

*Dear Parishioners, The following is an abbreviated extract from a recent homily of Pope Francis*

Through the Sacraments of Christian initiation -- Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist - we receive new life in Christ. Now we have this life "in earthen vessels", we are still subject to temptation, to suffering, to death and, because of sin, we can even lose this new life. This is why the Lord Jesus wished His Church to continue His work of salvation, in particular with the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* and that of the *Anointing of the Sick*, which can be united under the name of "Sacraments of Healing". In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, when I go to confess, it is to heal myself, to heal my soul and to heal my heart. The biblical icon that expresses best their profound bond is the episode of the forgiveness and healing of the paralytic, where the Lord Jesus reveals himself at the same time as doctor of souls and of bodies.

At Easter the Lord appeared to the disciples and after greeting them, "Peace be with you," he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven". This passage reveals to us the most profound dynamic that is contained in this Sacrament. First of all, the fact is that the forgiveness of our sins is not something that we can give ourselves. I cannot say: I forgive my sins. Forgiveness is asked, it is asked of another and in Confession we ask for forgiveness from Jesus. Forgiveness is a gift of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with the purification of mercy and grace which flows incessantly from the wide open heart of Christ crucified and risen. In the second place, it reminds us that only if we allow ourselves to be reconciled in the Lord Jesus can we really be in peace. *Pope Francis then explained that Reconciliation is a communal exercise because the Holy Spirit works within the community and also because sin has a social dimension, it destroys trust and relationships.* "One may say: I only confess with God. Yes, you can say to God "forgive me" and say your sins, but our sins are also against others and the community of the Church. For this it is necessary to ask forgiveness from the community in the person of the priest. "But Father, I am ashamed...." Well, even shame does us well, because it makes us more humble, and when Confession is ended, one feels free, great, beautiful. When was the last time that I confessed? If a long time has passed, don't miss another day, go. Jesus is there, and he receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession! Dear friends, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to be wrapped in a warm embrace: it is the embrace of the infinite mercy of the Father.

*Fr John*

## *Parish of Our Lady of the Valley*

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

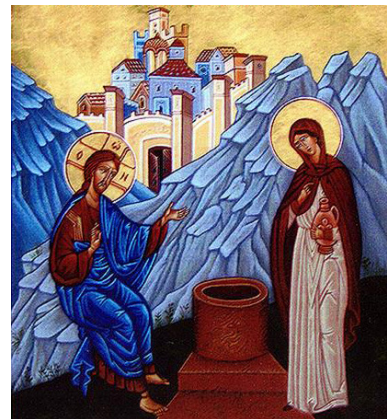
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Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

## Third Sunday of Lent - 23 March 2014 *St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe*



### **Sunday**

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

### **Monday**

Mass at 9am

### **Tuesday**

Mass at 9am

Reconciliation 7.30pm - 8.30pm

### **Wednesday**

Mass at 9am

Reconciliation 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Lenten Station Mass at St Alban's, Blackburn 7.30pm

### **Thursday**

Mass at 9.15am

7.30pm Mass for Deceased members of S.V.P

### **Friday**

Mass at 9am

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday (29th 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 **Monday** - Reconciliation 7.30pm - 8.30pm

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

### **MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Peter Tomlinson x 2, Betty Brown X 2, David Hallmark, Bryan Roberts, Joan Preedy, Nora Dougan, Derek Pearson, Sr Ann Moore, Special Intention, Leo Wells x 3

### **SICK**

Peter Wright, Pat Shepherd, Fr Peter Birmingham, Kathleen Wilson, Geraldine Oultram, Maria Middleton,

**LATELY DEAD** David Hallmark, Leo Wells, Sr Anne Moore  
**ANNIVERSARIES** Marion Hutchinson, Alice Wilkinson, Betty Brown, Elizabeth Long, Bryan Roberts, Joan Preedy, Nora Dougan, Derek Pearson

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £722.99 Sabden £150.84 S/Orders £194 Many thanks  
**CAFOD** The amount collected from Lent Fast Day envelopes is £583.97, plus a cheque for £10 sent direct to CAFOD. Grateful thanks for your generous sharing.

