

## Dear Parishioners

This Lent I invite you to celebrate God's mercy – the richness and vastness of His love for each and every one of us. And to give you the opportunity of coming to know that love and mercy in an even deeper way we have invited the ex-gangster and internationally acclaimed speaker John Pridmore to share his amazing story at Masses on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March

John grew up in the east end of London and following his parents' divorce he left home at 15. After a period of crime he ended up in a young offender's prison. By his 20's he was a violent East End gangster. Drug dealing and protection rackets brought him a classic gangster lifestyle of flash money, women, sports cars, designer clothes and a penthouse flat. Then one night outside a nightclub, he nearly killed a man and something extraordinary happened. He underwent a profound conversion experience and left his life of crime behind to work with people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta. He now lives in Ireland and over the past 14 years has spoken to over two million young people worldwide in prisons, universities and schools. At the World Youth Day in Sydney 400,000 young people listened to his story of conversion. His autobiography *From Gangland to Promised Land* is an international best-seller and recently he met producers in Los Angeles who are interested in turning it into a film. His third and latest book *Journey to Freedom* was published at the beginning of this year.

John's life witnesses to the love and mercy of God. If you haven't experienced this love and mercy for yourself or need reminding of it, then this Lent please listen to Pope Francis' invitation: "Ask yourself: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus will be there, and Jesus is better than the priest - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession. Don't be afraid of confession. When someone is in line for confession they feel uneasy or worry - all these things, even shame - but then, when they have finished confessing, they leave feeling free, great, beautiful, forgiven, clean, happy. The sacrament of reconciliation is a sacrament of healing. When I go to confession, it's for healing: healing the soul, healing the heart because of something that I did to make it unwell."

To invite as many Catholics as possible (practising or not) to hear and meet John we need your help to post leaflets advertising the weekend through the letterboxes of addresses on the parish database – as you do with cards at Christmas. Will you help?

*Fr Frankie*

## 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

## 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 2 March 2014

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday, Tuesday

Mass at 9am

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass and distribution of Ashes

Clitheroe: 9.15am & 7.30pm

Sabden: 11am

*Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence*

#### Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

#### Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am Women's World Day of Prayer 7.30pm

#### Saturday 8th March

11am – 11.55am Exposition

11am – 11.45am Reconciliation

12noon – Eucharistic Service 6pm First Mass of Sunday

### St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday - Mass at 11am Friday - Mass at 9.15am

Friday - Women's World Day of Prayer 2pm

#### MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Fr Birmingham, Alan Peeks x 2, Kathleen Wilson, Geraldine Oultram, Fr Martin Houghs

#### SICK

Sally Hickling, Peter Wright, Pat Shepherd, Fr Peter Birmingham, Kathleen Wilson, Geraldine Oultram

#### LATELY DEAD

Mary Preedy, Paul Harper

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Luke Makinson, Hugh Hutchinson, Martin Peel

**LENT** Himself has the back page, but Lent begins on Wednesday, so two suggestions to make this Lent a time of spiritual growth. As you probably know Pope Francis has written an important letter to the church called *Evangelii Gaudium*, *The Joy of the Gospel*, that provides a roadmap for this papacy. Lent offers an opportunity to reflect on this document.

Beginning a week on Wednesday, 12th March at 7.30pm and for the following five Wednesdays in the hall, there is a presentation of the letter's major themes with a short video and discussion, organised by Elsie and led by Fr Frankie. Do make an effort to attend at least some of these sessions.

A Lenten Journey of Prayer, Walk with me, that daily provides a short quotation from Pope Francis' letter a Scripture quotation, reflection and a prayer is available at the back, it costs £1.

This year the Deanery is introducing Lenten Station Masses. Full details on notice board. Do try and attend at least the nearest Mass at St Mary's Langho.

The first of this years Lent talks will be on Saturday 15th March in our Parish Hall. 'The church at the crossroads' with Dr Robert Pierce, a Christian GP who examines the health of the church from a personal perspective. The talk commences at 11am and concludes at 12noon. Coffee will be served from 10.30am. See poster in porch for full programme. Fr John

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £700.75 Sabden £201.06 S/Orders £194 Many thanks

**WANTED** The Salvation Army in Clitheroe now run a G62Club which is helping the jobless fill in online applications and other matters. They are appealing for any redundant laptops in any condition working or not - they do not need to be 'good'. Please ring Elizabeth 07709 351394 or Brenda 07709 352383 if you can help. There are currently more people needing help than there are computer places. They have received 3

