

Dear Parishioners

Today we celebrate; Day for Life. First, an extract from Lord David Alton's speech in the Lord's debate a week ago followed by a most remarkable story.

'How much autonomy is there in this Bill? I think that the word "assisted" in the title is the key. Who will be required to do the assisting? It will be doctors, of course, and very few want to do it. One of my sons is training to be a medic, and he tells me that he is deeply concerned about this Bill because of the proposals to change the nature of the healer and defender into the destroyer of life. That is why the British Medical Association, the Royal Colleges, the British Geriatric Society, the hospices and 95% of palliative medicine specialists oppose a change in the law. We had a reference earlier from my noble friend Lady Grey-Thompson to Professor Theo Boer from the Netherlands. He said that he now regrets that on the basis of the argument for greater autonomy and freedom he supported changes in the law there. He said: "I used to be a supporter of the Dutch law. But now, with 12 years of experience, I take a very different view." Pressure on doctors to conform to patients'—or in some cases relatives'—wishes can be intense. Professor Boer admitted he was, "wrong—terribly wrong, in fact", to have believed that regulated euthanasia would work. One reason why he has changed his mind is because of the inevitability of incrementalism. Euthanasia, he says, is, "on the way to becoming a default mode of dying for cancer patients". Since 2008, assisted deaths in Holland have increased by about 15% every year, maybe reaching a record of 6,000 a year. What of incrementalism here? The 2011 commission of the noble and learned Lord, Lord Falconer, said that assisted dying should not be offered to disabled people who are not terminally ill, "at this point in time". At what point in time will it be right to offer to end the lives of people with disabilities? How long will it be before it becomes expected? Only today the Secretary of State for Health, the right honourable Jeremy Hunt, said that changing the law would "devalue" the lives of people living with permanent disabilities.

Finally, in her autobiography *Mother Courage*, published last Friday in Portugal, Dolores Aveiro, wrote "At the time I was already 30 and had three children, and it seemed to me I couldn't face a new birth and a bigger family so I turned to a doctor who, however, refused to operate on me." Her husband was an unemployed alcoholic who later died in 2005. The doctor's reluctance and his attempts to dissuade her from an abortion did not stop her from attempting to abort her child herself. She failed. Then little by little she relented and decided to welcome her fourth child. "If it's God's will that this child be born, so be it."

On February 5, 1985 she delivered a healthy boy who grew to be one of the world's most famous footballers: Cristiano Ronaldo. 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27th July 2014

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Requiem 12 noon Bob Morrison

Mass at 7.30pm

SATURDAY (2nd August)

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 followed by Coffee Wednesday - Mass at 9.15am

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MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Mary Bithell, Betty Bolton x 2, Mark Jezierski

SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, John Lofthouse, Peter Wright

LATELY DEAD

Betty Bolton, Bob Morrison

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Bithell, Herbert Manley, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Mark Jezierski

Retiring collection at all masses this weekend for Day for Life

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £1060.90 Sabden £162.20 S/Orders £194 Many thanks

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA Clitheroe £275.12 Sabden £102.64

LADIES GROUP Next meeting this Wednesday 30th July Margaret Curry will give a talk 'Beatrix Potter - her Industrial Heritage'. Admission £2 inc Tea & Biscuits. At this meeting we will present a £600 cheque to Gary from Maundy Grange, who will explain more about the need for this facility. We will also be taking names for our annual **TREASURE HUNT** on Wednesday 27th August to Skipton - including supper - £16 approx and for our next coach trip to **LITTLE MORETON HALL/STOKE ON TRENT** on Wednesday 22nd October - cost £20 or £13 (National Trust member). Includes guided tour of the hall & tip for the driver. Please give your names to either Daphne or Janet

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL Next Thurs 31st July - Gaynor Sutcliffe and band - Western Valley Hotclub - at St Michael & St Johns Social Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets - Geraldine Hennigan 425504 or Heather Whittaker 429112. **PUDDING FEST** (Food Festival) August 9th at St Mary Magdalene's - we need help on the day and with donations of puddings.

WALSINGHAM Members of the Blackburn Branch of the Walsingham Association will be visiting our parish to join us for the Vigil Mass of the Assumption Thursday 14th Aug 7.30pm. Light refreshments afterwards in the presbytery. The Branch's annual pilgrimage in 2015 will take place May 19th - 21st. Cost from £150 per person for Standard room. Non-returnable deposit £50. Bookings will be taken on the night or ring Vincent 01254 209101. .

RIBBLE VALLEY FOODBANK July 8th was the first anniversary of the opening of the Foodbank. In the last year we have fed 1,350 people, received over 21 tons of food and given out over 38,000 items of food. Many local people have been involved in giving time, food and finance, referring clients and praying for foodbank. We have met clients in many different circumstances and had the opportunity to show God's love to everyone who comes to the centres. Thank you again for your generous donations of food, there is a need. Our SVP have referral vouchers if you know of anyone who needs this support and is not getting it. All referrals are confidential. Please continue giving and praying for this important work.

