

*Dear Parishioners,*

*The following is taken from Pope Francis' homily for Ash Wednesday last year.*

He said, during Lent Christians are called to use the three things the Gospel recommends for spiritual growth: **prayer**, **fasting** and **almsgiving**.

"In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of **prayer**, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience his tenderness."

With more regular and intense prayer during Lent, Christians are called to think of the needs of others, "interceding before God for the many situations of poverty and suffering" in the world.

As for **fasting**, Pope Francis said the point isn't just to follow the rules for Lenten fasting and abstinence, because that could lead to self-satisfaction. "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

Fasting, should "exercise the heart" to recognize what is absolutely essential and to teach one how to share with others. "It is a sign of becoming aware of and taking responsibility for injustice and oppression, especially of the poor and the least, and is a sign of the trust we place in God and his providence."

He continued, **almsgiving** is a practice that should be common among all Christians, but especially during Lent. Christians give concrete help and attention to those in need -- asking nothing in return -- because they recognize how much God has given them even though they were not deserving. Almsgiving also helps free people from "the obsession of possession, from the fear of losing what they have and from the sadness of not sharing their well-being with others."

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." The need for conversion is clear, he said. "There is something not right with us, with our society, with the church and we need to change, to turn, to convert!" The call of the prophets to turn back to God, "reminds us that it is possible to realize something new within ourselves and around us simply because God is faithful, he continues to be rich in goodness and mercy, and he is always ready to forgive us and start all over."

*So, some points to ponder during those snatched moments of silence that Bishop John recommended last week.*

*Fr John*

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

## 1st Sunday of Lent - 22nd February 2015

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



**Sunday**

Mass at 9.30am  
followed by Coffee

**Monday**

Eucharistic Service 9am

**Tuesday**

Mass at 7.30am & 9am

**Wednesday**

Mass at 9am

**Thursday**

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

**Friday**

Mass at 7.30am & 9am  
Funeral Service for John Byrne 11.30am

**Saturday (28th February)**

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**

Bernardette Kelsall, Eileen Reynolds, Birthday intention, Margaret Illingworth x 2, Stella Dilworth, Special Intention, Stella Mason, Elizabeth Lambert, Veronica Lambert

*The First of the Lent Station Masses will be at St Mary's Langho this Wednesday at 7.30pm*

## **SICK**

Fr Peter Birmingham, Peter Wright, Joseph Bradley, Marie Haslam,  
Maria Middleton, Sr Mary Kelly, Francis Gallagher,

## **LATELY DEAD**

Margaret Illingworth, Bernadette Kelsall, Eileen Reynolds, John Byrne

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Stella Mason, Elizabeth Lambert, Veronica Lambert, Fr Hubert McEvoy,

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe 808.36 Sabden £166.99 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks

**OLIVE AID** The total donated this year amounted to £500, including £179.17 from the Crib offerings box. Many thanks

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

**CAFOD** Next Friday, February 27th, is Lent Fast Day. Envelopes will be given out this weekend, please return them next weekend. **IMPORTANT.** Starting on February 18th (Ash Wednesday) all donations made to CAFOD for a period of 3 months up to May 17th, will receive 'match—funding' from the UK Government. Every £1 that CAFOD raises for Lent, up to £3.5 million will be doubled by the Government, allowing us to help twice as many people. Help us to make the most of this opportunity by giving generously to the Lent Fast Day and throughout Lent. Thank you

**RETURNING TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION** A course for those seeking employments or wishing to return will be held of Friday 6th March 9am—4pm at St Monica's Sixth Form Centre, Bury. More details on poster in porch.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** 31 July—6 August 2015. Cost is £659. Interested? then please put your name down on the list at the back of church or see Fr Frankie BEFORE the deadline—February 28th!

