

Dear Parishioners

Speaking recently to some 7,000 people gathered in the Vatican's audience hall, Pope Francis reflected on the role and vocation of fathers.

The world today, especially in the West, often appears as a world without fathers, as men are so focused on their jobs or personal fulfilment that they neglect their families. When their lives are all work and no play, men turn their children into "orphans" who lack a father to guide them, show them love and teach them values, Pope Francis said.

They are orphans in a family because their fathers are often absent, but above all because when they are home they don't act like fathers, they don't dialogue with their children, they don't fulfil their role as their children's educators, they don't give their children, by way of their example and their words, those principles, values and rules of life that they need like bread."

Pope Francis recalled how when he served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he would often ask fathers whether or not they played with their children, if they had the courage of love to 'waste' their time with their children. "And their answer was awful, you know. The majority said, 'Well, I can't, I have too much work.'"

Christian communities need to be extra attentive to the crisis of fatherhood in society today and how so many young people feel "orphaned" within their own families, the pope said. So many of the problems that children have, some of them serious, stem from them not having a good father figure - a father who is an authoritative, loving guide and role model, he added.

In fact, the more a father needs to work or be away from home, the more important it is that he takes extra care to live up to his duty of providing solid, quality guidance, he said.

Another problem, the pope identified, is that sometimes fathers seem lost or unsure of what role they are supposed to play in the family and "so, being in doubt, they opt out, they withdraw and neglect their responsibilities, perhaps hiding behind a dubious relationship of 'equal footing' with their children. While it is true fathers need to accompany their children, they must not forget they must act like a parent, not a best friend because that is not good for the child."

Dads, a message well worth pondering on.

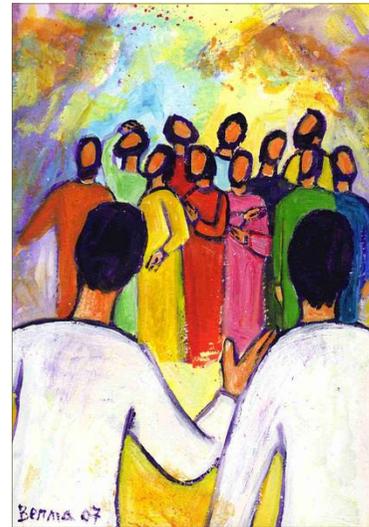
Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe & Sabden
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Assistant Priest: Fr Joseph Gee

The Ascension of the Lord - 17th May 2015

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Wednesday

Mass at 9am

Tuesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am—No evening Mass
Confirmations at 7.30pm

Friday

Mass at 9am
Funeral Service 12noon Margaret Nutter

Saturday 23rd May

Eucharistic Service 10.45am
Exposition 11am—11.55am
Reconciliation 11am—11.45am
First Mass of Sunday 6pm

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am followed by Coffee **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

Thursday—Confirmation at 7.30pm

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Jack Middleton x 4, Fr J.Dugdale, Mary Cushion, Margaret Nutter, Herbert Geelan

SICK

Arnold Marsden jnr, Fr Peter Birmingham, Maria Middleton, Sheila Machouicz, Sally Hickling

LATELY DEAD

Jack Middleton, Margaret Nutter, Ruth Robinson, Mary Cushion, Fr John Dugdale

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas Tresnan, Herbert Geelan

There will be a collection at all masses this weekend for World Communications Day

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £736.58 Sabden £225.84 S.Orders £170.48 Many thanks
CATHOLIC SINGLES is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, or visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk
FR FRANKIE'S SOCIAL EVENING There is a legal limit on numbers using the Social Centre which cannot be exceeded. As a result therefore, although there is no charge, admission will be by ticket only which will be available after all masses next weekend 23/24th May. This weekend 16/17th May, Margaret Donnelly will be collecting contributions for Fr Frankies financial gift, so you may give her your name if you want a ticket – please only order tickets if you intend to come. Any late contributions may be left at the presbytery up to May 22nd. Also could you get any entries for Fr Frankie's photo book to Susan White before today 20th May. Send via email to Signdesign69@hotmail.com or give to Peter or Susan White, Fr John or Fr Joe. This will be a properly published book – please be involved. We are also presenting Fr Frankie with a Spiritual Bouquet on the evening which you may wish contribute – you will find a list on the shelf at the back of church.

CAFOD has launched a £3 million emergency appeal following the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal. Please be generous in support of this appeal. Donations may be placed into both the collection boxes at the back of church. Envelopes are beside the collection boxes and can be put into the collection basket at Mass or left at the presbytery. At Sabden they may be put on the collection plate. Kindly consider Gift Aid which provides an additional 25p in the £1 at no extra cost to yourself.

