

## Dear Parishioners

Last March a priest who was little known outside his own country was propelled onto the world stage (we would say by the Holy Spirit) when Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope and chose the name of the humble saint of Assisi, Francis. Now, within nine months he has been selected Time magazine's *Man of the Year*.

At 77 years of age Pope Francis is moving with haste and some in the church fear the changes that he will bring but these fears are groundless. Pope Francis has recently written a letter (technically called an Apostolic Exhortation) to encourage the whole church to seriously take on board the fact that Christ founded the Church primarily to continue his mission to the whole world. In this he writes; "today's vast and rapid cultural changes demand that we constantly seek ways of expressing unchanging truths in a language which brings out their abiding newness." and quotes Pope John XXIII: "The deposit of faith is one thing... the way it is expressed is another."

So, I predict many changes to come to make the Church more fit for the purpose of effectively preaching the message of Jesus Christ and I guarantee no change in our fundamental beliefs.

The Catholic Church is the largest provider of charitable services in the world and most of that charity is generated at parish level. The St Vincent de Paul Society's work of reaching out to those in need, Catholic and non-Catholic, was highlighted recently and a heartening number of volunteers has joined. The work of our parish ladies groups is also well known.

So, here let's say it for the men, members of the Knights of St Columba. They are a great help to me as I call on them when heavy work is needed and often in emergency situations. Not least they maintain our cemetery – let's not forget that caring for and respecting the dead is one of the corporal works of mercy! In addition this year they have raised £2,183 in support of a number of charities. The most recent four year venture is a £500 annual donation to the cost of training a priest for India, of which I shall be writing more at a later date. In common with all parish organisations the men would welcome new members.

How is your Advent going? During this period of spiritual preparation for Christmas, do remember the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this Saturday and on Christmas Eve.

*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

## Third Sunday of Advent - 15th December 2013

### St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by coffee

#### Monday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

#### Tuesday

Mass at 9am

11am Funeral Service Mr McDonald

#### Thursday

Requiem Mass 10.30am Pat Pozzi

Mass at 7.30pm

#### Friday

Mass at 9am

#### Saturday (21st December)

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

Rosary 11.30am Eucharistic Service 12noon First Mass of Sunday 6pm

### St Mary's Church, Sabden

**Sunday** - Mass at 11am followed by coffee

**Wednesday** - Requiem Mass 12.45pm Moira Walker **Friday** - Mass at 9.15am

#### MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

James Reid, Carol Turner x 4, Denis Schofield, Special intention, Frances Whittaker, James & Mary Redhead, Neil McInnes, Keith Ambrose, James Hindle, Pat Pozzi

#### SICK

Sally Hickling, Teresa Tomlinson, Peter Wright, Nigel Winnard, Mary & Pat Shepherd, Bob Morrison

#### LATELY DEAD

Moira Walker, Pat Pozzi, John McDonald, Neil McInnes, Keith Ambrose

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Denis Schofield, Frances Whittaker, James Hindle

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £686.89 Sabden £176.92 S/Orders £201 Many thanks

**S.V.P.** Another £30 received

**R.C.I.A.**

No RCIA this coming Thursday. Meetings resume Thursday 2nd January

**APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER** leaflets for December now available from porch

**JESUITS & FRIENDS** magazine now available FREE from porch

**2014 DIARIES** are now on sale from the back of church at both Clitheroe & Sabden the cost is 50p Please put money in C.T.S. box

**CLITHEROE**

**JESUIT MISSION QUARTERLY COLLECTION** amounted to £149.36 many thanks

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

**LADIES GROUP** Our new programme of events for 2014 is now available from the back of church.

**LADIES GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER** This year we are holding this event at Waddow Hall on Friday 17th January. Cost £21 all inclusive.

Menu's are available from the back of church (printed on bright yellow paper). Please let either Daphne 01200 427912 or Janet 01200 423307 have your menu choice and money S.A.P.

**K.S.C. FUN NIGHT - FAMILY QUIZ** will be on Friday 27th December 7.30pm start.

**Hot supper, but we need to know the numbers please for ordering suppers.** Please let Les Collinson 427029 or Arnold Marsden 427096 if you wish to come along. The H.C.P.T. cheque will be presented at this event.

**ROTAS** new rotas for January/February & March should be emailed this coming week for those of you with no email they will be available from church NEXT weekend.

**CAROLS & CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

NEXT Thursday 19th December in our Parish Centre with live music from Slaidburn Silver Band & Music Group



All welcome for Mince Pies & mulled wine. Doors open 7pm

Rota Dec 21/22	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Valovin	R & C Conti
Readers	V.Murray	K.Downes
Euch Min	B.Worden & M.Preedly	E.Thomson, I.Parkes, P.Donnely
Tea/Coffee		L & B Collinson

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** Christmas Cards are now available for delivery they can be found on the table near the sacristy door. They have been batched up in areas of Clitheroe. Thankyou to all of you who have offered help - just take

**ADVENT LUNCH** at The United Reformed Church this coming Tuesday 17th December at 12.30pm

**JOY TO THE WORLD** Christmas Concert at Trinity Methodist Church TONIGHT Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm. All the Churches in Clitheroe will be involved. Admission free but a retiring collection will be taken for Christian Aid. See poster in porch

**LADIES GROUP FUND RAISING EVENT** on Friday 24th January 2014 in our Parish Hall - Jimmy Cricket and Jim Nicholas - £7.50 inc light refreshments. Proceeds from this event will go to Mary's Meals. Tickets will be on sale and more information for this event in the New Year. Don't forget to put this date in your diary!!

**MORE ITEMS FOR SALE** - Diaries, Address books, Children's books, Ornaments etc at back of church plus a few Christmas Cards, all of which are extremely good value for money. Please put money in C.T.S. Box

**CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE** NEXT Wednesday 18th December in our Parish Hall. Admission £6.50 including Buffet tea and glass of wine. Please see Daphne for tickets 01200 427912

**BAPTISMS** We welcome Theo Whalley and George Andrew and Rosa Teresa Heyes who were baptised recently.

**SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner No 25 J.Sharp

**THANKYOU** to everyone who made the Christmas fair such a great success, all who helped and all who came and bought. The total raised was £2061.17.

**GRAND DRAW** the top 4 prizes are all claimed. There is a list of all unclaimed raffle prizes in the porch - please check your tickets.

**ADVENT SERVICES** the last of these takes place next Tuesday in church at 7.30pm. The theme will be the journey into Bethlehem and will include readings, poems and carols. Please join us for a joyful celebration.

**BIBLE TALK** on Wednesday of this coming week at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church. There will be a bible talk on John the Baptist. One of our priests will lead this. Please come along and give them your support.

PARISH CENTRE



**NEW YEARS EVE**

The doors will be open from 8pm in the Hall only. (The Top Room will be closed.)

Disco with DJ

Table top Quiz with prizes

Bacon Butties after midnight

**Everyone Welcome**