

Dear Parishioners

Christians are currently the most vulnerable minority on earth and massive outside intervention will be needed to stem the rising tide of persecution against them. This is the view of John Allen, a highly regarded American journalist, whose new book, "The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution" has just been published.

He provides vetted statistics: an average of 100,000 Christians have been killed in a 'situation of witness' each year for the past decade. That works out at 11 Christians killed somewhere in the world every hour.

Allen undertakes a thorough analysis of persecuted Christians, debunking the myths surrounding the violence. One of the myths is that anti-Christian persecution is by Islam. The most anti-Christian pogrom in recent history, he writes, happened not in the Islamic world but in the Indian state of Orissa, in 2008.

"That said, if you want to look at those places on the map where Christians are arguably most at risk today, it does tend to be in the Middle East," he says. He points out that Iraq had 1.5 million to 2 million Christians in 1990, but today they number between 250,000 and 400,000. "This is a church with two millennia of history which has basically been gutted in the last two decades." Now Christian leaders in Syria and Egypt fear they will be the next Iraqis!

Part of the reason for persecution, he believes, is the rapid rise of the Christian population across the world. In 1900, Catholics numbered 244 million; now the figure is 1.1 billion. One-third of the world population is now Christian and most of the expansion has occurred in the developing world where Christians are not always a welcome minority.

He also says Christians tend to be caught in the firing line because they don't fire back; there's no "analogous phenomenon" of Christian extremism in the mould of Islamists or Hindu extremists willing to do violence to their enemies. "Christians are soft targets. They also suffer from the mistaken tendency to associate Christianity with the largely post-Christian West.

While working on the project, one question kept popping into Allen's mind: "Why is this story not being told?" The fact is that it is simply ignored by the Western media.

Finally, John Allen welcomed Pope Francis' recent words in which he reminds us of the suffering of fellow Christians, requesting prayer for those who are being persecuted and reminding us that we are members of one family.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

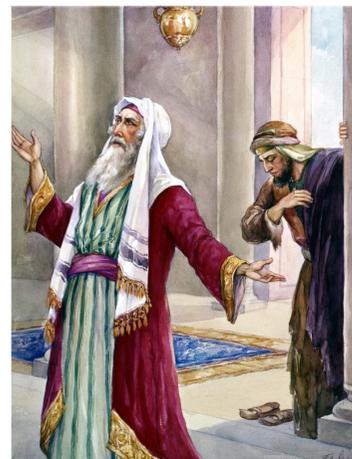
Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

30th Sunday in Ordinary time - 27th October 2013

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee

Monday

Mass at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

Friday - All Saints

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass at 9.15am & 7.30pm

Saturday (2nd November) All Souls

Reconciliation (Confession) 11am - 11.45am Exposition 11am - 11.55am

Rosary 11.30am **Mass at 12noon**

First Mass of Sunday 6pm

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am followed by coffee **Friday - All Saints** - Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Jacqueline Cowell, Eric Cowell, Special Intention x 2, Alice Parkinson x 2, Joy Connors

SICK

Sally Hickling, Teresa Tomlinson, Peter Wright, Trevor Wilson,
Anthony Cornwell, Mary & Pat Shepherd

ANNIVERSARIES

Jacqueline Cowell, Eric Cowell, Alice Parkinson, Joseph Morton

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £708.94 Sabden £174.60 S/Orders £201 Many thanks
MISSIO Clitheroe £350.87 Sabden £62.79

R.C.I.A. The R.C.I.A. programme continues on Thursdays at 8pm after 7.30pm Mass in the presbytery. Sessions will last for one hour only. It caters for those who wish to learn more about their faith, for those thinking of joining the Church and for any who are simply interested. It will be run by both Fr John and Fr Frankie.

