

## Dear Parishioners

I trust that you had a very Happy Christmas and a refreshing break. Here, the New Year was marked by a well-attended Mass at noon on the 1st January during which we invoked God's blessing on our parish during this Year of Mercy.

With Christmas still in mind I ask to think about the following proposal before we discuss it at the next Parish Forum a week on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January.

After the 8pm Christmas Eve Mass in West Bradford village hall, a number of parishioners from Dunsop lamented the fact that since the Mass time was changed a couple of years ago from 6pm to 8pm many families who used to attend no longer came. Parents said that 8pm was too late especially for younger children.

We do need three Masses on Christmas Eve (Clitheroe and Sabden are packed out) and these should be arranged so that one priest is able to celebrate all three. Fr Kevin will probably still be here next Christmas but thereafter I expect to be working on my own.

I was then asked whether a 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve would be permissible. It would if it catered for families with children and was open to the whole parish. The next question was whether it could be celebrated in St Michael and John's which is so beautifully decorated at Christmas time. Yes. A shrewd individual than commentated that by transferring to Clitheroe it would save the cost of hiring the Hall and be more appropriate for the celebration of such an important feast. It would also relieve the pressure of driving to West Bradford with everything required for the celebration of Mass and then rushing back to arrange the altar for the 6pm Mass. A special 4pm Mass would allow for a more child centred liturgy to be celebrated and with a children's choir. No doubt it might also reduce the crush at the 6pm Mass.

Mass on Christmas Day in Clitheroe and Dunsop would continue as this Christmas.

Observations, please?

As already arranged, the next Forum a week on Wednesday will be held in Sabden – some distance from Dunsop! As Clitheroe is more central to the whole parish, maybe we should host future Forums (Fora?) in Clitheroe only? Discuss!

The 99 group please meet this Wednesday at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

RCIA resumes on Thursday after Mass at 8pm.

The Christmas tree will be removed after Mass today but the crib remains until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

*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

## The Baptism of the Lord - 10th January 2016

### St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am  
followed by Coffee

#### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

#### Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

#### Saturday (16th January)

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

### St Mary's Church, Sabden

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

**Friday**— Requiem Mass at 11.00 am— Carol Waterworth

### St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

**Sunday**—Mass at 10am Parish Mass book, page 118, Eucharistic Prayer 1, page 18  
Preface of the Baptism of the Lord, page 68    **Tuesday** —Mass at 9.30am

*There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend  
for Pax Christi*

**MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Henry Thornber, John Marsden, Bridgid Hardwick, Edmund Ashton, Helen Addy, Fr Peter Birmingham x 3, John Coppock x2, Mgr Ralph Brown, Carol Waterworth

**SICK**

Helen Addy, Veronica Hollis, Lucy Wrigley

**LATELY DEAD**

Fr Peter Birmingham, Carol Waterworth, John Coppock, Edmund Ashton, Bridgid Hardwick

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Henry Thornber, John Marsden, Maud Casey, Fr Bernard Dobson SJ

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £774.13 Sabden £169.43 Dunsop £368 S/O £170.48

**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.

**ANTITRAFFICKING** in the magazine of the Medaille Trust, the Patron, Baroness Cox has congratulated the ‘very special group of people’ based on our parish whose work and commitment in combating trafficking is an example to all. Read about it for yourself in the Medaille magazine available in the porch free of charge.

**CATHOLIC SINGLES** Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events.

Telephone 0161 941 3498 visit the website [www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk) or [info@catholicsingles.org.uk](mailto:info@catholicsingles.org.uk) next weekend.

**TABOR** Programmes January—July now available from porch.

**SALFORD DIOCESAN ALMANACS** all the almanacs have now been sold, but we are trying to obtain a few more. If you would like one then please hand your name into the Parish Office as soon as possible.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Couples wishing to marry in the Catholic Church must attend a Marriage Preparation Course. This year’s course is on the two Sunday afternoons of 17th and 24th January. Please contact Mgr Corcoran as soon as possible.

**WALSINGHAM** Englands National Shrine of Our Lady. The annual pilgrimage by the Blackburn Branch of the Walsingham Association will take place Tue 17th to Thur 19th May 2016. Cost from £170 per person for Standard Room with full board. Deposit £50, non-returnable. To book a place Tel Vincent 01254 209101. A mini-bus will go from Clitheroe, at a low cost, to join the coach in Blackburn and back on return and can pick up at Whalley Bus Station and in Langho on route. Tel Maureen 01200 443499 to book a seat.

**CLITHEROE**

**LADIES GROUP PROGRAMME 2016** are now available from the porch

**OLIVE AID** The Crib offerings this year will be given to ‘Olive Aid’, the charity which helps Palestinians replace their lost olive trees.

**BUCKET RAFFLE** from our Autumn Fair £80 prize still unclaimed—ticket no 771

**WANTED** A young practicing parishioner from the Czech Republic is looking for a person to share the rent of her terraced house on Victoria Street ☎ 07709 179586

**LADIES GROUP** Christmas Dinner at The Newdrop NEXT Friday 15th January Please meet on the Lowergate Car Park (opposite the Social Centre) at 6.25pm (the bus will leave at 6.30pm prompt).

January 16/17	Saturday	Sunday
Welcomers	J.Bentley	J.Byrne & P.Dixon
Reader	V.Murray	Martha Barrett
Eucharistic Ministers	A.Harkin & A.Southworth	J.Hall, S.Hall, G.Lambert
Tea & Coffee		Mrs P D’Souza
Little Church		Catherine Naylor Preston

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** begins NEXT Saturday 16th January and ends with a United Service at St James’ Church on Sunday 24th January at 6pm. You can find a full list of services in the porch.

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

**CLITHEROE COOKERY CLASSES** Volunteers of all kinds but particularly cooks, are needed to help at these classes that will re-commence next Thursday January 7th from 11am—1.30pm at Trinity Methodist, Parson Lane. If you require more information then please ring either 07851 210773 or 07818 854155

**THANKYOU** Fr Wareing wishes to thank you all for the good wishes, cards and presents he received at Christmas.

**LADIES GROUP** Committee meeting Monday 11th January 7.30pm in the presbytery

**K.S.C. COUNCIL MEETING** Tuesday 12th January at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**JIMMY CRICKETLAUGHTER SHOW**

**FRIDAY 29th JANUARY** at 8pm

**Tickets £10**

on sale in Clitheroe from January 11th and after all Masses on the next two weekends. At Sabden after Mass on Sunday 17th January, or you may telephone one of the following numbers

01200 427912/441792/426769/423307 (ext 3)



**SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this weeks winner No 52—Roll over. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** Pantomime time again. This year we are presenting Sleeping Beauty in St Mary’s Hall from February 24th—27th with a Matinee on the Saturday afternoon. Tickets on sale soon.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR** There are still 3 prizes unclaimed from the Christmas Fair together with the door prize.