

**Dear fellow Parishioners**

Today is Home Mission Sunday – a day we are invited to pray for and support the Church’s work of Evangelisation in our own country.

As Baptised Christians we evangelise best by our witness to our faith in our daily lives: generously helping someone in need, for example, or not drinking alcohol in Lent when going out with workmates to the pub on a Friday, or by a teenager having the courage to come to Mass on Sunday despite his or her friends’ mockery. To do this we have to renew our own commitment constantly. As Pope Francis says, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk”. So take some time to reflect on your relationship with Christ. Do you devote time to prayer? Does your lifestyle mirror your commitment to Christ?

Secondly, we need to reflect on our family life. So, parents: how do you pass on the faith to your children, and are you transmitting God’s values to them? Children: what do you do to help family life? What can you do to make the world a better place? As members of a family we evangelise best by our witness in our daily lives: coming to Mass every Sunday, praying together and working together as a family.

Thirdly, we need to reflect on the life of our parish family. As a parish we evangelise by the witness of our shared commitment to parish support for others: support of the food bank; the work of the SVP and Eucharist Ministers who take the Church and Communion to the housebound and to care homes; catechists and teachers who sacrifice time to prepare our children for First Communion; the HTCP and Right to Life sponsored walks; the RCIA team - to name but a few. Are you a part of these and other activities. And if you are unable to actively support these, do you pray for them?

Fourthly, we are called, to quote Pope Francis, to reach out to “the baptised whose lives do not reflect the demands of Baptism, who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church and no longer experience the consolation born of faith.” Research suggests that an estimated 80% of Catholics in England and Wales rarely or never attend Mass. They are our responsibility; they are members of our faith family. We must try to find out why they are not participating in our community’s faith life, to find ways of attracting them back to the practice of the faith, and to be welcoming when they do return. People do reconnect, they do come back!

God does not hold grudges and does not demand an accounting. He offers simply a “Welcome home.” But we are the ones who must deliver the invitation!

**Fr John**

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 21st September 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 9am (not 7.30pm)

**Saturday (27th September)**

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

Harry Astley, Dr Bernard Higgins, Betty Brown, Monica Hargreaves

### SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, John Lofthouse, Peter Wright, Seamus Drain, Jim Story,

### LATELY DEAD

Dr Bernard Higgins, Harry Astley, Alan Robinson (Canada)

### ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin Fitzpatrick

*There will be a collection at all masses this weekend for Home Missions  
Next weekend there will be a collection at all masses for Retired Clergy.*

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £658.17 Sabden £143.97 S/Orders £170.48 Many thanks  
**LADIES GROUP LITTLE MORETON HALL/STOKE ON TRENT** on Wednesday 22nd almost fully booked - two tickets left. . **NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 24th September - The role of a Sports Therapist with Nicola Dinsdale. Starts at 7.30pm admission £2 inc light refreshments.

**MILNTHORPE STEEL BAND** in our Parish Hall on Saturday 18th October at 7.30pm Tickets will be on sale after masses on 4/5 and 11/12 October or they are available from Daphne 427912, Carol 426769 or Janet at the presbytery. Please note this event on the same day as our Autumn Fair.

**CATENIAN ROSARY GROUP** We collect unwanted rosaries to send to Third World countries. Please put in Parish Communications Box or hand in at the presbytery.

**SVP AWARENESS MONTH** September is chosen as awareness month for the Society because it includes the special days for our founder, Frederick Ozanam and the feast day of our patron St Vincent de Paul. The theme for this week is Comfort the bereaved. The posters and prayers will reflect this theme. Let us pray for those suffering bereavement that they will have peace and comfort, grant them the support of family and friends at their time of sorrow and distress.

