

Dear Parishioners

Today's letter from Bishop John begins a process that will gradually refashion our diocese into the missionary diocese that Pope Francis wants us to be. There will be no sudden destabilizing shocks but a gradual transformation.

Most will be pleased with the Bishop's proposals made in repose to the recent diocese wide consultation. Others will feel shocked and threatened at the proposed closure or amalgamation of parishes and want to know why this must happen.

To answer that we have to look back to the end of WWII and the huge housing schemes that followed as densely populated and bomb damaged inner-city areas were redeveloped and new estates were built on the fringes of cities and towns. To serve these, Salford diocese founded new parishes complete with school and in some instances more than one church. Pre-war our diocese had 149 parishes. Fifty years later in 1980 these had increased to 207.

This expansion coincided with an unprecedented increase in the numbers of Clergy. Compare the year 1978 when Salford had 417 priests in active ministry to today when there are only 150 of whom 23 are over the retirement age of 75 but still running parishes! It is estimated that in five years' time we shall have only 108 priests below the age of 75 to serve 150 parishes.

Then there is a third factor. Sadly, during the past 40 years, as we are all too painfully aware, the practice rate of Catholics has more than halved. Many churches, both old and recent, struggle with poor attendance and support.

To face the future with confidence, to grow into a lean and missionary church that is fit for purpose, some churches will need to close while others will remain without a resident priest but within a larger parish. In this new situation parish communities will need to organise themselves to provide catechists, lay ministers and administrators who will help to run their parish, look after its buildings and free their priest to serve their sacramental needs.

In our own parish we are now used to this new model and, hopefully, are making it work to the benefit of all.

Do read the summary of the Bishop's proposals, available after Mass. His full 18 page report is on the parish website: olotv.org.uk and the diocesan site: www.salforddiocese.net. Hard copies may be requested from the parish office.

Fr John

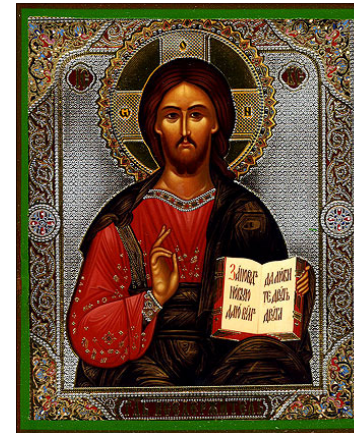
Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge
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 Kevin Murphy Pastor Emeritus Mgr John Chaloner

Christ the King - 22nd November 2015

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday & Tuesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

Saturday 28th November

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

St Mary's Church, Sabden

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

Next Sunday 29th November—Service of Light at 4pm

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish mass Book page 160. Eucharistic Prayer III page 27

Preface page 70

Tuesday —Mass at 9.30am

Next Sunday 29th November—Carol Service with Slaidburn Band at 7pm

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Frank Wrigley, Canon Paul Embery's Silver Jubilee, Joseph Fullalove x 2, Helen Addy, Philip & Raymond, Brian Precious

SICK Fr Kevin Kenny, Fr Peter Birmingham, Carol Waterworth, Peter Wright, Billy Lambert, Helen Addy

LATELY DEAD Evelyn Knowles, Brian Precious

ANNIVERSARIES Frank Wrigley, Joseph Fullalove

S.V.P. Christmas Collection after all masses next weekend 28/29 November. Gift Aid envelopes distributed this weekend. Please give generously. All contributions to local people in need.

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £856.36 Sabden £190.93 Dunsop £363.20 S/O £170.48

RETIRED PRIESTS Clitheroe £282.29 Sabden £37.20 Dunsop £72.41

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 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

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.

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.

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

JOYFUL NOISE will be at Chatburn Methodist Church on 23rd November.

VACANCIES for Communications Officer & Communications Technician at Salford Diocese—see posters in porch

CAFOD you have the chance to help make politicians take notice of how we feel about climate change. Why not join the People's Climate March Sun 29 Nov (see poster

LOURDES 2015 REUNION & SLIDESHOW in SMSJ Parish Hall Wed 2 December. All welcome. Top Bar open for cold drinks, tea & coffee and light refreshments provided. For further details tel Susan Fellows 07887 690402 or Grace Fellows 07961 708743

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL this year at Trinity Methodist Church 4/5/6th December. Admission £1—refreshments available. See poster in porch.

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND **Saturday**—M.Manning Reader-A.Southworth Eucharistic Ministers B.Worden & M.Preedy **Sunday**—Welcoming R & F Holgate Reader P.Lambert **Eucharistic Ministers** C.Leeming, T.Mercer, A.Marsden **Coffee Rota**—Fellows family. The new rota for December will be available next week.

