

Dear Parishioners

As the world moves into overdrive and begins a manic shopping spree in preparation for the festivities, we Catholics should keep our heads and remember that above all else Advent is a time in which to prepare spiritually to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. How? Pope Francis has commented: "In their daily routine, St. Joseph, together with Mary, shared a single centre of attention: Jesus. They accompanied and nurtured the growth of the Son of God made man with commitment and tenderness while reflecting on all that was happening. In his Gospel, St. Luke twice emphasizes this attitude of Mary: she "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart". To listen to the Lord, we must learn to contemplate, feel his constant presence in our lives, and we must stop and speak with him, giving him space in prayer. In Advent we should ask ourselves, "How much space do I give to the Lord? Do I stop to talk with him?" Ever since we were children, our parents encouraged us to start and end the day with a prayer, to teach us to feel that the friendship and the love of God accompanies us. Let us remember the Lord more in our daily life, especially this Advent!"

So, beginning today, I encourage you to listen to Pope Francis' advice and give a short time each day to quiet reflection, prayer, reading the Gospels or whatever. New *Walk with Me* booklets are available at the back to help you to do this each day of Advent. £1

Two years ago, I introduced you to *Olive Aid*. This is a charity which helps Palestinians who have lost their olive trees, usually their only source of income, to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements on the West bank and that dreadful security wall. Olive trees are precious: just twenty trees can sustain a family for a year. *Olive Aid* is a self-help project run by the Catholic Bethlehem University which provides needy families with three year old olive saplings. Christian and Muslim alike are helped but the project particularly aims to stem the emigration of Christian families who suffer the most in the conflict. Today, Christians in Bethlehem constitute less than 15% of the population. Fifty years ago, Christians living in the birthplace of Jesus made up more than 70% of the population. You can donate a tree for £25. For details see me or go to www.oliveaid.com It is a Christmas Charity that I support and a number of parishioners have joined with me over the past few years.

Finally, now is the time to consider which friend or relation, who may have slipped from practice, you will invite to join you at church "to come home for Christmas".

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

First Sunday of Advent - 29th 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 6th December

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 **Service of Light**—4pm

Tuesday—Requiem Mass 12noon—Peter Wright **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish mass Book page 82 Eucharistic Prayer II page 24
Preface 1 of Advent page 65

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

Tuesday—Mass at 9.30am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Helen Addy, John & Ada Pilling, Dr Philip Quinn, Ann Quinn, Marjorie Worswick,
Special intention, Ashfield Batts, Vivienne Tingle.

SICK Fr Kevin Kenny, Fr Peter Birmingham, Carol Waterworth, Billy Lambert,
Helen Addy, Vivienne Tingle.

LATELY DEAD Peter Wright, Dominic Hester

ANNIVERSARIES Marjorie Worswick, Ashfield Batts, Julia Tresna, Betty Haslam

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

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £835.14 Sabden £162.05 Dunsop £361.10 S/O £170.48
CHRISTMAS CONCERT as part of the Ribble Valley Mayors fund raising events there is Concert at St Peter's Stonyhurst on Tuesday 1st December **Please note at 7pm not 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.

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

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

CAFOD Thankyou to those who signed the Climate Change petition. Please pray for our parishioners who are going on the People's climate today 29th November

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE Wed 2 December 7.30pm our Parish Hall. ALL welcome to come and share our spiritual experience. Top bar will be open for cold drinks. Tea, Coffee and light refreshments will be provided—see you all there. Further details Susan Fellows 07887 690402 or Grace Fellows 07961 708743

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Christmas Tea Dance—Wednesday 16th December. Monday 28th December **Annual Fun Quiz. Friday 29th January**—Jimmy Cricket

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Saturday—A.Harkin Reader-C.McGuire

Eucharistic Ministers A.Harkin & A.Southworth **Sunday**—Welcoming-B.Barker/C.Riley Reader P.Sutcliffe **Eucharistic Ministers** E.Thomson, I.Parkes, H.Addy **Coffee Rota**—C.James & A.Pritchard. The new rota for December now available.

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 Tonight Sun 29 Nov St Mary Magdalene 6.30pm
JUMBLE SALE K.S.C.Jumble raised £258 for Mary's meals. Like to donate to this charity? the government has promised to match pound for pound until the end of Dec. Place donations on offertory plate marked 'Marys Meals' or give to any K.S.C.member

ST MARY'S (Sabden) RAFFLE TICKETS are available from the presbytery

ROTARY CLUB Fri 4th Dec the Rotary Club and Salvation Army Annual Carols at 6.30pm Trinity Methodist Church. Proceeds Salvation Army & Crossroads Care.

LADIES GROUP PROGRAMME 2016 are now available from the porch

CAROL CONCERT how good is this! Free mince pies and mulled wine + Great Christmas music with The Church Music Group and The Slaidburn Silver Band. Celebrate the coming of Christmas with your Church family in our Parish Hall on Thursday 17th December from 7pm. Entry is free.

JOY TO THE WORLD Ecumenical event Sunday 13th December at Trinity Methodist Church at 6.30pm. More details next week.

A LITTLE REMINDER about the cleaning of our church in preparation for the Christmas Liturgies. We are meeting in the Presbytery at 9am tomorrow Monday 30th November. Please come and join us.

APF RED BOXES 2016 Calendars now in the church porch —FREE. Also APF Mission boxes are available from the back of church.

If you ordered a wreath/decoration at our Christmas Fayre please collect it from the side porch after either of this weekends masses Thankyou

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

LADIES GROUP Christmas Dinner at The Newdrop on Friday 15th January 2016 3 course meal—cost £25 inc transport and tips Menu's available from Janet, Daphne or from porch. Open to all. Hurry only a few seats left.

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

ADVENT LUNCH this Tuesday December 1st at The United Reformed Church, Castle-gate. Speaker Rev Michele Jarman at 12.30pm. Soup lunch at approx 1pm. See poster

FOOD BANK During the next week we are collecting items for Christmas food parcels. These will be made up on December 7th then distributed to clients and other families in need. The items we require are—Christmas puddings— Christmas Cakes—Crackers— Festive biscuits— Selection boxes—Tubes of sweets—Boxes of chocolates—Milk (UHT)- Fruit juice (long life carton) Coffee—Part baked bread rolls-Savoury Biscuits/Bread sticks— Pringles/Crisps—Tinned Ham/Salmon—Tinned fruit— Jelly-Tinned-Cartons Custard-Mince pies (date on or after 25/12. Thankyou for your support and generosity.

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

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 Saturda, Sunday, Monday, Thursday & Friday Please put money in CTS

SABDEN

VILLAGE SERVICE OF LIGHT tonight Sunday 29th November at 4pm (not 6pm— sorry misprint last week) which we are hosting. Refreshments will be served in the Hall afterwards. We are decorating the hall for this event after mass today please stay and help To be led by Fr Kevin and Callum

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 18 The Grimshaw family. 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. All draw ticket stubs must be returned by 3pm on the day of the event. We still welcome any donations—we need prizes, toys and plants, but won't turn anything away.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS are aviator order. They will be assembled on Thursday 3rd December from 9.30am in the hall. Please come and help if you can.

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. Wreaths also available this year to order—list in porch for names.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

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

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.