

Dear Parishioners

There was a time when bishops didn't resign; they died in office, as did parish priests for that matter, for until around 40 years ago most men died in their 60's. We now live longer so bishops must offer their resignation at the age of 75 – with one exception, the Pope. The Pope is a bishop but because he is the Bishop of Rome he is also the inheritor of St Peter's office of leader of the Church. So there is no reason why a Pope should not resign like any other bishop. In fact church Law legislates for this: "If it should happen that the Roman Pontiff resigns his office, it is required for validity that he makes the resignation freely and that it be duly manifested, but not that it be accepted by anyone" (Canon 332, §2). The Pope holds his office from God alone!

The revised rules governing the election of a Pope, issued by John Paul II in 1996, also recognise that a vacancy in the office of the Bishop of Rome can occur not only as a result of the death of a Pope but also by his valid resignation

And in the past six Popes have resigned: Pontian (in 235); Silverius (in 537); John XVIII (in 1009); Benedict IX (in 1045); Celestine V (in 1294); and, Gregory XII (in 1415).

When Pope Benedict XVI's resignation coming into effect at 8.00pm (Roman time) on Thursday 28 February, the office of the Roman Pontiff (the Pope) will be vacant and Pope Benedict will revert to being a Cardinal and will be known only by his baptismal name of Joseph Ratzinger.

All officials in the Vatican will lose their offices and the Cardinals as a body – with the exception of Cardinal Ratzinger – will keep basic administration ticking over and attend to any matters that cannot be postponed. They will also organise the Conclave that will elect Pope Benedict's successor.

Religion is said to be dead in our age and the Pope is supposed to be irrelevant yet it took only Benedict's resignation, and not even his death, to immediately command the total attention of the world's media.

It's a funny old world,

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

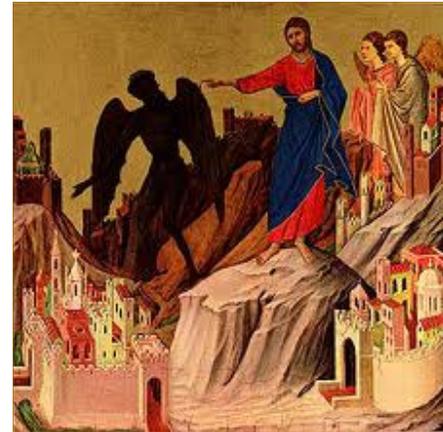
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Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

1st Sunday in Lent (C) - 17th February 2013

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday & Wednesday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 10am

Requiem - Stella Mason

Friday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

Saturday 23rd February

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

Tuesday - 7.30pm Stations of the Cross **Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Stella Mason, Jessica Lily, Jacqueline Cowell, Elizabeth & Veronica Lambert, Michael Pryle, Peter Hardwick, Rae Carter x 4, Special Intention

SICK

Sally Hickling,

LATELY DEAD

Peter Hardwick, Rae Carter, Fr Fred Watson, Stella Mason

ANNIVERSARIES

Jacqueline Cowell, Elizabeth & Veronica Lambert, Michael Pryle, Elizabeth Byrne

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £675.93 Sabden £135.18 Many thanks

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, visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

CAFOD Next Friday Feb 22nd is Lent Fast Day. Please return the envelopes next weekend. Thank You. Next Sunday Feb 24th we will run a stall at Hurst Green Flea Market in the village Memorial Hall 9am - 4pm, refreshments available. Good deals to be had!

HARVESTERS MEN'S DAY 'Finding God in the Ordinary' - A Lent Reflection Day for Men Saturday 23rd February 10am - 4pm, at Holy Family RC Church, Ingol, Preston. No booking required just come along. Speakers - Fr Daniel O'Leary and Brian Kelly. More info from/or book contact Dave Yates on 01253 735061 or Greg McCrave 01772 733338 (day)

CARITAS - VACANCIES See poster in porch for details

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

TEA DANCE Next Wednesday 20th February - Valentines Tea Dance in our Parish Hall 2pm - 5pm. Come and enjoy an afternoon dancing, followed by afternoon tea. Still only £3.50

SECOND HAND BOOKS Many thanks to all of you who have donated books - it has been an excellent response. The appeal is now closed

CEILIDH Saturday 16th March 'Dogsbody Band' - (6 piece with caller) Tickets £10 inc Light Supper. Ring Kevin at Social Centre for tickets

ROTARY CLUB CLITHEROE - Swing Band Night in St Mary's Parish Hall (Clitheroe) 2nd March - See poster in porch

BROWNIES St Michael & St John's 4th Clitheroe Brownies are looking for Unit leaders to take over from Easter. The unit has 24 little girls who are all fabulous! The little ladies enjoy meeting up during term time on Tuesday evenings in Clitheroe. If you would like to know more about becoming a unit leader or helper please email Rachel@gofirebird.co.uk

LENT TALKS commence next Saturday 23rd February when Pam Entwistle will speak on 'Christians against Poverty' and will take place in the upstairs meeting room (Further talks will take place in the Hall). The talks begin at 11am Refreshments (Tea/Coffee and Biscuits) will be served 10.30am. See poster in porch

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday 1st March 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist. Service last about 1 hour. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of France. Everyone Welcome including men, women and young people but not suitable for children. All the Christian Churches in Clitheroe will take part in the service.

K.S.C. DANCE Friday 1st March in our Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Dancing to John Lancaster. Tickets £6 including supper. Tickets Tel Les 01200 427029 or Arnold 01200 427096

ROTAS NEXT WK	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	Volunteer	B.Barkert & K.Peel
Reader	A.Southworth	M.Barrett
Euch Ministers	B.Worden & H Addy	G.Lambert, P.Donnolly, A.Marsden
Tea & Coffee		P & A Geldard & T.O'Donnell

LADIES GROUP Wednesday February 27th at 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. 'From Barrister to Beekeeper' - Lancashire farmer Craig Hughes, will speak on his passion for beekeeping. We invite both ladies and gents to come to this event. A very interesting talk, only £2 including Tea and Biscuits. At this meeting there will be a second hand book sale. Do come along and join us.

LADIES GROUP TRIP Our next trip is on Wednesday 1st May to The National Arboretum in Staffordshire followed (time permitting) by a visit into Lichfield. Departs 8.20am from Interchange. Cost approx £25 which includes Coach fare, Guided tour around Arboretum and Lunch (Roast of the day plus a sweet) and a tip for the driver. Names to Janet or Daphne please. Please note the trip on December 4th to Manchester and the BBC Studio Tour is fully booked.

SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS Once again our Primary School are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. Please hand into school or pop in the parish communications box in church porch

PARISH DINNER Many thanks to those parishioners who came along and enjoyed a wonderful meal and entertainment in our Hall last Saturday. Your support was very much appreciated.

PARISH FORUM The minutes from the January meeting have been posted up on

the notice board in the porch for those parishioners who have no email address

SABDEN

BONUS BALL 48 Jennifer Mead

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 21st March - Bingo in the Hall at 7.30pm. Admission £5 inc book of tickets and refreshments. Come along and enjoy a great social evening. **ST GEORGE'S DAY** Celebration in memory of Raymond who would have been 80 on 20th April. **Details to follow.**

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES DAY Saturday 13th April. An expert from a local auction house will value items at the cost of £1 per item. This promises to be an exciting and fun event. More details later.

WANTED

Volunteer cleaners for St Mary's Church and Hall in Sabden.



There a number of teams and so the work is spread. We are looking for more volunteers to help, especially as one of our teams is retiring at Easter. If you could spare a couple of hours once a month please contact Jennifer Mead 01282 770702