

## Dear Parishioners

During an impromptu press conference on his flight from Sri Lanka to the Philippines Pope Francis condemned the violence surrounding the Charlie Hebdo killings but also said there are limits to free speech — especially when it involves religion.

In particular, he said, one shouldn't abuse freedom of expression to "provoke" or "offend" others deliberately, and also one shouldn't be surprised when they react to such taunts.

Nodding towards a friend and smiling, even in the case of a dear friend, Francis said, "If he says a swear word against my mother, he's going to get a punch in the nose. That's normal."

The question was asked by a French journalist about how to balance religious freedom against freedom of expression, and Francis immediately linked his answer to the Charlie Hebdo attacks.

"You're French, so let's talk about Paris, let's speak clearly. One cannot make war [or] kill in the name of one's own religion, that is, in the name of God," Francis said. "To kill in the name of God is an aberration."

That said, Francis also insisted that free speech does not imply total license to insult or offend another's faith.

"One cannot provoke, one cannot insult other people's faith, one cannot make fun of faith," he said, "Every religion has its dignity ... and I cannot make fun of it," the pope said. "In freedom of expression there are limits

"People who make fun of, who toy with other people's religions, he said, risk running into "what would happen to [that friend] if he said something against my mother."

Pope Francis appeared to be saying that while nothing can justify the kind of violence witnessed Paris, that doesn't mean that religion may be gratuitously insulted under the banner of freedom of speech.

Charlie Hebdo, the French magazine where 12 people were slain, was renowned for publishing content that ridiculed Muhammad, the founder of Islam, including occasionally running cartoons of him in pornographic poses.

Unfortunately Pope Francis' words were prescient. Anti-Charlie Hebdo riots in Niger resulted in at least ten deaths, the destruction of churches and the closure of dispensaries and schools that served the poor.

Freedom of speech must be constrained by courtesy and consideration if we are to live together in peace.

*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

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 25th January 2015

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday

Eucharistic Service 9am

#### Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

#### Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

#### Saturday (31st 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

Emelio Remo Conti, Margaret McKenna x 2, Eileen Scott, Joan Cloag, Jeff Cowgill

#### SICK

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

#### LATELY DEAD

Muriel Calverley, Eileen Stott

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Margaret McKenna

*There will be a retiring collection for CARITAS at all masses on the weekend of 7/8 February*

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £820.31 Sabden £186.22 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks  
**SINGLES** Single, separated, widowed or divorced? See yellow poster  
**CAFOD** have received another £200 (private donations) towards the Ebola appeal, making the total £1,436.32

**MEDAILLE TRUST** Following the Parish Forum on 14 January we now have 20 people who have expressed interest in combating human trafficking and want to support the work of the Catholic Church in combating it. If you would like to learn more please contact Anthony Brown email: abrown.boggarts@gmail.com or tel: 01200 422811 Alternatively you can simply ask for your name and email address to be added to the list.

**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, 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

**JOYFUL NOISE** The next Joyful Noise will be at 7.30pm Monday 2nd February It takes place every two weeks from then on and is held at Chatburn Methodist Chapel until further notice.

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

**RIBBLE VALLEY HOME LIBRARY SERVICE** Do you find it difficult to visit a library possibly because of mobility problems or poor health, then perhaps the Home Library Service can help. One of our library volunteers could deliver books to you? Tel Joan Davies 01200 426885 or contact her at Clitheroe Library.

**PRAYER VIGIL FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**— Saturday 7 February. Please join the staff and students of Stonyhurst College and the Catholic charity 'Aid to the Church in Need' in a Prayer Vigil for Religious Freedom at 7.30pm. The vigil will last about an hour and will give us all a chance to learn about and pray for those Christians around the world who are suffering hardships because of their faith.

**CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY** Saturday 7 February at Salford Cathedral Centre—see poster

**LADIES GROUP** Monthly meeting in our Parish Hall this Wednesday 28 January at 7.30pm. £2 including refreshments 'Whalley through time' speaker Patrick Brown

## **CLITHEROE**

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

**LISTENING EAR** is an ecumenical initiative set up to provide a place where people of all backgrounds can come for a coffee and chat. It was launched recently for Foodbank customers, and others, to have an opportunity for more on-going contact. Listening Ear is run by volunteers from local churches and is open Friday mornings during school term time from 10am and 11.30am at The King's Centre, Millthorne Avenue. More info ring Mark Woodward 01200 444148 or

Jan 31	Jan/1 Feb	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers		M.Manning	M.Swales & T.O'Donnell
Readers		A.Harkin	J.Smith
Eucharistic Ministers		B.Worden & M.Preedy	E.Thomson, I.Parkes, P.Donnely
Tea & Coffee			Sims Family

info@clitheroecommunitychurch.co.uk

**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 on sale after masses this weekend & next and from the named people on the poster which you will find in the porch.

**THANKYOU** to Oliver Jezierski, Daniel Meloy and Demi Holt, three 4th year pupils from our Primary school who organised a colouring competition in school before Christmas and raised £14.60 for CAFOD

**INTERFAITH/FRIENDSHIP** there will be a meeting this Tuesday 27th January at 7.45pm at St Mary Magdalene's

**C.C.P** Wednesday evening at 7.30pm A.G.M. Trinity (Wesley Room)

## **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner no 4 J & M Isherwood. Still two spare bonus ball numbers have become available - £1 per week. See Carol Waterworth

**CRB CHECKS** These are now up for review. If you have had a parish CRB check in the past please see Susan White for update, and/or new form to fill in. Thanks

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

CHRISTIAN  
UNITY WEEK

UNITED  
SERVICE

Sunday 25 January

United Reformed  
Church  
Castlegate, Clitheroe

6.30pm

*Please support*

## **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 see Fr Frankie BEFORE the deadline—February 28th!

