

## Dear Parishioners

Bishop John has sent the following letter to the priests of the diocese

“As part of the work of the Synod on the family, you may know that Pope Francis has asked us to take time to reflect on marriage and family life, and our own experience. It is all too evident that both marriage and family life have been challenged and, in our generation, they have seen unprecedented breakdown. Despite its many struggles, we know that without the gift of family our society would have lost something fundamentally important and good. Marriage is such a noble vocation and family life must be strengthened and assisted, especially in times of difficulty.

The Bishops of England and Wales have prepared some simple reflections on the *Call*, the *Journey* and the *Mission* of marriage and family life. I am asking that these reflections be made available to all parishes. I ask you to invite your congregations to read these reflections and to share your thoughts with one another, especially in your families. If you would like to share those reflections with me then I would be happy for you to write to me. I cannot promise to answer every reply but I will certainly consider what you write, and will use it as part of my submission to Cardinal Vincent Nichols and to Bishop Peter Doyle, who are to be the representatives from England and Wales at the second Synod on the family next October”.

That is Bishop John’s request but the question I have is: How do we implement this, how do we organize a parish wide consultation?

I propose to take the discussion papers to the Forum on Wednesday for you to discuss and suggest how best we may as a parish tackle this project and produce a report. This raises a slight problem: attendance at Forum isn’t great and when it is held at Sabden even fewer go. So, I appeal to all who are interested in the future of our church and country to share cars and make the short journey to St Mary’s parish hall and join the discussion and help us find a way of responding to the bishop’s request.

Secondly, Last November Pope Francis convened a conference in Rome to tackle the scourge of human trafficking, modern day slavery. It was attended by Ministers and Police Chiefs from many governments. Anthony Brown will tell us briefly of one charity that has heeded the Pope’s call for ordinary people to raise awareness of this problem.

Please do respond to both the Pope’s and our Bishop’s requests for action on these two different but important issues.

*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

## The Baptism of the Lord - 11th January 2015

### St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday

Eucharistic Service 9am

#### Tuesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

#### Wednesday

Requiem Mass at 10.30am

John Lofthouse

#### Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

#### Saturday 17th January

Eucharistic Service 10.45am

Exposition 11am—11.55am

Reconciliation 11am—11.45am

First Mass of Sunday—6pm

## St Mary's, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Wednesday—Mass at 9.30am

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#### MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Betty Byrne, John Lofthouse x 2, Private Intention x 2, Robin Ibbotson, John Marsden, Henry Thornber, Betty Brown x 4, Teresa Tomlinson, Holy Souls, Kathryn Peel

#### SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, Peter Wright, Joseph Bradley, Marie Haslam, Maria Middleton,

#### LATELY DEAD

Betty Byrne, John Lofthouse, Mary Anderson, Natalie Bellamy, Muriel Calverley

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Kathryn Peel, Fr Bernard Dobson SJ, Robin Ibbotson, John Marsden, Henry Thornber,

**The Church is growing faster in Africa than on any continent in the world. In 1900, there were 2 million Catholics in Africa; today, there are over 165 million—triple the 1978 figure of 55 million! In the face of Africa's enormous need, the Church is the single biggest provider of health care and education on the Continent. The Brothers of the Sacred Heart are a religious order with a flourishing ministry to youth in 16 African countries, particularly through Catholic education. Bro Roger will speak of their mission and ask your support for their work at Masses today.**

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £698.39 Sabden £197.56 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks

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

**MEDAILLE TRUST** The latest edition (the Catholic Charity that provides safe houses for victims of human trafficking) now available in the church porch. Please take one.

**JESUITS & FRIENDS** Winter edition now free from church porches

**R.C.I.A.** Meetings every Thursday evening after Mass at 8pm in the presbytery.

**FOOD BANK** Over the Christmas period many families benefitted from and appreciated your help. We are currently short of the following items: washing up liquid, Laundry powder/liquid, feminine hygiene, toilet rolls, sauses eg ketchup, brown sauce. As always thankyou for your generosity and support.

**TABOR** January—July 2015 programme now 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.

**CAFOD** There will be a meeting of the group on Thursday 15th January at 10am in the presbytery. New members always welcome

**LADIES GROUP COMMITTEE MTG** on Monday 12th January at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**K.S.C.COUNCIL MEETING** this Tuesday 13th January at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**MISSIO (APF RED BOXES)** Mission Calendars for 2015 are now available FREE from the church porch

## **K.S.C.DANCE**

St Michael & St John's  
Parish Hall

**FRIDAY**

**16th JANUARY**

**7.30pm**

**dance to**

**John Lancaster**

**Tickets £7 including  
Hot Supper**

**Tel:**

01200 427029

or

01200 427096



**2015 DIARIES** are available at the back of church cost £1. Please put money in C.T.S. box on the wall

**JOY TO THE WORLD** The concert that took place at St James during Advent raised £1123.08 for Christian Aid.

Jan 17/18	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Bentley	P.Dixon & E.Thomson
Readers	C.Moxham	M.Donnely
Eucharistic Ministers	A.Southworth & B.Taylor	G.Lambert, C.leeming, A.Marsden
Tea & Coffee		M.Geddes, P.Holgate

**LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS MEAL** Friday 23rd January at the Newdrop—3 course meal £21—still some places left. Menu's available from porch. Please return menu choice and money to either Janet or Daphne as soon as possible.

**TEA DANCE** Wednesday 21st January 2pm-5pm. Dancing/Afternoon Tea—good company only £3.50. Held in St Michael & St John's Function Suite. Info Daphne 01200 427912

**ST PAUL'S, LOW MOOR** On Thursday 22nd January at 7.30pm Rev Mark Pickett (Rector of St James') is to be licenced by The Bishop of Blackburn as Priest in charge of St Paul's, Low Moor. This is an open invitation to all of our parishioners. The service will be followed by light refreshments.

**CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK** a poster showing the times and venues for Christian Unity week can be found in the porch.

**FR WAREING** wishes to thank parishioners for their greetings, cards and best wishes at Christmas.

**LADIES FORTHCOMING EVENT** Thursday 5th February—Variety Concert 2pm—4pm. £6 including refreshments. More details next week

**Baptisms are now celebrated on Saturday morning at 12.30pm.  
The Eucharistic Service will be at 10.45am before Exposition and  
Reconciliation at 11am.**

### **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner 24 J.Hindle. Still two spare bonus ball numbers have become available - £1 per week. See Carol Waterworth

**2015 DIARIES** can be found in the porch £1

**CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE** this year will be on Sunday 18th January at 3pm (please note earlier time). It will take place here in St Mary's with Fr Frankie, followed with refreshments in the hall.

*Well sung St Mary's! From the village carol service through Christmas Eve Mass to the Epiphany. We sang almost every carol that we had music for, and from where I sat it sounded absolutely wonderful.*

*Well done everyone!*