

Dear Parishioners

As the world moves into shopping overdrive we shouldn't forget that Advent is primarily a time in which to prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. How? Pope Francis has commented: "In their daily routine, St. Joseph, together with Mary, shared a single common centre of attention: Jesus. They accompany and nurture the growth of the Son of God made man for us with commitment and tenderness, reflecting on everything that has happened. In the Gospels, St. Luke twice emphasizes the attitude of Mary which is also that of St. Joseph: she "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart". To listen to the Lord, we must learn to contemplate, feel his constant presence in our lives, and we must stop and converse with him, give him space in prayer. Each of us should ask ourselves, "How much space do I give to the Lord? Do I stop to talk with him?" Ever since we were children, our parents have taught us to start and end the day with a prayer, to teach us to feel that the friendship and the love of God accompany us. Let us remember the Lord more in our daily life, especially this Advent!"

Walk with Me booklets are on sale (£1) to help you put aside a short period each day for quiet reflection and prayer.

Two years ago, I introduced you to *Olive Aid*. This is a charity which helps all Palestinians who have lost their olive trees, usually their only source of income, to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements on the West bank and that dreadful security wall. Olive trees are precious: just twenty trees can sustain a family for a year. *Olive Aid* is a self-help project run by Bethlehem's Catholic University (most of whose students are Muslim) which provides needy families with 3 year old olive saplings. Christian and Muslim alike are helped but the project particularly aims to stem the emigration of Christian families who suffer the most in the conflict. Today, Christians in Bethlehem constitute less than 15% of the population. Fifty years ago, Christians living in the birthplace of Jesus made up more than 70% of the population. You can buy a tree for £25. For details see me or go to www.oliveaid.com It is a Christmas Charity that I support and a number of parishioners have joined with me over the past couple of years in buying trees.

Finally, now is the time to consider whom you will invite to *Come Home for Christmas*. Invite a friend or relation who may have slipped from practice to join you at Mass and come home for Christmas.

(Watch a short video at www.catholicscomehome.org) **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

First Sunday of Advent - 30th November 2014

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9.15am

Thursday

Mass at 9.15am & 7.30pm

Ignite at 3.30pm

Saturday (6th December))

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 **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Betty Bewley, Marjorie Worswick, Roy Fletcher, Ashfield Batts, Mary Cushion, Joan & Hugh Kelly, Alice & Patrick Emerson.

SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, Fr Peter Knowles, Peter Wright, John Lofthouse, Joan Chew, Theresa Smith, Luke Cuddigan, Reginald Leeming, Joseph Bradley

LATELY DEAD

Betty Bewley, Roy Fletcher, Keith Rhodes

ANNIVERSARIES

Marjorie Worswick, Johanna Riley, Ashfield Batts, Alice & Patrick Emerson

S.V.P. CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The quarterly collection will take place this weekend. It will be used to help families and people in need in our area this Christmas. Please give generously

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £819.96 Sabden £185.96 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks

CATHOLIC SINGLES Single, separated, widowed or divorced? See yellow poster

R.C.I.A. Meetings continue on Thursday evenings 8pm in the presbytery.

ANN HARKIN(Safe Guarding Rep) will be available at the following times: Saturday 29th Nov & 6th Dec 5.30pm SMSJ and 21st Dec at 12noon St Mary's, Sabden. She may also be contacted at anhark456@aol.com to arrange a meeting at another time.

ST HUBERT'S DUNSOP BRIDGE Annual Bingo and Pie and Pea Supper at Newton Village Hall tomorrow evening Monday 1st December 7.30pm. £5

CLITHEROE

URGENT We urgently require volunteers to join our depleting band of church cleaners, who spend an hour every Monday cleaning the church and the toilets. Please consider this appeal—one hour only. Fr John

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

LADIES GROUP - Chatsworth House trip Wednesday 10th December. £23 which includes the entrance, coach and drivers tip. Five seats available please see either Daphne 427912 or Janet 423307 ext 3 **CHRISTMAS MEAL** Friday 23rd January at the Newdrop—3 course meal £21 Menu's are available from the porch. Please return with money with menu choice to either Janet or Daphne by Thursday 18th December **COMMITTEE MEETING** Monday 8th December 7.30pm in the presbytery.

LOVE CLITHEROE Saturday 6th December throughout the Town Centre—Carol Singing, addition to the Walking Nativity this year to take place on Saturday 6th December, Clitheroe churches need some volunteers to help with craft and costume making. Proposed programme 2pm-4pm making crafts and costumes on the High Street—small groups singing carols on street corners. 4pm-5pm Food, 5pm-6pm—Walking Nativity. If you can help with the crafts, catering or can play or sing with the carol singers please tel Andy or Andrew 01200 423608 or www.loveclitheroe.org link on St Mary's website.

