formed them from the dust of the earth like the other animals, God breathed in to man something of his divine life. We call this the human spirit or the soul. The soul is not a physical part of a person, like the liver or the brain. If you cut a person open, you will not find the soul. The soul is the part of us that is not physical, but which makes us a little like God.

If a person commits a crime we say that they are to blame, but how can we blame them if they are just atoms and molecules operating according to the laws of science? We do not blame a volcano if it erupts because we know that a volcano is just a system of rocks and lava, but we blame a person if they get angry because we know there is a part of a person which more than just a machine. If a person overcomes their fear and risks their life to enter a burning building and save a child, we praise that person and say that they are a hero. We know that this person overcame their natural animal instinct to save themselves and instead put themselves in harm's way. The soul is the part of us that allows us to override the laws of physics and make choices of our own free will. It is the part of us that is able to choose between right and wrong, between being a hero and running away. In short, your soul is you. As C.S. Lewis wrote, "You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body".

More about this next week, Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

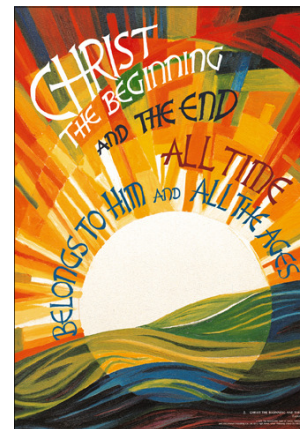
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) - 18th November 2012

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee
3pm Mass - Knights of St Columba

Monday, Tuesday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

10am Deanery Mass at
English Martyr's, Whalley
for deceased clergy

Wednesday

Mass at 11am Requiem Tom Bailey

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Saturday (24th November)

11am-11.55am - Exposition 11am - 11.45am Reconciliation (Confession)
11.30am - Rosary - 12noon Eucharistic Service 6pm First Mass of Sunday (quiet)

St Mary's Church, Sabden

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

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Special Intention, Giovanni Marchese, Brian Smith, Tom Bailey, In thanksgiving
SICK

Sally Hickling, Cecilia Brown, Brigid Hardwick, Maria Middleton

LATELY DEAD

Alan Dewhurst, Tom Bailey

ANNIVERSARIES

Giovanni Marchese, Brian Smith,

**There will be a retiring collection at all masses this weekend for
The Bishops Administration Fund**

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £731.20 Sabden £151.33 Many thanks
SOCIAL CENTRE Sunday evening In addition to the usual Quiz on a Sunday evening is 'Play your Cards Right'. Please come along - Everyone welcome

The Social Centre is now open through from 12noon on Saturdays & Sundays

CLITHEROE HOSPITAL Volunteers with various skills expertise and interests to lead/facilitate a social activity for patients on a regular basis for 1 hour in the afternoon. Singing - Music - Art - Painting - Bingo - Card Making - Scrapbooking etc or simply reminiscing. Contact Janice Atkinson or Susan Abraham-Jones 01282 804485 or email janice.atkinson@elht.nhs.uk or susan.abraham-jones@elht.nhs.uk

TABOR Carmelite Retreat House, Preston on Saturday November 24th (10am -4 pm) for a day of prayer and quiet reflection. Suggested offering £12. Ring 01772 717122 or email tabor@carmelite.net to book

CHRISTIAN AID Ribble Valley Christian Aid Coffee & Mince Pies in Ribble Valley Town Hall on Saturday 1st December 10am - 12 noon Entrance £1. Bring and Buy Stall. See poster in porch.

CAFOD World Gift Catalogues, with ideas for Christmas gifts, available at the back of church.

OUR LADY & ST JOHN CATHOLIC COLLEGE Silver Jubilee. Past and present staff and students are welcome to come and celebrate Mass on Thursday 29th November at 7pm in St Albans Church, Blackburn. See poster in porch

H.C.P.T. Handicapped Childrens Trust sponsored walk raised £1,758. A cheque will be presented at the Annual Christmas Fun Quiz on Thursday 27th December. All welcome

CLITHEROE

LITTLE CHURCH New members needed to help run groups. No need to be a parent or even have children - just enthusiasm and a willingness to teach young children about the gospel. Contact Geraldine Hennigan 01200 425504.

JUMBLE SALE Last weeks Jumble Sale organised by the Knights of St Columba raised £259.

LADIES GROUP TRIP next trip will be on Wednesday 5th December leaves Interchange 8.45am for Leeds for Shopping and German Christmas Market. Cost £8. Names and money to either Janet 424657 or Daphne 427912. Also an opportunity of a guided tour around Leeds Town Hall extra charge of £4 but there are a limited number of places (25), so if you wish to take the tour then please ring Janet or Daphne as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. You can book at the Ladies Group Christmas Party.

TEA DANCE NEXT Wednesday 21st November 2pm - 5pm in our Parish Hall. Come and enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea - still only £3.50

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SABDEN PRIZE DRAW if you want any tickets they are available from the Parish office. Tickets £1 each £5 a book. First prize The new iPad

ROCKING HORSE RAFFLE Tickets will be on sale at both masses this and next weekend, and also at the Christmas Fayre.

Next weekend rota	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Manning	D.Marsden & J.Byrne
Readers	L.Perrin	P.Donnely
Eucharistic Ministers	R.Carter, Volunteer	J.Hall, S.Hall, T.Mercer
Tea & Coffee Rota		P & A Geldard, T.O'Donnell

LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY Wednesday 28th November is our Christmas Party commencing at 7.30pm. Buffet Supper plus light entertainment. At this meeting names will be taken for the Ladies Group Christmas Dinner which will take place at the Calf's Head Hotel, Worston on Thursday 17th January 2013. Names and money will also be taken for the Opera 'Kiss me Kate'

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Please bring along to the presbytery this coming week (Monday - Thursday) any goods for next Saturday's Christmas Fayre. If you come on Friday please drop them off at the hall (entrance via the kitchen around the back). The deadline is Friday 4pm except for cakes, which may be brought EARLY on Saturday morning

JOB VACANCIES at St Anthony's Centre, Trafford Park - see Janet for details

LIFTS TO CHURCH Thankyou to all who put down their names to bring people to church. I will get in touch with you soon and arrange lifts to suit. If anyone knows of anyone who would like a lift to church please contact Rae Carter on 424198

DEMENTIA AWARENESS EVENT At The Grand 20th November 4pm-6pm. See poster in porch

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this week no 45 - John Shorter

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Wednesday 5th December Christmas Bingo.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 1st December 2pm-4pm. To include the Grand Draw. Carrier bags are available for donations of items for sale. Toys in good condition wanted too.

DRAW TICKETS are available after Mass - please take and sell as many as you can.

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

St Michael & St John's



**CHRISTMAS FAYRE
 NEXT SATURDAY
 24th NOVEMBER**

11am - 2pm

- Tombola - Raffle - DVD's
- Childrens books and toys
- Craft Stall - Mystery Tombola
- Cake Stall - Bucket Raffle
- Jams & Pickles - Christmas cards
- Festive Plants & Bulbs
- Father Christmas Grotto

*Bacon/Sausage, Butties
 Toasted Fruit Bread .Tea & Coffee*

**Proceeds towards the
 re-decoration of our
 lovely church**

**WE NEED YOUR SUP-
 PORT**