

Dear Parishioners

Seeing the elderly only as a burden "is ugly. It's a sin," Pope Francis said recently.

"We must reawaken our collective sense of gratitude, appreciation and hospitality, helping the elderly know they are a living part of their communities" and sources of wisdom for the younger generations, 78-year-old Pope Francis said at his weekly audience on 4th March. "If we do not learn to treat the elderly well, we won't be treated well either" when the time comes.

In a talk punctuated with references to his own family life, his grandmother and his experience visiting homes for the elderly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Pope Francis said even Christians are being influenced by cultures so focused on production and profit, that the biblical exhortations to respect the aged and draw upon their wisdom are being ignored. "We elderly are all a bit fragile," the pope said, including himself among the aged.

The elderly he visited in Buenos Aires, he said, would often tell him that they had many children and that their children visited them. "And when was the last time they came?" the pope said he asked one woman. "She said, 'Well, at Christmas.' It was August. Eight months without a visit from her children. Eight months of being abandoned. This is called a mortal sin. Understand?" "It is so easy to put our consciences to sleep when there is no love," he said.

"While we are young we are tempted to ignore old age as if it were an illness to hold at bay, we want to remove our growing fear of weakness and vulnerability, but doing so we increase the anguish of the elderly," Pope Francis said.

"But when we become old, especially if we are poor, sick and alone, we experience the failures of a society programmed for efficiency, which consequently ignores the elderly."

The elderly are the "reserve of the wisdom of our people," they have experienced and survived the struggles to raise a family and provide them with a dignified life, he said. Tossing them aside means tossing aside their experience and the way that experience can contribute to making life better today.

A society that cannot show gratitude and affection to the elderly "is a perverse society," the pope said. "The church, faithful to the word of God, cannot tolerate such degeneration." "Where the elderly are not honoured," he said, "there is no future for the young." *Fr John*

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden
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Assistant Priest: Fr Frankie Mulgrew

5th Sunday of Lent - 22nd March 2015

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee
2pm—Healing Mass in Parish hall

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 7.30am & 9am

Wednesday

Mass at 9am
12.15pm Funeral Service Josephine Wilson

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7pm

Friday

Mass at 9am
Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

SATURDAY (28th March)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am Exposition 11am—11.55am
Reconciliation—11am—11.45am First Mass of Sunday at 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

Douglas Thompson, Kay & Alan Street, Vivienne Tingle, Wilfrid Welford, Mary Hardaker,
Bryan Roberts, Josephine Wilson, Jan Jezierski

SICK Vivienne Tingle, Jan Jezierski

LATELY DEAD Josephine Wilson, Laurence O'Hagan, Douglas Thompson,

ANNIVERSARIES

Wilfrid Walford, Bryan Roberts, Joan Preedy Marion Hutchinson, Betty Brown, Alice Wilkinson,

OFFERTORY Clitheroe 866.50 Sabden £211.02 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks
THANKYOU grateful thanks to St Jude for favours received.

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>

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

'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 25th March and 1st April. See Fr Frankie for more info or for a consent form if you would like to attend.

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 TODAY Sunday 22nd March. Any 'missing' details on forms which have already been submitted will be followed up directly with the applicant.

RIBBLE VALLEY FOOD BANK all churches in Clitheroe are today taking a collection defray the costs of running the Foodbank. There are baskets at the back of church for those who wish to contribute.

CHRISM MASS We have three tickets for Maundy Thursday in Salford Cathedral at 10.30am. There is also a Deanery coach departing from Wilpshire at 8.30am. If you would like to go please see Fr John

SUPPORT OF IRAQI CHRISTIANS An overnight vigil will be held 18/19 April in The Holy Name Church, Oxford Rd, Manchester. See poster in porch for details

INHERITANCE a Passion play will be presented at 7.30pm on Good Friday by the Riding Lights Theatre Co at the Pendle Hippodrome—see poster in porch.

JESUITS & FRIENDS Free Spring 2015 magazine available from porch

S.V.P.COLLECTION The quarterly collection for the Society will take place next weekend 28/29 March. Gift Aid envelopes will be given out this week in preparation for next Saturday and Sunday. Please give generously. Mass on Thursday 26th March will be at 7pm to facilitate the District Meeting of the SVP which will start at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

CLITHEROE

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

LOVE CLITHEROE Come and join us in prayer for our town, our country, our world and our families at the Salvation Army on Tuesday's at 11.30am. Everyone welcome

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY St Michael & St John's, Primary School Summer Bash will be on Saturday 20th June. Live music from 'Kickstart' Cost £25. See poster in 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.

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.

March 28/29	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	A.Harkin	P.Dixon & E.Thomson
Readers	C.Moxham	P.Anwyl
Eucharistic Ministers	B.Worden & M.Preedy	G.Lambert, C.Leeming, B.Collinson
Tea and Coffee		B.Parkinson & B.Barker

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 28th March sees the last of the Lent talks for 2015 in our Parish Hall. 'With God, physics and the school bell' speaker is Andy Smith, a Christian headteacher and scientist. Coffee served at 10.30am—talk commences 11am.

LADIES GROUP meeting Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm 'The Life of L.S.Lowry' speaker Pat Osbourne. £2 including light refreshment.

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

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE will be held here in St Michael & St John's at 10am followed by a Pavement Procession to a short outdoor meditation just inside the Castle grounds at Castlegate.

Easter cards are now on sale at the back of church

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner no 45 J.Shorter

STATIONS OF THE CROSS On Friday 27th March we are invited to lead the Stations at St Michael & St John's. Please support the people who have volunteered to do this. If anyone would like to help please come along to stations on Tuesday at 7.30pm for a run through.

CAKE STALL last Sunday raised £160 for Matthew's Malta fund. Thanks to everyone who donated and bought.

CRB CHECKS Ann Harkin will be in the sacristy after Mass today to complete any outstanding CRB's.

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!

Janet will be selling Easter cards in the hall after the 11am Mass today