H.C.P.T Anyone with any sponsorship money still to hand over please place it on the collection plate in an envelope clearly marked with your name and for the attention of Arnold Marsden. Thankyou

LADIES GROUP The next meeting will be Wednesday 30th October at 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. Norman Harris will talk on trekking in the High Andes entitled 'Machu Picchu the Hard Way'. This is an open meeting - everyone, male or female welcome. Would those who have still to pay for the BBC Media City trip please bring their money along to this meeting.

CAFOD The parish CAFOD group will be running a stall at the Flea Market in Hurst Green Memorial Hall THIS Sunday 27th Oct 9am - 4pm. Refreshments available all day. See if you can find a bargain or two!

CARITAS vacancy for Admin Officer - see poster

CLITHEROE

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

PARISH DRAW Agents are still in the process of collecting names for the Draw. If you have not been in the draw in previous years, here is a little more about it. It costs £10 and you are given an individual number which is yours for the year. A draw takes place each month, and first prize is £100, the second £25 and there are 5 prizes of £10. Still time to join before next weekend - Janet will be collecting money after mass today (Sunday). **Please note the**

first draw will now take place this coming week and winners names published in next weeks newsletter

THANKYOU Francesca & Antonia Bird would like to thank those of you who bought cakes last Sunday - they raised £57 towards an electric wheelchair for a local boy.

S.V.P. ADVANCE NOTICE There will be an appeal for new members at all masses at the weekend 2nd/3rd November

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Christmas Fayre Saturday 30th November in our Parish Hall 11.30am - 1.30pm. Sorry wrong date published last week.

K.S.C. DANCE
with
JOHN LANCASTER
(Modern Sequence & Ballroom)
on **SATURDAY**
9TH NOVEMBER
at 7.30pm
St Michael & St John's
Parish Hall, Lowergate



Tickets £6 inc
Hot Supper

Rota 2/3 Nov	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Valovin	B.Barker/K.Peel
Readers	F.Bird	J.Smith
Euch Min	A.Harkin & F.Ellis	G.Lambert, P.Donnely, A.Marsden
Tea & Coffee		Embery family

Please note: the rota above does not take into account any changes made by individuals

CASTLEGATE PROJECT A year ago under the umbrella of Clitheroe Christians in Partnership a house was opened for homeless and vulnerable teenagers in Clitheroe. We are now looking for volunteers to befriend and support the residents and also anyone who can help with maintenance and minor repairs. For information please email castlegate.clitheroe@gmail.com or tel 07746 592700

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 15 S.Brown

CHRISTMAS FAYRE will be on 7th December - yes it's that time again. We are having a really grand Grand Draw with 2 splendid prizes. Again we are asking for your support. There is a list in the porch with suggested items for the draw. If you feel you can donate please put your name next to it. If there is something else you would rather donate just add it on the end. We are also looking for pledges towards the two major prizes - an iPad mini and a Kindle Fire. We need donations of items to sell - after Mass please collect a plastic bag for any donations you may have. There will be a teddy tombola so any decent teddies for this. Monica is collecting toys and we need items for the main tombola. Christmas wreaths are again available, at the knock down price of £6. Please make your order on the list in the porch. Raffle tickets now available after Mass £5 per book - please take - buy some, sell some. Fabulous prizes. Please get involved.

APF RED MISSION BOXES still a few to come in - please leave full box in porch and take away an empty one. Thanks Boxes emptied so far £31.06

VARIETY CONCERT

An Autumn Concert is being presented by the 50 Something Theatre Company in St Mary's Hall Sabden, on Thursday November 14th at 7.15pm. There will be songs from the musicals such as 'Climb Every Mountain', 'The Sound of Music', to 'Oh what a Beautiful Morning' from 'Oklahoma' and 'I'm Gonna Wash that Man' from South Pacific and numbers from 'Singin in the Rain'. There will also be popular songs such as 'Love Changes Everything' and lots more, even a Christmas medley, poems and sketches. Admission is £6 on the door including supper, or tickets from here at St Mary's or Janet at St Michael & St John's.

Your support would be very much appreciated