**ST BAKHITA BOOK MARKS/PRAYER CARDS** Sorry but the bookmarks didn't arrive in time last week but they are now available from the porch (next to the Medaille magazines—please take one if you haven't already), and Anthony and Mary Brown will give them out in Sabden on Sunday.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016** The Diocese is organising a fantastic trip to join in the next World Youth Day, to be held in the presence of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, in the Polish city of Krakow between 24th July and 2nd August 2016. Young people between 16 and 35 years old are welcome! These events are very special experiences, as young catholic people from all over the world come together to celebrate their faith. A World Youth Day could almost be described as a catholic Glastonbury.....only even more fun. The total cost will be £750 (which includes: Travel, insurance, WYD registration fee, accommodation and meals.) The closing date for registration is 31st March 2015. Deposit £50 (limited places available). <http://www.salforddiocese.net/#!youth/c1s97>

**DISCOVER THE DOMINICANS** [www.english.op.org](http://www.english.op.org) and see poster in porch.

**FLAME 2**—Catholic Youth Festival at Wembley Arena March 7th. This will be the largest Catholic youth event ever held in the UK. Matt Redmon will be leading the music and a range of interesting people will be speaking including Cardinal Luis Tagle, recently by the side of Pope Francis throughout his visit to the Philippines. This event is open to young people and young adults year 10 upwards. Full programme and booking details on <http://www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2>

**FILIPINO MASS** There will be a Mass for the Filipino community in St Mary's Church, Bamber Bridge, at 5pm on Saturday 21 March. For more information, please contact Alaine and Jeanette on 07931 776401

## **S.V.P. MASS OF HEALING**

Sunday 22nd March. Forms for this Mass are available from the back of church. Please complete and return to the box by Tuesday 17th March so that we can make transport arrangements and have an idea of numbers for seating and refreshments.

<b>Feb 28/Mar 1</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Welcomers	J.Bentley	D.Marsden & J.Byrne
Readers	Volunteer	Marina Barrett
Eucharistic Ministers	B.Worden & M.Preedy	C.Morgan, S.Smith, B.Collinson
Tea and Coffee		C.James & A.Pritchard

**CCP LOVE CLITHEROE** Information evening—Join Christians from all the churches on Tuesday 24th February 7.30pm in St Mary Magdalene's.

## **CLITHEROE**

**SOCIAL CENTRE** Memberships are now due—see list in porch for more details. This year, in an effort to circulate more information to members a database of members is being set up so that we can let you know what is going on—special occasions, promotions etc. This means when you pay your membership you will be asked for your email address. These emails will be secure and not passed on to any third party.

**EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK** a remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is being compiled. We are asking for a donation of £3 for a lily, which will decorate the Church at Easter. Money and names will be collected after mass at the table near the greetings cards by Jane Brown (Saturday) and Teresa Mercer (Sunday) starting NEXT Saturday 28th February.

**LADIES GROUP** NEXT Wednesday 25 February at 7.30pm—'Titanic Talks' by Nigel Hampson Curator of the Lancashire Titanic Museum. £2. Also at this meeting, Wendy Singleton, co-ordinator for Help for Heroes will be presented with the cheque for £620.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** S.V.P. will lead the Stations of the Cross next Friday 27th March at 7.30pm.

**FOOD BANK** Update on news—please see poster in porch.

**THANKYOU** St Martin de Porres for being there for me

**LENT TALKS** commence NEXT Saturday 28th February in our Parish Hall. The speaker will be Fr Frankie 'You cannot be serious!' - God's call from comedy to the church. See poster in porch for full programme.

**LISTENING EAR** an ecumenical initiative set up to provide a place where people can come for coffee and a chat. Launched recently for Foodbank customers, and others, for the opportunity for more on-going contact. Run by volunteers from local churches it is open Friday mornings 10am-11.30am (in term time) at The King's Centre, Millthorne Avenue. Info Mark Woodward 01200 444148 or [info@clitheroecommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:info@clitheroecommunitychurch.co.uk)

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** this year on Friday 6th March 7.30pm at The United Reformed Church. All Ladies, men and young people are welcome.

## **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner no 22 Jane Donborand

**CRB CHECKS** Ann will be in the sacristy after Mass today to check and photocopy I.D.'s. Please come round after Mass—shouldn't take too long.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** start this Tuesday 24th February at 7.30pm. This week we will use the ones left to us by Fr Morris. Come if you can.

**HALL COMMITTEE MEETING** The Hall Social Committee will meet tomorrow evening Monday 23rd February 7.30pm in the Hall.