JOY TO THE WORLD 2014 Sunday 14th December at 6.30pm in, please note, St James's (Trinity church is still undergoing renovation). It is a celebration of Christmas and recalling events in 2014 in music, drama, dance and poetry, including carols featuring Ribble Valley Choir and Orchestra. The event is free and will end around 7.45pm when refreshments will be served. There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid. All the Clitheroe churches are involved

ADVENT LUNCHES at The United Reformed Church Tuesdays starting this coming Tuesday December 2nd. See poster in porch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY K.S.C.Annual Quiz—Monday 29 December

COMEDY AND CAROLS On Tues 9th December at 7pm, here at St Michaels and St John's Church. We are hosting an evening of 'Comedy and Carols' which will be recorded by BBC Radio Lancashire and will air throughout the month of December. This will be a night of laughter, carol singing and reflecting on the Christmas story. The evening will feature 4 hilarious comedians - the comedy legend that is Jimmy Cricket, radio Lancashire's own funnyman Steve Royle, and the very funny Tony Vino and John Cooper as 'Danny Pensive.' It will be interspersed with carol singing that will be led by the Church band plus readings on the Nativity and a couple of "Pause for Thought's" on the real meaning of Christmas. This is not a ticketed event - admission is free but it is a first come first served basis for places. Please especially extend the invitation to friends and family who aren't church goers but may be interested in the event as they love comedy and love carols. And please join us for what promises to be a special night

IGNITE—SERVICE OF LIGHT During this time of Advent our Pupil Chaplains from St Michael & St John's will host a 'Service of Light' on the first three Thursdays of Advent, in church, immediately after school at 3.30pm. On the first two Thursdays you are invited to come in church, light a candle and say a prayer. On the final Thursday 18th December the chaplains will prepare a special half hour Christmas service. Please come along to either or all of these services to support the young people of our parish.

CAFOD EBOLA EMERGENCY APPEAL closes this weekend. Thankyou for your generosity.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES Please see the poster in porch listing what's going on at various churches during December.

ROTAS 6/7 DECEMBER—Saturday Welcoming—J.Bentley, Reader—M.Taylforth, Eucharistic Ministers—B.Worden & M Preedy. Sunday Welcoming—R & C Conti, Reader—Marina Barrett, Eucharistic Ministers—J & S Hall, Volunteer. Tea & Coffee—Les & Betty Conninson.

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting Monday 8th December 7.30pm in the presbytery.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Christmas Cards, etc are on sale at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS Would those who ordered wreaths at our Autumn Fair please collect them after masses this weekend from Jane Brown

ROTAS for Dec, Jan, Feb & March please collect from table near sacristy door

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE—St Mary Magdalene—6.30pm today Sunday 30th November

SABDEN

During Advent from Monday to Saturday the church will be open for private prayer from 9.30am—10.30am

BONUS BALL this weeks winner 26 H & C Waterworth. Two spare bonus ball numbers have become available - £1 per week. See Carol Waterworth

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Next Saturday Dec 6th 2pm—4pm. Final push now for this. Still need stall holders—please volunteer. Donations still needed—good condition toys, plants or Christmas type flowers, items for tombola—lets make this a great family day. Father Christmas will be in the grotto from 2pm-3pm. Bring the little ones to see the man in red!

SERVICE OF LIGHT to start Advent at Sabden Baptist church—all welcome young and old this coming Sunday 30th November at 4pm

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS switch on at 6.30pm Sunday December 7th by Fr Frankie—an outdoor service in the centre of the village

CHRISTMAS WREATHS Assembled in the Hall on 4th December from 9am. Come along and help—training will be given. We also need donations of greenery—please leave outside Hall prior to Thursday. Wreaths will be for sale on the day but can be pre-ordered by putting your name on the list in the porch. Bargain £6

ADVENT REFLECTION—Tuesday 2nd at 7.30pm in church. The week after this service will be on Wednesday 10th at 7.30pm due to Comedy & Carols at St Michael & St John's on the Tuesday.

GRAND DRAW Tickets still available. Draw will take place at the Christmas Fayre (tickets will be on sale). Please return counterfoils, unsold tickets and money by Saturday 6th Dec.

MOWTOWN NIGHT Many thanks to those who supported this event a couple of weeks ago we made a total of £385 for Parish funds. Thankyou

CHRISTMAS VARIETY CONCERT Tickets are on sale after Mass for the Christmas Variety Concert "A Night Before Christmas". Friday December 12th 7-30pm, Adults £7.50, children £5, with seasonal refreshments, sausage rolls, mince pies and mulled wine at the interval. But people should take their own drinks. Show features soprano Grace O'Malley, the Flat Cap Pack, 50 Something Theatre Co, and Sabden's very own a Couple of Swells (Mark and Ben). Tickets also available from Pat Whitwell, Margaret Waling, Jean Haythornthwaite and Margaret Parsons.