

Dear Parishioners

Pope Francis has asked that we make Lent, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, a special time to celebrate and experience God's mercy by receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation. On countless occasions he has reminded us that God never tires of forgiving, it is we who tire of asking him for forgiveness!

In a recently published book THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY Pope Francis was asked: 'You once said that the confessional should not be a "dry cleaner." What did you mean by that?' He answered: "It was an example; an image to explain the mistake of those who believe that sin is a strain, only a stain, something that you can have dry-cleaned so that everything goes back to normal. The way you take a jacket or dress to have a stain removed: you put it in the wash and that's it. But sin is more than a stain. Sin is a wound; it needs to be treated, healed."

In response to his plea, a number of events have been arranged in the Deanery to encourage you to attend the field hospital of the Spirit, the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This Saturday, 27th February, the Mercy Bus will be in Blackburn, parked up (with permission!) from 11am until 4pm on King William Street, opposite the Town Hall. Young volunteers will be on hand to explain to passers-by what the bus is all about. Priests will be on hand to respond to requests for a blessing or Confession (Reconciliation). Some parishioners will remember that Fr Frankie spoke of this and his picture with the Pope and the bus at the recent parish Jimmy Cricket evening. So, do come along if only out of curiosity!

Then on Tuesday 1st March at 7.30pm in St Albans, Blackburn, there will be a special Deanery Lenten Mass to celebrate the Year of Mercy. From 7pm onwards and throughout the evening a number of priests will be available for Reconciliation (Confession). Fr Frankie will preach at the Mass.

On Tuesday 15th March in St Michael and John's at 6.30pm there will be a Service of Reconciliation at which our Clitheroe and Dunsop Bridge First Communion children will make their First Confessions.

Parishioners are also welcome to celebrate the sacrament with Fr Wareing, Fr Kevin or me.

The following day, Wednesday 16th Fr Kevin and I shall be in St Mary's Sabden where the Service will begin at 6pm.

In St Michael and John's the usual Saturday morning Confessions will continue from 11 until 11.45am and on Friday evenings during the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm.

I leave the last word to Pope Francis: "God is faithful. His mercy will always be greater than any sin; no one can put a limit on the love of the all-forgiving God. We should only be conscious of our need, be honest with ourselves, and not simply lick our wounds."

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancs BB7 1AG

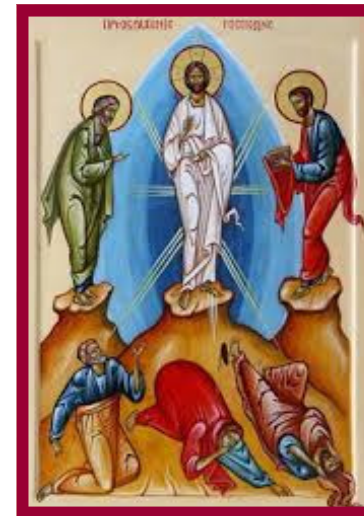
Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy Pastor Emeritus Mgr John Chaloner

Second Sunday of Lent - 21st February 2016

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday,

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

School Mass at 9.15am

Wednesday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

Friday

Mass at 9am

Stations of the Cross—7.30pm
followed by Adoration for 1 hour

Saturday (27th February)

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

Tuesday—Stations of the Cross 7.30pm **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish Mass book, page 156,
Eucharistic Prayer I, page 18 Preface of the Transfiguration page 72

Tuesday —Mass at 9.30am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK Maureen Devlin, Private Intentions, Arthur & Margaret Peters, Carol Turner x 4, Marie Thornber, Jacqueline Cowell, Ellen Crawford, Rosa Ditri, Birthday intention, James Albert Hartley

SICK Helen Addy, Veronica Hollis, Vivienne Tingle, Maureen Devlin

LATELY DEAD Rosa Ditri

ANNIVERSARIES Carol Turner, Marie Thornber, Jacqueline Cowell, Ellen Crawford, Fr Hubert McEvoy SJ, Arthur and Margaret Peters

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £810.16 Sabden £155.76 Dunsop 207.50 S/O £170.48

LECTIO DIVINA during Lent incorporated in the Thursday night 8.10pm service

VACANCIES FOR SCHOOL GOVERNANCE There are vacancies for Foundation Governors at St Augustine's RC High School, Billington. Foundation Governors take a full part in school governance and are appointed by the Bishop to preserve the religious character of the school. Both the Diocese and OFSTED have judged the school to be "outstanding". If you are 18 or over and can obtain a recommendation from your Parish Priest, this is an excellent opportunity to devote some time to Catholic education. For further details please speak to your Parish Priest, pick up a leaflet or look on the school website, www.sarchs.com

BOLLYWOOD CHARITY NIGHT 3 course meal, Bollywood entertainment, Raffle and Disco on Saturday 2nd April in St Michael & St John's Parish Hall from 7pm. Cost £15 per ticket (no concessions sorry). Tickets from Meriel Woodward 07989 922666 or Tom Clay 07962 136749 at Sabden, Grace & Susan Fellows at Clitheroe and Ann Cooke 01200 446607 at Dunsop Bridge

