

Dear Parishioners

On New Year's Day, the feast of Mary the mother of God, Pope focused his homily on Mary as both the mother of God and mother of the Church.

"Jesus," he told the congregation, "cannot be understood without his mother," the one who gave him human flesh, raised him and was near him always, even as he died on the cross and rose from the dead.

"Likewise inseparable are Christ and the Church," he said. And, just as Mary brought Jesus into the world more than 2,000 years ago, the Church continues to bring him to the world, he said.

Pope Francis repeated what he has said in the past: "It is not possible to love Christ without the Church, to listen to Christ but not the Church, to belong to Christ but not the Church."

The Church brings Christ to people, nourishes people with the sacraments and helps them understand what it means to belong to Christ, the pope said. "Our faith is not an abstract doctrine or philosophy, but a vital and full relationship with a person: Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God."

"Where can we encounter him? We encounter him in the Church, in our hierarchical, holy mother Church," he said. "It is the Church which says today: 'Behold the Lamb of God.' It is the Church which proclaims him. It is in the Church that Jesus continues to accomplish his acts of grace which are the sacraments."

"Without the Church," the pope said, "Jesus Christ ends up as an idea, a moral teaching, a feeling."

Then this past week Pope Francis gave a 45-minute news conference aboard the papal plane traveling from Sri Lanka to the Philippines. Responding to a question related to the murders in Paris he said first that religious liberty and liberty of expression are both "fundamental human rights. "After stating forcefully that "One cannot offend, make war, kill in the name of one's own religion, in the name of God. To kill in the name of God is an aberration." But then he began to outline what he sees as important limits on free expression: "One cannot provoke, one cannot insult other people's faith, one cannot make fun of faith." "There is a limit, he said. Every religion has its dignity."

When asked about climate change he said that he remembered a saying: "God always forgives; we men sometimes forgive; but nature never forgives, adding, I believe that man has gone a bit too far. Thank God that today, many, many people are talking about this."

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

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Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 18th January 2015

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Tuesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Saturday (24th 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 9.15am

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MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Special Intention, John Holden, Christine Ainsworth, Fr Pater Knowles, Doreen Ashton, Harriet Foulker, Stephen Pryle, 80th Birthday, John Lofthouse x 2, Muriel Calverley x 3

SICK

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

LATELY DEAD

John Lofthouse, Muriel Calverley, John Holden, Christine Ainsworth

ANNIVERSARIES

Molly Hartley, Aidan Cooper, Harriet Foulker, Stephen Pryle

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £803.79 Sabden £158.32 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks

BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART Clitheroe £680.45 Sabden £137.05

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.

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, Sauces e.g. ketchup, brown sauce. As always thank you for your generosity and support.

CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY & PUBLIC POLICY INTERNSHIPS For the last twelve years the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are looking to offer 8 internships. For details see Fr John

TABOR January—July 2015 programme now available from porch

JOYFUL NOISE The next Joyful Noise will be at 7.30pm this coming Monday 19th January. It will take place every two weeks from then on and will be held at Chatburn Methodist Chapel until further notice.

PARISH FORUM The next Forum will be in Clitheroe on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm

LADIES GROUP PROGRAMME Our new programme for 2015 is now available from the porch—please take one

MEETINGS THIS COMING WEEK

Tuesday 20th March—99 group please meet at 7.30pm in the Presbytery

Wednesday 21st March—Website Committee please meet at 7pm in the Presbytery

CLITHEROE

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

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

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

We are organising a Parish Pilgrimage to join the Diocese on their annual trip to Lourdes from 31 July—6 August 2015. If anything like previous years, this pilgrimage promises to be a very special, prayerful and fun-packed experience. We will travel by air from either Manchester or Liverpool and stay at a lovely hotel with full board. The cost is £659. If you would like to go or if you are interested in finding out more then please put your name down on the list at the back of church or alternatively see Fr Frankie BEFORE the deadline—February 28th!



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

Jan 24/25	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Luciani	A & J Marsden
Readers	C.Riley	J.Hennigan
Eucharistic Ministers	F.Ellis & R.Embery	C.Morgan, S.Smith, B.Collinson
Tea & Coffee		Embery family

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.

LADIES FORTHCOMING EVENT As part of the WWI anniversary on Thursday 5th February our Ladies Group are presenting a Variety Concert with The 50+ Theatre Company from 2pm—4pm Tickets are £6 and include a Light Afternoon Tea. Tickets will be on sale next weekend 24/25 January and 31 Jan & 1 Feb after weekend masses and also from the named people on the poster which you will find in the porch.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Friday 13th November Rossendale Male Voice Choir will be performing here in church

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

LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS MEAL Friday 23rd January at the Newdrop next Friday 21st January. Would **EVERYONE** who is going please meet on the Lowergate Car Park for 6.30pm prompt.

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 39 P & S White. 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 today 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.

Headteacher Claire Halstead's School Report is on the notice board