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** Single, separated, widowed or divorced? Catholic Singles is an organisation that helps practising Catholics meet other Catholics. Have a look at the yellow poster in the porch

**CANONISATION OF TWO POPES** at St Gabriel's School, Bury 15th October by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. See poster in porch

**K.S.C.DANCE** Friday 10th October at 7.30pm. Dancing to John Lancaster. Admission £7 including Hot supper.

**NBCW** (National Board of Catholic Women) An afternoon of study and reflection Saturday 1st November at St Sebastian's Hall, Salford. See poster in porch

**WANTED** Bags, Bangles, Beads and Belts for a Fund raising party to raise funds for Action for Charity - to help fight Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancer. See poster

**FOODBANK** is well stocked with food but needs Baby food and Soya milk

The new rota's for October and November are available from the table near the Sacristy door. Those of you on email should have received your new one.

This year's RCIA programme will begin with an informal meet and great party a week on Thursday, 2nd October at 8pm and continue on Thursday evenings for one hour between 8 and 9pm until 11th December.

It is open to any who wish to learn more about the faith, are thinking of joining the church or are simply curious. All are welcome



### MASS OF HEALING SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2pm

If you wish to come to this Mass please complete a form from available from the back of church. This information is needed to arrange lifts and transfer from cars to hall and refreshment numbers.

Please return forms to box at the back of church by Tuesday 23rd September

**DAY FOR CATECHISTS** Saturday 11th October at Sacred Heart, Westhoughton - organised by Salford Diocese Catechetical Group - see poster in 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.

**H.C.P.T WALK** Sunday October 5th. Arnold will be collecting sponsorship money after mass both this weekend and next weekend

**AUTUMN RAFFLE** Tickets are now on sale for our Autumn Raffle which will take place at our Autumn Fair on Saturday October 18th. We have some wonderful prizes 1st - a Mini iPad, 2nd - £100 Food Hamper, 3rd - £50 M & S Vouchers plus lots more. Tickets are £1. All organisations in the parish have been given tickets to sell and they are also on sale from the Parish Office. Donations of prizes are still being accepted - please leave at presbytery.

| Sept 27th/28th        | Saturday                 | Sunday                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Welcomers             | M.Manning                | R & C Conti                     |
| Readers               | C.Carr                   | K.Downes                        |
| Eucharistic Ministers | A.Souythworth & B.Taylor | E.Thomson, I.Parkes, P.donnelly |
| Tea & Coffee          |                          | B.Parkinson & B.Barker          |

**WANTED** for our Autumn Fair Saturday 18th October - Tombola Prizes for Ladies Group Mystery Tombola, Chocolates for S.V.P. Chocolate Tombola, Soft Toys (in good condition) for Soft Toy Tombola, Home made cakes, pickles, jams etc for Cake Stall, prizes for K.S.C.Tombola, Second hand/new Jewellery, Plants or Floral decorations, Sweets, Toys and Children's books in good condition, small gifts/unwanted presents for our Mystery Tombola.

**K.S.C.JUMBLE** Saturday October 4th at 2pm. Please note new time. Collection of Jumble will be on the Saturday morning **NOT** Friday as used to be. If you need any Jumble collecting ring either Les 427029 or Arnold 427096

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN** this Thursday 7.30pm in St Michael & John's school, there will be a meeting for parents of children attending both our and other schools who wish to register their children for First Holy Communion in June next year.

**WANTED** Home-baked cakes for reception after the Mass of Healing in our Parish Hall Sunday 28th September Any donations of cakes you have please take over to our Parish Hall between 10.30am and 11am

**TOILETS** to avoid distracting the congregation during mass, if you wish to use the toilets please exit the church by the main door.

## SABDEN

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner No 44 J.Haythornthwaite

**COFFEE MORNING** at St Mary's Parish Hall on Saturday 4th October. Cake stall and Raffle. Tickets £1. All proceeds towards Crib figures

**ST MARY'S HALL Friday October 24th Family Games Night** from 7pm. Free entry, 50p to take part in each game i.e. pool, darts etc. **Friday November 14th Motown Night** from 8pm with bar. Admission £5.

**COFFEE AFTER MASS** there is a list on the notice board of dates for this. If you would like to volunteer just add your name where convenient. Some more volunteers would be great

*Our weekly newsletter is posted each week on the parish website, where you can find past newsletters and much more info about parish organisations and events*