**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

**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

**S.V.P.MASS FOR THE DECEASED** The 7.30pm Mass on Thursday 27th March will remember the deceased members of the S.V.P. All parishioners are welcome. *Please note - there will be no S.V.P. meeting on Wednesday 26th.*


**FOODBANK** The foodbank warehouse currently has no fruit juice or sponge puddings, and a limited supply of dried potatoes and squash. Please could you help by donating one of these items. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated.

**LADIES GROUP** Wednesday 26th March 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. A talk will be given by Pat Osborne on the life of Winston Churchill's mother (Lady Randy). This looks like another enlightening evening. Still only £2 admission. Please note we will be having a book stall at this meeting. Donations of books will be accepted up to Tuesday lunchtime 25th March at the presbytery.




**K.S.C.DANCE**  
 Saturday 5th April at 7.30pm  
 Dancing to John Lancaster  
 £6 including Hot Supper  
 ☎427029 or 427096

**EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK**  
 A remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is being compiled. We are asking for a donation of £3 for a lily, which will decorate the Church at Easter. Money and names will be collected after Mass at the table near the greetings cards by Jane Brown 6pm Mass Saturday and Teresa Mercer after 9.30am Mass on Sunday



**'From Gangland to Promised Land'**



The ex-gangster, international speaker and author John Pridmore will speak at all masses this weekend 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> March. Please come to hear an amazing story of the power of God's mercy that has led to an international best-selling book and has been heard by over 2 million young people worldwide. John will also give a longer version of his testimony in our Parish Centre Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7pm.

**LENT TALKS** continue in our Parish Hall on Saturday mornings at 11am (Coffee/Tea & Biscuits 10.30am) Next Saturday week 'Christianity at the Crossroads' with Ruth Haldane who reports on the experience of Christian volunteers serving at the Ribble Valley Foodbank since July 2013

**PRO-LIFE DAY** On this day, during Mass at 12 noon, children who have died at an early age or before birth will be included in the special intentions. Please use the slips of paper provided on which to write the Christian name of your child, then place it in the basket provided, which is situated on the table where repository items are for sale.

**LENTEN VIDEO'S SESSION** will continue next Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm in the large meeting room in the presbytery.

**CLITHEROE**

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

*Easter Cards will be on sale from the table near to the War Memorial from next weekend. Please put money in C.T.S. box which is mounted on the wall.*

**CHRISTIAN AID** Although around seven weeks away, (11 - 17 May) we are asking for help in delivering/collecting Christian Aid envelopes again this year. If you are willing to give a hand then please contact Janet at the presbytery ☎ 423307 ext3

Rota 30/31 Mar	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Bentley	B.Barker & C.Riley
Readers	A.Harkin	P.Sutcliffe
Euch Min	F.Ellis & S.Kerr	C.Morgan, S.Smith, B.Collinson
Tea/Coffee		B.Parkinson/M.Maffia/M.Manning

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** The Ladies Group invite you to 'A Woman's Way of the Cross' next Friday evening 28th March at 7.30pm. Please come

**ROTA'S** Welcome Rota etc for April, May & June 2014 are now available for collection from the table in front of the sacristy. Those on email should have received them.

**ADVANCE NOTICE** K.S.C.Jumble Sale in our Parish Hall on Saturday 26th April. ☎ 427029 for collections

*Alice Wells and family thank the many parishioners and friends most sincerely for the mass offerings and sympathy cards received in memory of Leo*

**SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner No 8 H & C Waterworth

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** - Tuesday 15th April 8.00pm (*please note change of time*) 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.

**STATIONS IN LENT** This Tuesday 25th March the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm.

**CAKE STALL** a big thankyou to all who baked, bought and hopefully enjoyed! £84.75 was raised towards the top room improvement fund.