LADIES GROUP Next Wednesday 24th February. *Please note this meeting will be held in our Primary School Hall.* Alison Fleming will give a talk and demonstration on Dolls, Dolls houses and minatures. Commences 7.30pm Cost £2 inc refreshments.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES July 29th—August 4th Cost £659 (single supplement £180). If you wish to join us on our spiritual journey, please add your name to the list at the back of church. Deadline Tuesday 23rd February. There will be a meeting at 8pm this coming Tuesday 23rd in the presbytery for those who wish to join the pilgrimage. Fr Kevin will be there to answer questions and discuss booking our places.

FOOD BANK At present we are short of sugar, baby wipes and fish (other than tuna). We are well stocked with beans and pasta. Thankyou

JOB VACANCY Director of Education, Salford Diocese—see poster in porch

CAFOD will be running a stall at the Flea Market and Indoor Car Boot Sale TODAY Sunday 21st February in the Memorial Hall, Hurst Green. Refreshments available throughout the day.

LENT FAST DAY 19th February. Please return the envelopes this weekend. Every £1 you give will be matched by the UK government, up to 3.5million. Please be generous.

PARISH DINNER Saturday 9th April 7pm for 7.30pm in our Parish Centre. Price is £21.50 for 3 course meal, coffee and disco. Please complete the menu choices form (at the back of your church) and return in a sealed envelope marked 'Parish Dinner'. Please put these onto the collection plate at Mass and these will be returned to the organiser. Receipt slips will be sent to confirm your booking. Donations of raffle prizes for the night will be gratefully received.

CLITHEROE

PARISH CENTRE Subscriptions Adults £10 Senior Citizens & Students £5 are now due—renew at the Centre. Sunday Evening Quiz and Play your Cards Right (Jackpot now £170) starts 8.30pm.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 4th March at 7.30pm in St James' Church. The speaker will be Mrs Ruth Haldene. Everyone welcome

LENT TALKS Saturday in our Parish Centre at 11am **EXCEPT** next Saturday 27th February when it will be held in The United Reformed Church in Castlegate. Coffee served from 10.30am Theme this year 'Christianity at work'. Details of full programme—see poster in porch

ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND **Sat**—Welcoming-A.Harkin Reader - C.Riley Euch Ministers—A.Harkin & A.Southworth **Sun**—Welcoming—M.Swales & T.O'Donnell Reader P.Anwyl Eucharistic Ministers—C.Morgan, S.Smith B.Collinson Tea & Coffee—Fellows family Little Church—Catherine Naylor Preston

'MELT IN HIS MERCY' Prayer and Praise in Lent on Thursday Evenings. Following the four sessions in Advent, there will be an hour of prayer and praise after each Thursday evening mass from 8.10-9.10pm, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a time for singing God's praises. Musicians and singers especially welcome to join the band! Please contact Fr Kevin for further details or to offer help.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS this week led by our Ladies Group. Friday at 7.30pm and then followed by Adoration for one hour

EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK a remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is being compiled. We are asking for a donation of £3 for a lily which will decorate the Church at Easter. Money and names will be collected after mass at the table near the greetings cards by Jane Brown (Saturday) and Teresa Mercer (Sunday) starting 27th February. **List closes on Palm Sunday.**

CLITHEROE COOKERY CLASSES Volunteers of all kinds, but particularly cooks, are needed to help at these classes from 11am—1.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Parson Lane. More info 07851 210773 or 07818 854155

BAPTISM We welcome Nahri Temilayo Kathryn Oyewunmi Peel who was baptised last Saturday.

SAINSBURY'S Our Primary School are collecting Active Kids vouchers. Please pop into the Parish Communications Box in porch or hand into school.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL this weeks winner No 36 Jim & Olive Doyle. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS each Tuesday through Lent at 7.30pm here in St Mary's. We welcome any parish groups who would like to lead.

PANTOMIME—SLEEPING BEAUTY there are tickets for Wednesday & Thursday nights 24/25th February. Please see Margaret Parsons for tickets 01282 778652

KISES—Urgent appeal to help the Children of the City Dump in S.E.India. If you would like to know more, or help fundraise for this worthwhile cause, please contact Meriel Woodward on 07989 922666

CHARITY BINGO & FAMILY SOCIAL NIGHT Friday March 11th to raise money in aid of parishioner Meriel Woodward's appeal to help children who live on a rubbish dump in India. She committed to raise an initial £40,000 by the end of March. Please support this social night. Tickets £5 will be on sale soon and anyone who has any bingo or raffle prizes please leave them with Pauline Hindle, Damien Buggie, Margaret Parsons, Pat Whitwell or Margaret Waling.

FURTHER EVENTS Easter Bonnet Parade—Saturday March 26th—more details later.