**TECHIE HEAVEN** Relaxed technology for young people aged 11-17 with opportunities for hands on IT activities on Fridays in term time 7pm - 9pm at St Mary's Centre (entrance off York Street) [www.techieheaven.co.uk](http://www.techieheaven.co.uk) See poster in porch

**DAY OF RENEWAL** 'Mary and Reconciliation on Saturday 15 March at St Clare's, Fulwood, Preston. See poster in porch

**WANTED - CLEANER** for our Parish Centre (Clitheroe) as soon as possible, to work Sunday mornings from 7am for 4 hours. Must be trustworthy, honest and reliable. This position involves moving chairs and tables about, so the applicant needs to be fairly fit and healthy. More details please contact Theresa 01200 423073

**OAKHILL COLLEGE** Open evening Tuesday 4th March 6pm - 8pm. See poster in porch

**CHARITY FASHION SHOW** Friday 21st March in the Parish Centre. In memory of Martin Peel we are raising funds for Great North Air Ambulance and Cocker mouth Mountain Rescue, both of which services help many of us in this area. We will be showcasing Work Wear, Casual Wear, Party Night, Prom Night and Wonderful Weddings. Tickets are £5 and available from the shop, Mint on York Street, Clitheroe or contact GERALYN 07919 151418

**TRIP TO CHESTER** Wednesday April 9th - open to anyone. Leaves Clitheroe Interchange 8.45am, getting back around 5.30pm - 6pm. On the same trip we will be stopping off at the Gemini Retail Park (Ikea and the large Marks and Spencer). Names being taken now. The cost is only £10, which includes the coach drivers tip!. In the next few weeks we will issue a brochure listing all our planned trips for the rest of 2014, including our Christmas outing, which this year is to Chatsworth House in December (book early to avoid disappointment). Names to Daphne 01200 427912 or Janet 01200 423307 ext 3

**PRO-LIFE MEETING** in St Michael & St John's presbytery at 6.45pm Tuesday 11th March. Anyone interested in Pro-Life please come along.

**CAFOD FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** continues till March 9th - look out for the Logo - what is in your basket?

### **CLITHEROE**

*The Society of St Vincent de Paul will be taking its quarterly collection after Masses on Saturday 8th March and Sunday 9th March. Please give generously*

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

**BOOKSTALL** Our Ladies Group are having a bookstall at their March meeting on 26th March and on the following two Sundays in our Parish Hall after morning Mass. If you would like to donate any books they can be left at the presbytery.

Rota 8/9 March	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Illingworth	B.Parkinson & M.Maffia
Readers	C.Moxham	G.Lambert
Euch Min	A.Harkin & H.Addy	P.Sutcliffe, A.Marsden, T.Mercer
Tea/Coffee		P.Byrne & Family

**PARISH DRAW WINNERS - FEBRUARY** £100 - 247 J.Thornber, £25 132 B.Mercer, £10 277 A.M.Williams, 35 J.Byrne, 40 C.Astin, 157 M.Bradley, 32 B.Worden

**FOOD BANK** At a recent CCP meeting it was proposed that we pay the Foodbank manager, who currently works a great many hours per week voluntarily. If anyone would like to support the Foodbank in this way then please take one of the donation forms from the back of the church.

**WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** This year is NEXT Friday March 7th here in St Michael & St John's at 7.30pm. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Egypt. Everyone welcome, including young people, but not suitable for children. All the Christian Churches in Clitheroe will take part in the service.

**SAINSBURYS ACTIVE VOUCHERS** Our Primary School are once again collecting these vouchers, and would be grateful for your donations. Please drop in the Parish Communications Box in the church porch or pop them into school. Many thanks

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** First Stations will be on Friday 14th March led by the Uniformed groups (cubs) at 7.30pm. See porch for details

### **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner No 33 The Turner family

**FUND RAISING** There will be a meeting this coming Tuesday 4th March at 7.30pm for fundraising and other events. Please come and pool your ideas.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** - Tuesday 15th April 7.30pm in the Hall, a meeting in which Mgr Corcoran will discuss the issues surrounding the weekly celebration of the school Mass. The meeting is for all Sabden's Catholic Community.

**WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be hosted by St Mary's this year - Friday 7th March at 2pm. This is prepared by the women of Egypt and promises to be a colourful interesting service. Tea and cakes will be served in the hall afterwards.

**STATIONS IN LENT** There will be Stations each Tuesday in Lent at 7.30pm. This is a good opportunity to prepare for Easter.