SAFEGUARDING DBS clearances have begun to come through. A few glitches and some may have been 'claimed' by a different parish. Don't worry it doesn't make any difference the diocese will amend it. Don't forget to register online at www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service and please send me (Ann Harkin) a copy. anark456@aol.com

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE. It is hoped to hire a mini-bus to the Northern Catholic Conference on Saturday 13th June. There is a list at the back of church for people to indicate if they would like to go and then we can decide whether or not to hire a bus depending on numbers. The cost would be approx £7 return plus a voluntary donation of £10 to the NCC. We would have to leave Clitheroe about 8.30am.

LADIES GROUP MYSTERY TOUR Wednesday June 24th. Leaves Clitheroe Interchange at 3.15pm and returning around 10pm. Price £28.50 includes the Coach fare, Three Course meal, Entertainment and tips for drivers and waitresses. Menu's available from porch—Please return menu together with money to the Parish Office or to the next Ladies Group meeting on May 27th

HEAD TEACHER WANTED Our Diocese has recently reviewed the situation at the Sacred Heart Primary School in Blackburn and decided that it should remain within the Trusteeship of the Diocese. The Trustees are looking to appoint and outstanding Head Teacher who is able to embrace the diversity and special nature of this Catholic School. Details on the Diocesan Website and click education vacancies or contact angela.williams@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

On the Bank Holiday a week tomorrow, our parish will host the North West's sponsored walk for Right to Life. We shall be joined by our Bishop John, Lord David Alton and Fiona Bruce MP among others The walk begins at 1pm, so please do join us and if possible get yourself sponsored. Not least it will give you the opportunity to meet with the Bishop along the way and give him an idea of how active our parish is. People will be collecting sponsorship for Fr John and others this weekend and next.
 Please be generous.
 It would help if all local walkers could bring their own warm drinks (which will be transported by car if they wish), and also park in the Car Park behind the Social Centre
 Thankyou



CLITHEROE

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
MISSION TODAY Missio (APF Missions) Spring 2015 magazine available from porch
K.S.C. GRAND JUMBLE SALE Next Saturday 23rd May at 2pm. Admission 20p Kids free. Jumble received from 6.30pm on Friday 22nd May or telephone Les on 01200 427029 or Arnold on 01200 427096 for collection. All proceeds from this Jumble will be donated to the Cafod Nepal Appeal.

PARISH DRAW will commence in September. Cost of a ticket is £20. You will be given a number which will go into the draw which will take place at the end of each month (10 months in total). If you would like a ticket then please fill in one of the blue forms that are available at the back of church with your name, address and telephone number and pop it in the box provided. Even if you have been in the draw before you still need to complete one of the slips.

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN the annual visit will start of 6th June for a month and the children stay with local families. For three of the children it will be their last visit and next year three new children will replace them and therefore there is an opportunity for people to give three loving homes from 2016 onwards. Interested then contact Ken or Jo Robinson on 01200 428859

LOVE CLITHEROE Wednesday 20th May—prayer and information evening for local Christians of our town and praying for our community. The venue is Trinity Methodist Church at 7.30pm. Also there will be a town BBQ and family fund day Saturday 27th June on the Castle Field.

May 23/24	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	M.Valovin	R & F Holgate
Readers	C.McGuire	G.Lambert
Eiucharistic Ministers	F.Ellis & R.Embery	E.Thomson, I.Parkes, P.Donnelly
Tea and Coffee		Fellows family

TEA DANCE Wednesday 20th May 2-5pm held in our Parish Function Room. Come along and enjoy an afternoon Dancing with Afternoon Tea (homemade cakes). Still only £3.50. Info from Daphne 01200 427912

COFFEE MORNING The Ladies Group thank everyone who supported their recent Coffee Morning—£400.58 was raised. This total is to be added to the proceeds from our next event Friday 13th November, Rossendale Male Voice Choir to be held here in church. Please note there is an unclaimed raffle prize—White ticket 233. Ring Daphne 01200 427912

WANTED! Home-baked cakes for the reception after the Pro-Life walk next Monday 25th May. Please bring to our Parish Hall on Sunday (24th May) after Mass or on the Monday by 1.30—2pm.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner no 18—Grimshaw family

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY—Saturday 13th June 2-4pm Garden Party. Details to follow. There will be a meeting this coming Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm in the hall to organise this event.

CHRISTIAN AID Thankyou to all those of you who supported the Christian Aid Coffee morning last Saturday. The event raised £850

FR FRANKIE'S SOCIAL EVENING If you would like a ticket for this please let Gerry Lambert know. She will be collecting your contributions to Fr Frankie's gift after 11am Mass today.