

*Dear Parishioners,*

The results of the last census, based on data from 26 million households, reveal a decline in the number of Christians in the UK over the past ten years. Some 59% per cent of residents said they were Christian, compared with 72% in 2001 and a quarter said they had no religion, up from 15% in 2001. Responding to this, a spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales said: "The overall decrease in the number of self-identifying Christians is consistent with recent social attitude and social value surveys. While this is a challenge, the fact that six out of 10 people in England and Wales self-identify as Christians is not discouraging. Christianity is no longer a Religion of culture, but a Religion of decision and commitment. People are making a positive choice in self-identifying as Christians."

While precise figures are difficult to determine, polling shows that for many years the Catholic population of England and Wales has remained consistent at 9% of the total population. Research 2008 pointed to there being five million Catholics in England and Wales of whom one million attend Mass on a weekly basis.

It was precisely in response to this crisis of faith and practice that Pope Benedict called for a *Year of Faith* on which we are embarked and I'm pleased to report that our three *Year of Faith* groups are flourishing. In the New Year and in cooperation with the school another is planned to begin. Also the YOUCATs are going well and a number of parishioners have made favourable comments – some have it as bedside reading as a book that can profitably be dipped into at random. They are still available at the heavily subsidised price of £2.

What we each should do immediately is think of a person whom you could '*invite home for Christmas*'. Simply offer to accompany a "resting" Catholic friend or neighbour to Mass at Christmas and then gently encourage them to continue.

This week Christmas cards which also list our Christmas services will be distributed to all Catholic households that we have a record of. If you or someone you know doesn't receive one then please let me or Janet have the name and address and the omission will be rectified for next year.

*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 of Advent (C) - 16th December 2012**

*St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe*

## **Sunday**

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee  
4pm Advent Candlelight Service:  
invite friends and children

## **Monday & Friday**

Eucharistic Service at 9am

## **Tuesday**

Mass at 9am

## **Wednesday**

Mass at 9am

## **Thursday**

Mass at 7.30pm

## **Saturday (22nd December)**

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

## *St Mary's, Sabden*

**Sunday** - Mass at 11am

**Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

## **MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Isabella Duckworth, Denis Schofield, Michael & J.J.Riley, John Marsden,  
Margaret Watkins, Tom & Marian Macauley, James Hildle, Frances Whittaker,

## **SICK**

Sally Hickling, Brigid Hardwick, Maria Middleton, Kathleen Wilson, Anthony Cornwell

## **LATELY DEAD**

Johanna Riley

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Isabella Duckworth, Denis Schofield, Michael & J.J.Riley, John Marsden,  
Margaret Watkins, Tom & Marian Macauley, James Hildle, Frances Whittaker,



**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £768.19 Sabden £166.71 Many thanks  
**JESUITS AND FRIENDS** The Winter 2013 magazine is available from the porch  
**YEAR OF FAITH - SALFORD DIOCESE** Posters of events are up in the porch  
**ST JOSEPH'S PENNY** Volunteers required - if you would be willing to help please see the poster in the porch and take one of the tear off slips

**CLITHEROE SOCIAL CENTRE** Sunday evening In addition to the usual Quiz on a Sunday evening is 'Play your Cards Right'. Please come along - Everyone welcome

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** Still some unclaimed raffle prizes - see list in porch. Please claim them from Parish Office.

**CCP (CLITHEROE CHURCHES IN PARTNERSHIP)** Please pick up a flyer from the porch listing the shared worship events during Advent.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** continues today Sunday 16th 11.30am - 4pm in Trinity Methodist Church.

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

**JOY TO THE WORLD TONIGHT SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER** Christmas Concert. A celebration of Christmas, the Summer Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee in music, dance and drama 7.30pm in Trinity Methodist Church, See poster in porch

**YOUCAT** Please put money in C.T.S. box

**DUNSOP BRIDGE XMAS RAFFLE** Fr Chaloner thanks everyone who supported this years raffle £1,100, was raised your continued support is much appreciated.

**SABDEN CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** - List of winners in porch

**2013 DIARIES** for sale at the back of church 50p - please put money in C.T.S. box

**THISTLE MANOR** present 'The Christmas Carol Service' at St Paul's, Low Moor on Friday 21st December from 2pm. All Welcome- Mince Pies and Refreshments provided

**SABDEN CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** - List of winners in porch

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** your help would be appreciated in delivering our church Christmas Cards. They are available from the table at the front near to the Sacristy door. They are batched up in areas of Clitheroe. Those who have telephoned with offers of help have had theirs batched up separately and have a yellow label with their name on.

## CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE

Wednesday 19th Dec  
2pm - 5pm

Admission £6  
including a Buffet Tea  
and a free glass of wine.

Tickets available from  
Daphne 01200 427912

## An evening of Christmas Music

Thursday 20th December  
at 7.30pm in the Hall  
St Michael & St John's  
Music Group and  
Slaidburn Band  
Free for everyone.  
Mince Pies & Mulled  
wine will be served  
*Please support*



|                | Saturday                     | Sunday                         |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Welcomers      | M.Valovin                    | S.Shore & M.Rogers             |
| Readers        | C.McGuire                    | P.Sutcliffe                    |
| Euch Ministers | A.Southworth & M.Illingworth | C.Morgan, S.Smith, B.Collinson |
| Tea & Coffee   |                              | P.Byrne & Family               |

**Eucharistic Ministers and welcomers required for Christmas masses**

## ANNUAL K.S.C FUN QUIZ NIGHT ?????????

Thursday 27th December

Please let us know if you will be coming (we need to know for suppers). Please ring Les Collinson at least 3 days before.

The cheque for H.C.P.T. will be handed over at this event.

**Please support**

### **LADIES GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL**

will be on Thursday Jan 17th at the Calf's Head, Worston - 6.30pm for 7pm. - £18.50. Menu's are available from the porch. Please let Daphne or Janet have them back together with your money.

**APF MISSIONS** Mission calendars & newsletters are now available in the porch

**ADVENT LUNCHESES** Tuesday at The United Reformed Church. Theme is 'What Christmas means to me' and each week a young Christian (late teens/early 20's) will speak at 12.30pm. Lunch of Soup and a roll and mince pie will follow at 1pm

**LADIES GROUP PROGRAMME 2013** are now available from church porches.

**GREENERY** is required for our Christmas decorations - please bring along from week commencing 16th December.

**DIARIES** for 2013 are also available on the shelves at the back of church - 50p. Please put money in C.T.S. box

**ROTAS** January - March 2013 are now available. They have been sent by email, but for those people who have no email address can find their copy in the box on the table near the door to the sacristy in alphabetical order.

**Still plenty of Christmas cards etc for sale at the back of church at very reasonable prices**

### **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this week no 27 - A.Barker  
**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL** collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch

**DIARIES** are on sale 50p each and also Salford Diocesan Almanacs for 2013

## SABDEN Village Carol Service



Wednesday 19th  
December at 7.30pm.  
St Mary's are hosting this  
event this year - please  
come along and support  
Mince pies in the hall  
afterwards