

Dear Parishioners

Two weeks ago I mentioned that the 2011 census revealed that 1 in every four UK citizens claimed to have no religion (a number that has doubled in only 10 years!) You can be certain that many of these are baptised Catholics. I also reported that in response to Pope Francis' plea that parishes in the West strive to become missionary parishes willing to share the gospel and welcome enquirers our Bishops have launched **Proclaim 15**, a strategy to help us become just that. Well, two weeks ago we held the first of three Lenten meetings to launch this initiative. Attendance was poor and disappointing but for those who did come it proved to be a most encouraging evening. Perhaps surprisingly the majority were from the younger adult side of the parish. The next meeting is this Wednesday: as Jesus said to Andrew: 'Come and see'

For more information go to: www.catholicnews.org.uk/proclaim15

A reality of church life today is that more frequently than not a majority of mourners at a Requiem Mass may not be Catholic or if Catholic have lost contact with the Church and no longer know when to stand, sit or kneel. To save visitors any embarrassment it was decided at Wednesday's Forum to invite parishioners at Requiems to occupy the left hand benches at the front of the church so that mourners in the benches on the right-hand side are able to easily see and follow the parishioners' lead. Also, and to avoid embarrassment, parishioners are requested at communion to come smartly forward and not wait for mourners to first approach the altar.

You may remember that a few years ago we started renovating the church benches but following a Forum proposal that we should first cushion the benches we turned attention to this. After much discussion and experimenting with two different designs of cushioning, neither of which was successful, it was decided on Wednesday to forget the cushioning and proceed with stripping and staining the benches. (Neither can we replace the benches with chairs because of the church's slanting floor)

Family Paschal Candles are now available at the same price as last year, retailing at £10.

We are half way through Lent. Hopefully you are maintaining your Lenten resolution. If you have slipped then simply start all over again and if you haven't even started, well begin today.

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

4th Sunday of Lent - 15th March 2015

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday

Mass at 9.15 am

Funeral Service 11am—Laurence O'Hagan

Deanery Station Mass at

St Gerard's, Lostock Hall, 7.30pm



Thursday

Mass at 7.30am & 9.15am (please note no evening Mass)

Friday

Mass at 9.15am Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

Saturday 21st March

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 followed by Coffee

Tuesday—Stations of the Cross 7.30pm **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

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MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Alice Emerson x 2, Vincenzo Ditri, Gerard McDonagh, Brian Carr, Albert & Priscilla Leigh, John Lofthouse, Laurence O'Hagan, Fr Michael Dunn, Arnold Thomas Marsden.

SICK

Fr Peter Birmingham, Peter Wright, Joseph Bradley, Marie Haslam, Fr Michael Dunn, Maria Middleton, Peter and Mary Cumberback, Pat Shepherd, Arnold Thomas Marsden,

LATELY DEAD
Laurence O'Hagan

ANNIVERSARIES
Brian Carr, Vincenzo Ditri, Betty Morton, Alice Fullalove

OFFERTORY Clitheroe 765.76 Sabden £179.52 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks
CAFOD Thankyou for a further £145.32 from the Lent Fast envelopes bringing the total so far to £1196.18—**SPLENDID**. CAFOD members will lead the Stations this Friday March 20th at 7.30pm. Do come and add your prayers to your donations for our needy sisters and brothers in poor countries. A date for your diary to keep free—Wednesday 17th June—Climate Change—Watch this space!

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016 The Diocese is organising to join the next World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Poland from 24th July to 2nd August 2016. Young people between 16 and 35 years old are welcome! World Youth Day is a unique event with young Catholics from all over the world coming together to celebrate their faith and friendship that could 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.) Closing date for registration 31st March 2015. Deposit £50 (limited places available). <http://www.salforddiocese.net/#!youth/c1s97>

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

CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Tel 0161 941 3498 or visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

PRO-LIFE GROUP will meet on Friday 20th March after the Stations of the Cross (approx 8pm) in the presbytery. If you care about Pro-Life issues come and join us—you will be very welcome.