CATENIAN ROSARY GROUP are appealing for Rosary beads. We send Rosaries to Aborigines in Australia and to Third World countries in Africa and the Pacific To date we have sent 100,000 rosaries but many more are needed. Please either send any rosaries to John Riley, 112 Lonsdale Rd, Bolton or hand them in at the presbytery. Thankyou

MILK BOTTLE TOPS Thank you to everyone who brought in bottle tops for a child's wheelchair. We do not require any more - appeal now closed.

SEMINARIAN APPEAL The 'Coffee & Cupcakes', support a seminarian morning was a runaway success. Tom and Kathryn would like to thank all the wonderful guests who attended the event, bought tickets and raffle tickets. Everyone had a fabulous time, meeting new friends, whilst enjoying the delicious cakes and pavlovas. A terrific £170.66 was raised toward the Parish total. GREAT! Who will now run the next Coffee Morning to raise money towards our target of £500?

FEED A FRIEND as part of the Foot Festival on Sat 9th August, the ecumenical group including Cafod, Christian Aid and CCP reps who organised the Feed a Friend Conference in May will be erecting a gazebo outside The United Reformed Church. We have tasteful leaflets highlighting the quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, but aimed not to spoil the fun of the festival. We need people to hand out the leaflets and man the stall throughout the day. If you are willing to help please pop your name on the lists that you will find at the back of church.

DONATION We have received an anonymous donation in an envelope marked 'Money for the Missionary', but no more details. We need to know exactly who the donation is for. Could you please let Fr John know. Thankyou

S.V.P. There will be no SVP meeting this coming Tuesday 29th July. Next meeting is on Tuesday 5th August.

CLITHEROE FOOD FESTIVAL Volunteers needed for this years Food Festival on Sat 9th August - a free t-shirt and a lunch voucher for your time. This can also be a fantastic opportunity to boost a CV. Contact Rachel.Wilkinson@ribblevalley.gov.uk to volunteer or request further information or see poster in porch

TABOR September - December programmes available from porch

CLITHEROE

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

August 2nd/3rd	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Bentley	D.Marsden/J.Byrne
Readers	A.McGuire	M.Donnely
Eucharistic Ministers	A.Southworth, B.Taylor	J.Hall, S.Hall, R.Embery
Tea & Coffee		Sims Family

JIM BOWEN will be appearing in our Parish Centre on the afternoon of Thursday 14th August starting at 2pm. Licensed Bar. Tickets from Centre £4. See poster in porch

WANTED a cleaner for the Scout Hut. This is a weekly job and we are willing to pay a small amount. Please contact Julia 01200 538793 or 07925 699578.

AUTUMN FAIR - At a recent Parish Forum it was agreed to have an **Autumn Fayre on Saturday 18th October**. There will be a variety of stalls - Jewellery, Cakes, Preserves, Chutney, Woodcrafts, Paintings, Plants, Flowers, sweets, Craft items e.g. Knitted goods, Chocolates or any NEW unwanted gifts you may have. We are also hoping to have a **GIANT RAFFLE** and would appreciate offers to Sponsor (or partially sponsor) a significant 1st Prize or offers of other prizes. Please complete one of the forms you will find at the back of church for you to complete with your offer of a prize and then place it in the box provided. We need to start selling tickets mid August Please contact Janet or Carol if you have any questions regarding this. with your offers as soon as possible

UNWANTED BATTERIES Please note: it would help if you put used batteries 'loose' into the Parish Communications box - sometimes they come in round empty vitamin pill containers - from which the batteries are difficult to take out. Thankyou Also please note: we do not take 'hearing aid' batteries

BAPTISM We welcome Isaak George Vincent Mulhearn and Jacob Christopher McGrath who were baptised last Sunday.

PARISH DRAW WINNERS £100 - 92 M.Plant, £25 - 259 A.Wells, £10 - 141 S.Webb, 253 J.Trattles, 197 G.Hennigan, 36 A.Southworth, 214 C.Leeming. Please collect your winnings from your agent.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 40 The Brown Family

ST MARY'S HALL The new social committee has a line-up of events planned. First up a **Family Quiz and Fun Night** with music/disco on Friday September 19th at 7pm. Adults £5 children 50p. Supper inc but bring your own drinks. Friday October 24th sees a **Family Games Night** from 7pm. Free entry, just 50p to take part in each game i.e. pool, darts etc. Friday November 14th **Motown Night** from 8pm with bar. Admission £5. Saturday 6th December **Christmas Fair**. Friday December 12th **Christmas Concert** featuring soprano Grace O'Malley and other artistes. Sunday December 14th **Christmas Market** from 3pm. We need lots of raffle and tombola prizes for these events. If you can help please drop them off in the church porch. Thankyou