

Dear Parishioners,

On 3rd September 1914, following the outbreak of World War One, Benedict XV was elected pope. He immediately embarked on a number of projects to stop the war that he condemned as "the suicide of civilized Europe."

In November 1914, Benedict published the first of his 12 encyclical letters. The greatest and wealthiest nations, he wrote, were "well-provided with the most awful weapons modern military science has devised." He went on: "There is no limit to the measure of ruin and of slaughter as day by day the earth is drenched with newly shed blood and is covered with the bodies of the wounded and the slain." He reminded all of Christ's words, "A new commandment I give you: that you love one another."

On December 7th 1914 Benedict pleaded with all sides to hold a Christmas truce, asking "that the guns fall silent at least upon the night the angels sang," to allow for negotiations for an honourable peace. His plea was ignored, but there were informal truces along parts of the Western front.

Benedict also believed in action. He opened a Vatican office to reunite prisoners of war with their families and he tried to persuade neutral Switzerland to take in any combatants who were suffering from tuberculosis. While the Vatican's bank balance was not healthy, he spent 82 million lire on relief work.

In July 1915, Benedict published a letter "To the Peoples Now at War and to Their Rulers." The diplomacy that followed culminated two years later in a seven-point plan, or a peace note, as it was modestly termed. The peace note contained many of the suggestions of the 1915 letter, proposing a cessation of hostilities, a reduction of armaments, a guaranteed freedom of the seas, international arbitration, and Belgium restored to a guaranteed independence. All sides should forgo claims of compensation (the ignoring of which was to prove so disastrous a part of the Versailles Treaty that led to WWII). Only Britain did not oppose the note outright and was willing to explore the possibilities. Germany's initial interest was lost when the collapse of Russia made an Allied victory less likely. French President Georges Clemenceau simply viewed the proposals as evidence that the Vatican was anti-French!

Benedict failed to stop or curtail the war but two years before his unexpected death from pneumonia in 1922 at the age of 67 his efforts were recognised by the Muslim Turks who erected a statue of him in Istanbul to commemorate "the benefactor of all people, irrespective of nationality or religion."

**Had Europe heeded Pope Benedict's repeated pleas,
millions of lives would have been saved and probably neither
Stalin nor Hitler would have come to power. Fr John**

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

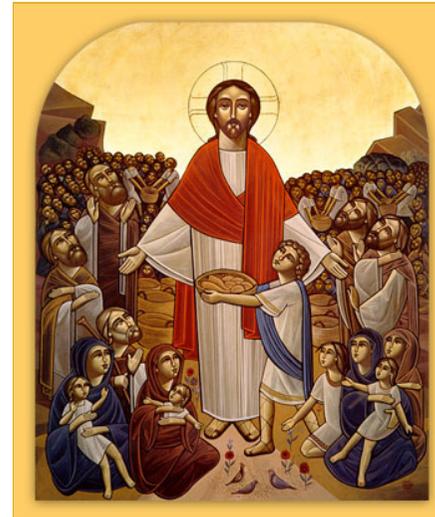
Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3rd August 2014

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

SATURDAY (9th 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

Special intentions x 2, Bob Morrison, Walter Jackson

SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, John Lofthouse, Peter Wright

LATELY DEAD

Betty Bolton, Bob Morrison

ANNIVERSARIES

Walter Jackson

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £664.61 Sabden £151.83 S/Orders £194 Many thanks

DAY FOR LIFE Clitheroe £222.10 Sabden £88.40

LADIES GROUP We are now taking names for our annual **TREASURE HUNT** on Wednesday 27th August to Skipton - cost including supper (menu's available from porch) £13. Our next coach trip is 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 and money to either Daphne or Janet. On Wednesday 11th February 2015 we are planning a coach trip to Manchester for shopping or whatever you want to do. The musical **TOP HAT** is on tour so if anyone would like to go to the matinee performance on that day the cost is approx £45 (which does not include the coach fare) Please give in your names to either Janet or Daphne by **NEXT** weekend (9th/10th August)

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL FUND RAISING as part of the Food Festival we are holding a Pudding Fest - 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.

CATENIAN ROSARY GROUP are appealing for Rosary beads. We send Rosaries to Aboriginals 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

FEED A FRIEND as part of the Food Festival on Sat 9th August, the ecumenical group including Cafod, Christian Aid and CCP reps who organised the Feed a Friend Coference in May, are 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 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.

CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ An anonymous parishioner has sent this message to Nigel Evans MP and Lord David Alton: 'I note that France is offering a 'safe haven' to Christians in Mosul, Iraq, who are fleeing from being persecuted and even killed if they do not renounce their Christianity. Can you enquire to see if the British Government would also offer asylum to these people?'. David Alton tabled a question in Parliament on Wednesday. Perhaps you could email Nigel Evans - evansn@parliament.uk

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE We pray for the success of the Salford Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, probably the last for our present Bishop. Fr Frankie has gone, hopefully Mark has arrived and a few parishioners are there. Maybe we should think of a parish group to join with the Diocese next year!

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

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.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER August leaflets now available from the 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.

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

AUTUMN FAIR an Autumn Fayre will be held 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 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

WWI CENTENARY The Mayor of the Ribble Valley is leading a commemorative event at 6pm on Monday 4 August in the Castle grounds (just inside the Castle Gate) when he will plant a Dove tree and light a tea-light in memory of a relative. In turn members of the public will then be invited to light their own tea-light in memory of a specific soldier. Afterwards prayers for peace will be led by Rev Mark Pickett. People of all faiths or none are welcome to attend.

| August 9th/10th | Saturday | Sunday |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Welcomers | J.Luciani | R & F Holgate |
| Readers | C.Astin | J.hennigan |
| Eucharistic Ministers | F.Ellis & Volunteer | G.Lambert, Volunteer, A.Marsden |
| Tea & Coffee | | P & A Geldard & T.O'Donnell |

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 Ava Lily Mendoros and Amelia Catherine Duckworth who were baptised last Sunday.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 11 - A & C Brown

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