

*Dear Parishioners,
A Christmas meditation from Pope Benedict*

Today, anyone wishing to enter the Church of Jesus' Nativity in Bethlehem will find that the doorway five and a half metres high, through which emperors and caliphs used to enter the building, is now largely walled up. Only a low opening of one and a half metres has remained. The intention was probably to provide the church with better protection from attack, but above all to prevent people from entering God's house on horseback. Anyone wishing to enter the place of Jesus' birth has to bend down. It seems to me that a deeper truth is revealed here, which should touch our hearts on this holy night: if we want to find the God who appeared as a child, then we must dismount from the high horse of our "enlightened" reason. We must set aside our false certainties, our intellectual pride, which prevents us from recognizing God's closeness. We must follow the interior path of Saint Francis – the path leading to that ultimate outward and inward simplicity which enables the heart to see. We must bend down, spiritually we must as it were go on foot, in order to pass through the portal of faith and encounter the God who is so different from our prejudices and opinions – the God who conceals himself in the humility of a newborn baby. In this spirit let us celebrate the liturgy of the holy night, let us strip away our fixation on what is material, on what can be measured and grasped. Let us allow ourselves to be made simple by the God who reveals himself to the simple of heart. And let us also pray especially at this hour for all who have to celebrate Christmas in poverty, in suffering, as migrants, that a ray of God's kindness may shine upon them, that they – and we – may be touched by the kindness that God chose to bring into the world through the birth of his Son in a stable. Amen.

A blessed and peaceful Christmas to you all.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) 23rd December 2012



*'Glory to God in the highest heaven
and peace to those who
enjoy his favour'*

MASSSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK - Special intentions, May Geelan, Tingle family, Special intention, Brian Connolly, Mr Thornton, A.Tomlinson, Ann Wharton, Antonio Lopresti, Giuseppe Lopresti, Antonio Antonucci, Special Wedding intention, Molly Walton, Ben Arthurs, Dorothy Hunt, Carol Turner, John Humphreys

ANNIVERSARIES May Geelan, Brian Connolly, Ben Arthurs, Winifred & William Gidlow, John Humphreys, Catherine Tresnan, Alice Clegg.

Also please remember those whose funerals were celebrated in St Michael & St John's and during the past year, and their bereaved family and friends - Emilio Conti, Marjorie Wood, Carol Turner, Michael Boyer, Caroline Mulholland, Brian Balshaw, Nello Luciani, Valerie Haworth, May Johnston, Joseph Harrison, Mark Jezierski, Bernard Lawton, Helena Thompson, William Tattersall, Tom Bailey, Frank Wrigley, Johanna Riley. In St Mary's, Sabden, John Radcliffe, Denis Balmbra, Raymond Waling, Alice Parkinson, Joseph Dewhurst. St Peter's Stonyhurst, Caroline Anwyl.

SICK Sally Hickling, Brigid Hardwick, Maria Middleton, Anthony Cornwell, Bernadette Malone

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £760.26 Sabden £134.08 Many thanks

JESUITS MISSIONS Quarterly collection £185.00 Many thanks

CARITAS The Diocese runs two homes for homeless young mothers and their children. These vulnerable young women get support for both themselves and their children in a warm, safe environment that teach them parenting and life skills. Upon moving into their own home, they are more confident parents and members of society

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

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.

ROTAS January - March 2013 are now available. Those who have no email address can pick their copy up from the table in front of the sacristy door.

PARISH DINNER - February 9th 2013. Price £17.50 due to increased costs but still good value for money. Entertainment - we welcome back Jason Ashton after who so ably entertained us last year. Menu's available after Christmas

CHRISTMAS PARISH DRAW

£100 - 67 M.Donnolly £25 - 315 P.Mooney
£10 - 94 M.Illingworth, 5 P.Jones, 160 C.Scott,
166 J.Dewhurst, 28 M.Seddon. Winners please collect their winnings from their agent.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL no 18 - the Grimshaw family
ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch

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 01200 427029 at least 3 days before
The cheque for H.C.P.T. will be handed over at this event. **Please support**

ROTAS NEXT WK	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	P.Hardwick	C.Riley & M.Marsden
Readers	A.McGuire	G.Lambert
Euch Ministers	S.Kerr & T.Woodhead	J.Hall, S.Hall, T.Mercer
Tea & Coffee		E.Davies & M.Valovin

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 22 December		Clitheroe Exposition Reconciliation Eucharistic Service First Mass of Sunday	11am - 12noon 11am - 11.45am 12 noon 6pm
Sunday 23 December		Clitheroe Mass Sabden Mass	9.30am 11am
Monday 24 December	Christmas Eve	Clitheroe Reconciliation Carols Christmas Mass	11am - 12noon 5.30pm 6pm
		Sabden Carols Christmas Mass	7.30pm 8pm
Tuesday 25 December	Christmas Day	Clitheroe Mass	10am
Wednesday 26th December	St Stephens (Boxing Day)	Clitheroe Mass	12noon
Thursday 27th December	St John the Evengelist	Clitheroe Mass	9am
Friday 28th December	Holy Innocents	Clitheroe (Eucharistic Serv) Sabden Mass	9am 9am

St Michael & St John's is open daily during daylight hours for private prayer

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. Fr John