'LIFETEEN NIGHTS' Calling all year 9, 10 & 11 students. There will be a great event which hails from America called – Lifeteen. An evening to celebrate faith in a fun, exciting and new way with karaoke, games, drama, music, interactive groups by led by John Hesketh and a great team of young people. The nights will take place at St Mary's, Hall, York Lane, Langho, BB6 8DW from 7pm-8.30pm on Wednesdays 18th, 25th March and 1st April. See Fr Frankie for more info or for a consent form if you would like to attend.

MASS OF HEALING Sunday 22nd March at 2pm. 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

WANTED Home-baked cakes for reception after Mass of Healing NEXT Sunday 22 March. Cakes may be taken to our Parish Hall between 10.30am and 11am on the day.

SAFEGUARDING If there are any outstanding forms/ID's etc for the Disclosure Application Ann Harkin is at available most Saturday nights at the 6pm Mass and will be at Clitheroe and Sabden for the morning Masses NEXT Sunday 22nd March. Any 'missing' details on forms which have already been submitted will be followed up directly with the applicant.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY—Northern Catholic Conference 12/13/14 June at Liverpool Hope University—See poster in porch

CLITHEROE

TODDLERS GROUP Trinity Methodist Church are running a toddlers' group on Thursday mornings 9.15am—11am in their Hall. Cost £1.50 per family/carer group. Soft drinks, Tea or Coffee included.

JESUITS & FRIENDS Free Spring 2015 magazine available from porch

LADIES GROUP Coffee Morning April 25th at the Ribble Valley Mayor's Parlour from 10am—12noon. Tickets £1 will be on sale on the weekends 11/12th & 18/19th April. All proceeds from this fund raising event together with proceeds from the Rossendale Male Voice Choir in November will be donated to the R.V.Foodbank.

CARITAS Vacancy for Assistant cook—see poster in porch

March 21/22	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Roberts	M.Rogers & C.Willman
Readers	J.Byrne	P.Lambert,
Eucharistic Ministers	F.Ellis & R Embery	J.Hall, S.Hall, A.Marsden
Tea and Coffee		R & C Conti/E.Thomson

FOOD BANK the Food Bank urgently requires volunteers for the street collection in Clitheroe next Saturday 21 March. Anyone who is able to do this for an hour or two please email info@ribblevalley.foodbank.org.uk or tel 07849 534431

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).

LENT TALKS NEXT Saturday 21st March in our Parish Hall. 'God's retirement plan'? - A pastor's journey. Speaker Graham Derbyshire. Coffee served at 10.30am—talk commences 11am.

TEA DANCE Wednesday 18th March 2pm—5pm. Dancing/Afternoon Tea. Good company—only £3.50. Held in St Michael & St John's Function Suite. Info Daphne 01200 427912

BOOK STOCK Simple Prayer Books are back in stock and are now on sale together with some new small inexpensive booklets including—St Vincent de Paul, St John Southworth, St Bernadette, Mother Teresa and St Therese of Lisieux

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner no 31 The Taylor family

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm. Come and join in if you can.

CAKE SALE Matthew Sharpe has been chosen to swim for the Catholic schools sports federation of Great Britain at the 67th FISEC Games in Malta in July. This is a wonderful achievement and opportunity for him, and we would like to sponsor and support him in this. There will be a special cake sale after Mass today. All proceeds to Matthew's Malta fund. Please come along and support him.

COFFEE MORNING There will be an Easter Coffee morning on Holy Saturday 4th April from 10am—12noon in St Mary's Hall Sabden. Wear your best bonnet—a prize for best adult and best child. £1 entrance including refreshments. There will also be a Raffle and a Cake stall. A parishioner is donating lots of hats to be sold at this event—so if you are going to a wedding this year and want a bargain then come along, you may find just what you're looking for!