ADVENT PRAYER & PRAISE WITH MUSIC on four Thursday evenings, 26 Nov, 3,10,17 Dec after evening mass from 8.10-9.10pm there will be an hour of praise and worship with music, exposition, scripture and silent prayer. Our focus will be Mary, the Mother of Mercy at the start of the Year of Mercy. All are welcome and singers and musicians offering help should contact Fr Kevin. An evening (t.b.a.) will be offered in Sabden.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE next Sunday 29th Nov at St Mary Magdalene 6.30pm

JUMBLE SALE The K.S.C.Jumble raised £258 for Mary's meals. If anyone would like to donate to this wonderful charity, the government has promised to match pound for pound until the end of December. Place donations on offertory plate marked 'Marys Meals' or give to any K.S.C.member

ST MARY'S RAFFLE TICKETS are available this coming week from presbytery

ST HUBERT'S XMAS RAFFLE tickets on sale next weekend £1 a ticket £5 a book

HCPT SPONSORED WALK raised £1870. The cheque will be handed over on December 28th at the Fun Quiz.

FESTIVE FAIRTRADE MARKET will be held at The Grand, York Street on Saturday 28th November from 10am-2pm.

ROTARY CLUB Friday 4th December the Rotary Club and Salvation Army are hosting a service of Nine Lessons & Carols at 6.30pm Trinity Methodist Church. The offering will be shared between the Salvation Army and Crossroads Care. Mince Pies, Tea/Coffee afterwards.

BUCKET RAFFLE £80 prize still unclaimed—ticket no 771.

LADIES GROUP we are having their Christmas Dinner at The Newdrop on Friday evening 15th January 2016 consisting of a 3 course meal—cost £25. This includes transport - a coach leaving from the Lowergate car park and tips Menu's are now available from Janet, Daphne or from the porch. Any parishioner—Men included—are invited to join us.

LADIES GROUP MEETING at the meeting next Wednesday 25th Nov we will present a cheque for £1400 to Nigel Rix for The Ribble Valley Food Bank. Nigel will also give a talk on the Foodbank. Please bring with you your menu choices and money for our Annual Dinner. Could we also thank all of you who supported us last Friday (Rossendale Male Voice Choir) Raffle prize still unclaimed Pink Ticket 337

WANTED Holly with berries or variegated needed for the Church decorations at Christmas. Can cut or collect—please ring Jane Brown on 01200 441949

APF RED MISSION BOXES are available from the back of church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY **Christmas Tea Dance**—Wednesday 16th December. Monday 28th December **Annual Fun Quiz**. **Friday 29th January**—Jimmy Cricket **CAROL CONCERT** in our Parish Centre on Thursday 17th December at 7pm. Music by the Music Group and Slaidburn Silver Band. Free entry—Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Books, Nativities and other Christmas items for sale in the side porch (near the sacristy door). Open after Mass/Service for about 20 minutes on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Thursday & Friday Please put money in CTS box at the back of church to the right of War the Memorial.

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.

CHRISTMAS DRAW Draw tickets available after Mass. Please try to sell some. First prize is an amazing futuristic Segway board. Be the first in the Ribble Valley with this revolutionary new mode of transport. There is a list in the porch, for ideas for other raffle prizes for the draw. Please donate prizes and towards the first prize if you wish.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE Saturday 5th December 2-4pm admission 50p. Father Christmas in residence between 2-3pm. There is a list in the porch if you can help on the day. Donations of things to sell, especially toys, plants, bottles and tombola prizes. Wreathes also available this year to order—list in porch for names.

VILLAGE SERVICE OF LIGHT on 29th November at 4pm (not 6pm—sorry misprint last week) which we are hosting. Refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards. We would appreciate help to decorate the Hall after mass next Sunday. Please support this village event.

BAPTISM We welcome Leah Francesca Dugdale who was baptised recently

DUNSOP BRIDGE

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.

ALL WRAPPED UP Christmas Shopping Night, Tonight Sunday 22nd Nov from 6.30pm in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall. Stalls: My Pink Angel will provide a demo on this seasons scarf styles, jewellery and gifts. Flowers from the Heart, Beauty Therapy, Zoosocks, The Enchanted Garden, Bowland Smoke House, Chocolates gifts and much more. Tickets and further info from Kathryn Hayes 07779 297988. see poster in porch

CAROL SERVICE next Sunday 29th November at 7pm with Slaidburn Silver Band, director John Cowking. Refreshments afterwards at Thorneyholme School.