

Dear Parishioners,

Periodically I'm asked what we Catholics believe regarding Heaven, Hell and Purgatory and why a Catholic Funeral is not a simple celebration of life. So, for this weekend of All Saints and All Souls here is a simple re-statement of Catholic belief regarding death and what follows.

Death is life's moment of truth when we shall see and recognise ourselves for what we truly are. It is then that God waits to accept us into his infinite loving embrace. Some may fall into God's arms immediately. For others the embarrassment of fickle, imperfect, vacillating love may prevent an unconditional acceptance of God's embrace until love is purified and refined. Sadly, some may be so full of hatred and denial of everything good that they turn their face forever away from love, from God. An eternity without love is simply Hell.

On the other hand, Heaven is an endless moment of love. Nothing more separates the saints from the God whom they have sought their life long. Together with the angels they rejoice eternally in and with God. Observe a couple in love, oblivious to the world as they look into each other's eyes or a suckling baby looking up to its mother's face -- then you have some inkling of Heaven. To be able to see God face to face is like a single, never-ending moment of love.

Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. One who dies in God's grace but whose frail and wavering love is in need of purifying of selfishness is in the state we name, Purgatory. After Peter's betrayal, Jesus looked at him but Peter could only turn in shame to weep bitterly -- he withdrew, unable to accept Jesus' forgiving gaze of love. Just such a purgatory, a purification of love probably awaits most at death -- the Lord will look at us full of love but on our side burning shame and remorse for past faithlessness and unloving behaviour will hold us back. Only after purification will our love rush us into God's loving gaze in untroubled heavenly joy.

We, who are baptized, both the living and the dead, are united in one family, in one communion. So we pray for each other -- we ask the saints to intercede for us and in turn we intercede for our dead. Our example is St Thomas More who wrote to his daughter Meg on the night before his execution: "Farewell, my dear child, and pray for me, and I shall for you, and for all your friends, that we may merrily meet in heaven."

All Saints is the day we praise God for his miracles of grace in the lives of each and every saint. All Souls is the day we remember and pray for our departed family and friends.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

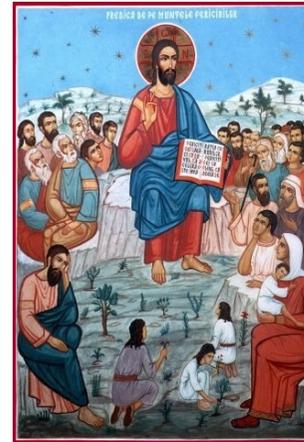
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Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD

Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy Pastor Emeritus Mgr John Chaloner

All Saints - 1st November 2015 St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

Saturday 6th November

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

Sunday 8th November (Remembrance Sunday) - Mass at 11.30am, after the 11am Village Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph.

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish Mass Book page 186. Eucharistic Prayer II p.23. Preface p.73

Tuesday—Mass at 9.30am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Joan Worden x 2, Fergus Brown, Robin Reynold, Alice Parkinson, Robin Walton, Eric Preedy

SICK

Fr Kevin Kenny, Fr Peter Birmingham, Carol Waterworth, Peter Wright, Brian Precious,

LATELY DEAD

Fergus Brown, Robin Walton, Evelyn Knowles

ANNIVERSARIES Joan Worden, Alice Parkinson, Eric Preedy

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £865.35 Sabden £157.17 Dunsop £187 S/O £170.48

CAFOD The next meeting of the CAFOD group will be on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

ROSSENDALE MALE VOICE CHOIR are appearing in Church on Friday November 13th. Tickets £7.50 will be on sale after Masses this weekend Oct 31/Nov 1 and also the following weekend. Proceeds from this event will go to the Foodbank

SPONSORED WALK Thanks to all who walked or sponsored the HCPT walk. Please get money in as soon as possible.

LADYEWELL ANNOUNCEMENT—a new initiative ‘Guild of Ladyewell Shrine’. Membership is open to any baptised Christian striving to live by Gospel values. Registration Fee £5. Leaflets and info available from the church porch.

LECTIO DIVINA You are invited to join Callum on Wednesday evening at 8pm to learn and experience Lectio Divina, a traditional form of prayer dating back to the early years of the church. Please bring a bible with you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE please meet a week on Tues 3rd Nov 7.30pm in presbytery

EMBRACE LIVERPOOL Saturday 21st Nov at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. A day to celebrate the faith of young people. Speakers include David Wells, Fr Frankie Mulgrew, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. Aimed at 16-25yr olds. Mass 4pm preside by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. www.embrace-liverpool.org.uk

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY as part of the Ribble Valley Mayors fund raising events there will be a Concert at St Peter’s Stonyhurst on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm. St Augustines Choir will be taking part as well as Anne Marie Brewer

REIGNITE NORTH Sunday 29th November 5.30pm at St Mary’s, Burnley (BB10 4AU)., A Youth Mass followed by a Social evening, including food and drink, at the Knight Club, opposite the Church. Participants must be between 14 & 35 years old.

