

Dear Parishioners

Pope Francis, not long after he became Pope, was asked how he would describe himself. "I am a sinner," then added, "who has been looked upon by the face of mercy." It is an answer that is true of each one of us. But the difference between us and Pope Francis is that his awareness of the mercy of God is central to his faith and life. It is his awareness of God's mercy and the way he then shows it to others that makes him the remarkable man he is and allows his influence to stretch outside the Church and across the world.

To encourage us to come to know the mercy of God, to appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are, while at the same time encourages us to become what we are called to be that Pope Francis decided to call *A Year of Mercy* which will be launched in Rome this Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will end on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy. When he announced this Year of Mercy Pope Francis said "I am confident that the whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God *forgives all*, and God *forgives always*. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God."

The diocese has produced a pamphlet giving a broad outline of the year of mercy and a prayer card and these are available at the back of the church for you to take.

Information on diocesan events will be announced later.

So, how much does God love me? As he hung crucified, in agony and dying, Jesus looked down on the men who had tortured, mocked and nailed him to the cross and instead of cursing them to hell he prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

In an interview 5 days ago Pope Francis was asked "Is there a gesture you intend to make during the Jubilee to show God's mercy?"

He responded. "There will be many gestures, but on one Friday each month I will make a different gesture." Watch this space! **Fr**

John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

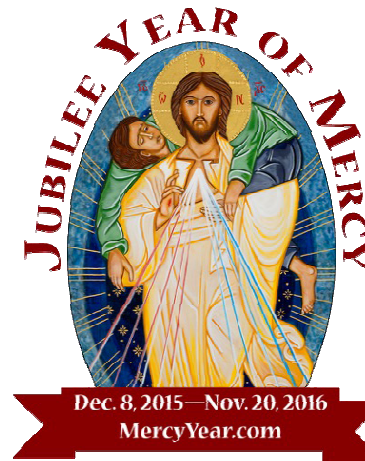
Tel 01200 423307 **website:** olotv.org.uk

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy **Pastor Emeritus** Mgr John Chaloner

Second Sunday of Advent - 6th December 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 13th 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 **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish mass Book page 84 Eucharistic Prayer III page 28
Preface 1 of Advent page 65 **Tuesday** —Mass at 9.30am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Jean Taylor, Janet & Kenneth Barlow, Thomas Clarke, In thanksgiving, Helen Addy, Frances Whittaker, Peter Wright x 7, Brian Atkinson, In thanksgiving

SICK

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

LATELY DEAD

Peter Wright, Thomas Clarke, Robert Hargreaves

ANNIVERSARIES

Jean Taylor, Janet & Kenneth Barlow, Frances Whittaker, Brian Atkinson

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £804.75 Sabden £190.72 Dunsop £237.53 S/O £170.48
S.V.P. Clitheroe £568.29 Sabden £138.85 Dunsop £84.57 . Another £110 in cheques has been sent directly to S.V.P.

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.

CAFOD World Gifts catalogues are in the church porch. What about buying a gift that makes a difference! These gifts do something no pair of socks can—they cnage lives around the world.

LOURDES Pilgrimage 2015 Reunion and slideshow. A big thankyou to all those who came and contributed to the evening. We would especially like to thank Bernard Mercer for his evocative slideshow. We hope that we have inspired those who came to sign up for Lourdes Pilgrimage 2016

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 last day to-day—Sunday 6th December. Admission £1—refreshments available. See poster in porch.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 28th December **Annual Fun Quiz. Friday 29th January**—Jimmy Cricket

MEDAILLE TRUST Gemma Frankland's Skydive for the Medaille Trust on Sunday 22nd November made a total of £1,130.35. A big thankyou from Gemma

A RECOVERY OF MERCY The radical experience of grace in addiction—T.H.O.M.A.S and the Olive Branch Recovery Communities invite you to a series of events for Healing, Reflection and Thanksgiving to mark the Holy Year of Mercy. First event at St Anne's church Blackburn on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm. See poster in porch.

CAROL SERVICE Salford Cathedral tonight 7.30pm. Tkts £5 on arrival. Proceeds to Caritas and Salford Loaves and Fishes

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Saturday—M.Valovin **Reader**-A.McGuire
Eucharistic Ministers F.Ellis & R.Embery **Sunday**—Welcoming-M.Rogers & C.Willman
Reader P.Anwyl **Eucharistic Ministers** P.Sutcliffe, A.Marsden, P.Donnely **Coffee Rota**—L & Betty Collinson **Little Church**—G.Hennigan, J.Golding

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

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 Sun 13th December at Trinity Methodist Church at 6.30pm. A celebration of Christmas featuring Ribble Valley Choir and Orchestra. Free event that will end around 7.45pm with refreshments. Retiring collection to support refugees through Christian Aid. All the Clitheroe churches are involved.

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

Your help is requested again for the church Christmas Card deliveries. They should be ready by next weekend. If you are willing to help would you please let Janet know by next Friday 11th December, and which area you would like. 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 . The coach is now fully booked so anyone still wanting to join us for the meal may do so, but will have to make their own way to The Newdrop. Menu's available from Janet, Daphne or from porch.

ADVENT LUNCH this Tuesday December 1st at The United Reformed Church, Castlegate . Speaker Rev Andy Froud at 12.30pm. Soup lunch at approx 1pm. See poster

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

K.S.C. COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm in the presbytery

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

THANKYOU to all those who came last Monday morning to clean the church in readiness for Christmas—it looks beautiful.

CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE Wednesday 16th December in our Parish Hall 2pm-5pm. Tickets £7. Contact: Daphne 01200 427912

URC The Clitheroe United Reformed Church Castlegate, 'Nearly the Night Before Christmas on Sat 12th Dec at 2pm. Young musicians inc Ben Fourie presenting Brass Ensemble, Barbership & Solos. Admission £6 tel 01254 249858 See poster in porch.

ADVENT PRAYER & PRAISE WITH MUSIC on Thursday evenings, 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.

PARISH DRAW NOVEMBER WINNERS £100 - 100 V.O'Gorman, £20 129 S.Webb, £20 136 Katherine Cowgill, £10 158 Margaret Parsons, 85 Jack Allcock, 106 M.Fox, 82 M.Walmsley

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm.

FR WLLOUGHBY SJ a former Parish Priest from 1973-1982 died last week. His Requiem will be this coming Thursday 10th December at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Blackburn at 12noon.

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 18 The Grimshaw family. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are on sale at the back of church

ADVENT REFLECTIONS will continue this week Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm. Please come along if you can. These reflections will be each Tuesday of Advent and Fr Kevin will lead the one on Tuesday 15th.

SERVICE OF LIGHT Thanks to all who made the Service of Light so special.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

PARISH BINGO & SOCIAL NIGHT Tomorrow 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 today Sunday 6th December.

CAROL SERVICE The Advent Carol Service last Sunday raised £144.45 for the Dominican & Comboni Sisters Hospital in Jordan.