

Dear Parishioners

The eyes of the world and of 6,000 accredited journalists were focused on the temporary stovepipe chimney above the Sistine chapel in Rome when after five ballots white smoke appeared. Yet only a week before a journalist on the BBC opined that the Conclave would be an irrelevance because the Catholic Church was a spent force! Well, how many times has that been said over the past 2,000 years? We are a church of the Resurrection that always bounces back!

And what a bounce with Pope Francis! A Pope of firsts -- first from South America; first Jesuit to be Pope and the first to take the name of Francis. His choice of name wasn't surprising: as Cardinal Archbishop of a diocese of 3.6 million Catholics (one of the world's largest) he lived a simple lifestyle eschewing the bishop's residence in favour of a simple 2 roomed flat, cooking his own meals and travelling round Buenos Aires by bus. He has a strong reputation for his care of the sick, the poor and promoting Social Justice.

Pope Francis is the first non-European pope in more 1,200 years. The last was a Syrian, Pope Gregory III who died in 741.

The Parish Forum (our Parish Council) meets in the Social Centre on Wednesday at 7.30pm. A major topic of the agenda will be the Food Bank that the Clitheroe Christians in Partnership (our ecumenical body) is starting. On behalf of the parish the SVP – and particularly Rae Carter – have been involved in this important venture from its inception.

On Tuesday the restored church bench will be returned. I haven't yet seen it and so don't know how successful the restoration has been but I'm sure that it will give rise to strong debate at the Forum.

Does anyone have a laptop computer that they no longer use? We are in need of one for our PowerPoint projector, as also we need of two computer speakers – our last speakers were pinched from the hall!

I have 5 tickets for the Chrism Mass in Salford Cathedral on Maundy Thursday at 10.30am. Would anyone like to attend?

A full list of Holy week ceremonies will published next week but Easter Masses are: Clitheroe Easter Vigil and Mass at 8pm Saturday (not 9pm as last year) with Easter morning Masses at 9.30am and in Sabden at 11am.

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 in Lent (C) - 17th March 2013

St Michael & St John's Church, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday

Mass at 9.15am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Friday

Eucharistic Service 9am
Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

Saturday (23rd March)

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

Eric Whitehead, Martin Peel, Aileen Pinkard, Brian Carr, Poppy Teare

SICK

Sally Hickling, Maria Middleton,

LATELY DEAD

Martin Peel, Poppy Teare

ANNIVERSARIES

Eric Whitehead, Aileen Pinkard, Brian Carr, Betty Morton

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £786.85 Sabden £115.45 Many thanks
DAY OF RENEWAL 'Faith & Unity' with Barbara Mason at St Clare's, Preston on Saturday 6th April - see poster in porch

CARITAS Justice and Peace Association (Salford Diocese) will be holding an event in celebration of Archbishop Romero's life - Faith Centre, Burnley Sat 23 March.

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE A Catholic Conference for all ages 7/8/9 June at Hope University Liverpool. Speakers include Lord David Alton. Please see poster in porch

JESUITS & FRIENDS Spring edition now available FREE from porch

ARDEN YOUTH CHOIR are appearing at St Mary's Centre, (Clitheroe) next Sat 23 March at 7.30pm. Tickets £8, concessions £7. tel: 01200 425522

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTIONS St Joseph's Church, Blackburn on Sunday 7th April starting at 2pm. See poster in porch for more details.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES for 2013/2014 are now available for you to collect from Clitheroe (on the table near to the entrance to sacristy) and Sabden

Home Pascal Candles are available this year. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to order one. They are £10 including the stand.

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

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

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 Next Saturday 23rd March in our Parish Hall at 11am 'The Castlegate project for young adults' with Jull Ivison & Ruth Harlane (Tea/Coffee served at 10.30am) subject - Lenten talks also at Stonyhurst to which we are all welcome - see flyers in porch

YEAR OF FAITH Year of Faith group meets at 8pm after Mass on Thursday

SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS Our Primary School are collecting Sainsbury's vouchers. Hand into school or pop in the Parish Communications box in porch

EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK a remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is being compiled and will be placed at the back of church. We are asking for a donation of £3 for a lily, which will decorate the church at Easter time. Jane Brown (Saturday) and Teresa Mercer (Sunday) will be collecting money after mass on the table in front of the War Memorial

DEFIBRILLATOR Anyone wanting to donate to the Degribillator (Heart Start Machine) may do so by putting money in an envelope and popping in the collection. Please mark envelope 'Defibrillator'

PETER HARDWICK The Guardian newspaper ran an obituary, written by Mark Thompson (former Director General of BBC and Stonyhurst pupil) on Peter Hardwick. You can find a copy of it in the church porch

ROTAS NEXT WK	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Bentley	C.Riley/Volunteer
Reader	C.Astin	P.Sutcliffe
Eucharistic Ministers	B.Worden & H.Addy	E.Thomson, P.Sutcliffe, I.Parkes
Tea & Coffee		C.James/M.Tomlinson/A.Pritchard

CLITHEROE & DISTRICT BIBLE SOCIETY Our next Action Group meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 18th April 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church. All interested are welcome to attend. Would anyone like to represent St Michael & John's

WANTED Ribblesdale School is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to help a young Polish boy with his English. The role is for school hours only but other than that days and hours are fully flexible to fit in with volunteer/s. Teaching experience not necessary

BAPTISM We welcome Isaac James Clarke, and Theo Jacob Grimshaw who were baptised last Sunday

S.V.P. The quarterly collection last weekend amounted to £385.54 Many thanks

LADIES GROUP MEETING Wednesday 27th March 7.30pm. A talk by Margaret Curry - Beatrix Potter Industrial Inheritance. Please bring your money along to pay for the Arboretum trip as we have to pay for this in advance. For those who have booked the trip but who are not likely to be at the meeting then please pay by March 29th.

TEA DANCE NEXT Wednesday 20th March in our Parish Hall 2pm - 5pm. Come along and enjoy a delicious tea - still only £3.50

*A mobile phone was found in church on Friday evening
- please claim from the lost property drawer in the sacristy*

SABDEN

BONUS BALL 18 Grimshaw family

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL collect batteries and Nestle cereal tokens. Please hand in at school or in the container in porch. They are also collecting Sainsbury's vouchers

BINGO this coming Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Hall. Admission £5 inc book of tickets & refreshments. Donations of prizes gratefully accepted.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ST GEORGE'S DAY Celebration in memory of Raymond who would have been 80 on 20th April. Details to follow. **ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES DAY** Sat 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. If anyone has any prizes to donate for the events please contact Margaret or Jean

RED BOXES (APF MISSIONS) Please bring next time you come to church, making sure your name and address is written on the label on the box. We are in need of someone to take over from Jane Davies who is the contact for the Red Boxes - there is no house to house collection or having to go to the bank, just counting the money from the boxes. Please ring Jane on 01282 680013

STATIONS OF THE CROSS a group from St Mary's, Sabden will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Friday 22nd in St Michael & St John's and would appreciate your support.