OLD GREGORIAN’S ANNUAL MASS—see poster in porch

POPE FRANCIS.

Do come along to the Hall on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm for one hour for the first of our periodic meetings looking at Pope Francis’ letter Evangelii Gaudium. This is the church’s road map for the coming years so do come along and learn where we are going. Tea and Refreshments will be served from 7.15pm

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Pro-Life Celebration Day Saturday 12th December at St Mary’s, Eccles. See poster in porch for more details.

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Saturday—Welcoming A.Harkin Reader-M.Taylforth Eucharistic Ministers B.Worden & M.Preedy. Sunday—Welcoming R & C Conti Reader G.Lambert Eucharistic Ministers P.Sutcliffe, A.Marsden, P.Donnely Coffee Rota—Embery family

You can find a good selection of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Books, Nativities and other Christmas items for sale in the side porch (near the sacristy door). It will be open after Mass/Service for about 20 minutes on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Thursday & Friday.

K.S.C. JUMBLE SALE Saturday 14th November 2pm. Jumble can be given to Arnold Marsden or Les Collinson from now on or taken to our Parish Hall from 9am onwards on the morning of the 14th (Saturday). Please note our Parish Hall is unavailable on the Friday night (13th). Proceeds of this event will go to Mary’s Meals.

K.S.C.DANCE Friday 20th November 7.30pm start. Admission £7 inc Hot Supper. Tel 01200 427029 or 427096 for tickets.

GRAND RAFFLE WINNERS there are still some unclaimed prizes—631, 706, 1233, 1458, 1753. The Bucket Raffle, £80 is also still unclaimed—ticket no 771. All prizes may be claimed from the presbytery on either Monday, Thursday or Friday morning.

ROSARY OF THE UNBORN will be said after Mass/Service each morning this week for all Pro-Life intentions. Our Lady of Guadalupe Pray for us.

LOVE CLITHEROE 7.30pm Monday 2nd November at St James’. Emma & Roo Walker (from Clitheroe to Calais) will report on the response to their request for winter clothing to help refugees in Calais. They travelled there during mid-term and will talk also of their experiences of the camps. Rachael Stott of RVBC will suggest how Christians may support refugees who may shortly be housed in the Ribble Valley. Pam Entwistle, the Christians Against Poverty manager will be updating on her work to help local people reduce their debts.

PARISH DRAW WINNERS £100 –15 J.Wharton, £20 -13 M.Plant, £20-102 J.Clegg £10-172 J.Thornber, £10-109 B.Mercer, £10-82 M.Walmsley, £10-181 Mrs Byrne

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 11 A & C Brown. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

DROP IN FOR COFFEE to St Mary’s Community Hall on the last Wednesday of each month 10am—12noon. Free Admission—Tea, Coffee, biscuits, juice, magazines, colouring books for the children. All welcome to pop in for a cuppa.

GRAND FESTIVE BINGO Friday 20th November at 7.30pm in St Mary’s Hall. Tickets £5 Adult, Children £2.50 available from Sabden or at St Michael & St John’s presbytery. Children including Pie and Peas supper. We would be grateful for any donations of prizes for this Grand Bingo night.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE a meeting to organise this event on Tuesday 10th November 7.30pm in the Hall. This is an open meeting so please come along and bring your ideas. Any parish group who would run a stall, or anyone who could help on the day.

CHRISTMAS DRAW tickets will be available from next Sunday. Be in with a chance to be one of the first people to win a futuristic gyroscopic skateboard. Other prizes will be a Food Hamper, Wines and Spirits etc. Books of tickets £5—do try and sell some.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

RED MISSION BOXES The Red Mission Boxes are now due in for emptying.

RAG RUG WORKSHOP NEXT Friday 6th November in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall 1pm-4pm. All materials provided but please bring scissors and pinking scissors. For further info and booking please contact Jean Parkinson 01200 448631

REMINDER that the next Full Parish meeting with Mgr Corcoran will be after Mass on Sunday 15th November

PARISH BINGO & SOCIAL NIGHT Monday 7th December in Newton Village Hall. Donations of prizes for Bingo would be very much appreciated. Please hand prizes to Julie Bennett, or leave at Church by Sunday 6th December.