

## Dear Parishioners

Defending one's faith or religion in general is challenging. It demands trust in Jesus' promises and belief in the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

This is how George Brandis, Australia's Attorney General did so towards the end of last year.

Religious freedom is just as important as political freedom, he said, in a speech given on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Australia's Human Rights Commission's Religious Freedom Roundtable, held in Sydney.

The event was meant to provide a forum for people of diverse religious faiths and also those who do not profess a faith, but who take an interest in religious affairs.

"To those who are adherents of a religious faith – and in Australia, according to the last census, that was seven among every 10 of us – religion can be the most fundamental source of our sense of right and wrong; and of those beliefs about mankind and his place in the cosmos which transcend the everyday,"

He noted that many notions of political liberties had their origin in the struggles for religious liberty, referring to the political battles of the 17th and 18th centuries in England and to the writings of such authors as John Milton and John Locke.

At the same time over the Atlantic, in the colonies of North America, there was a strong commitment to religious liberty, not least in the writings of such persons as Thomas Jefferson.

In more recent times Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights strongly affirmed the right to religious freedom and liberty of conscience.

Turning to the current situation in Australia, Brandis commented that sometimes there is an inconsistent attitude towards religious tolerance. "Members of Christian faiths – in particular the Catholic faith – are routinely the subject of mockery and insult by prominent writers and commentators, provoking Mr Dyson Heydon's observation, in his Acton Lecture last year, that 'anti-Catholicism in Australia now might be called the racism of the intellectuals' – or perhaps he should have said, the pseudo-intellectuals," Brandis observed.

He also referred to what he termed the "incessant, smearing ridicule" of the former Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, on account of his religious faith, describing it as "bigotry at its most shameful."

In our country it is no different: anti-Catholicism remains the last respectable prejudice. So I say to George Brandis, "Good on ya, mate!"

*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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent - 6th March 2016

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday

Mass at 9am

#### Tuesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

#### Wednesday

School Mass at 9.15am

#### Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

#### Friday

Mass at 9am

Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

#### Saturday (12th March)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am

11am—11.45am Reconciliation

11am—11.55am Exposition

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**—No Mass

### St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

**Sunday**—Mass at 10am Parish Mass book, page 168,

Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation I page 36 with own preface **Tuesday** —No Mass

*The S.V.P. Quarterly Collection will be taken this weekend and will be for the SVP work in Sudan and South Sudan. Every penny will give life and hope to the people of this war torn country. Please give generously. Next weekend there will be a Xaverian Mission Appeal*

**MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK** Paul Hart, Alice Emerson, Patricia Burke, Joyce Crumbleholme, Kathleen Dixon, Laurence O'Hagan, Fr Robin Duckworth, Fr Robin's carers, **SICK** Norman Dudman, Andrew Bowes, Vivian Lully, Helen Addy **LATELY DEAD** Fr Robin Duckworth, Jane Crumbleholme, Patricia Burke, Kathleen Dixon, Paul Hart

**ANNIVERSARIES** Bert Bywater, Joseph Galea, Laurence O'Hagan, Wendy Byrne Eilish Campbell

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £834.92 Sabden £216.70 Dunsop £321.75

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

**BOLLYWOOD CHARITY NIGHT** 3 course meal, Bollywood entertainment, Raffle and Disco on Sat 2 April in St Michael & John's Parish Hall 7pm. Cost £15 per ticket (no concessions sorry). Tickets—Meriel Woodward 07989 9222666, Tom Clay 07962 136749 Sabden, Grace/Susan Fellows Clitheroe, and Ann Cooke 01200 446607 Dunsop

**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.

**ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION** as part of the Ribble Valley Mayor's charity appeal 'Drop the Floor' a traditional Irish band will play at the Mellor Brook Community Centre, Mellor Brook, Blackburn BB2 7PR on Friday 18th March at 7.30pm. The evening will include a Dance Display and there will be an Irish Stew Supper. Tickets £15 from Janet: 07791 558 554 or buy online at mellorbrook.org. See poster

**JOY OF THE GOSPEL** Session 6 of these meetings will take place on Wednesday 9 March at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Refreshments are served from 7.15pm.

**REFUGEE VOICES** an opportunity to listen to four women, one from Syria tell what made them leave their own country and how they arrived here. They will be accompanied by Chris Siddon from the Asylum and Refugee Community in Blackburn—Wednesday 16th March 6.30pm in the Wesley Room, Trinity Methodist Church.

**WALSINGHAM DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE** Saturday 7th May—see poster in porch

**FOR POLISH READERS** Jesteś po rozwodzie? Myszysz o wszczęciu procesu o orzeczenie nieważności swojego małżeństwa, tylko nie wiesz jak się do tego zabrać? Skontaktuj się z Salford Diocesan Tribunal pod tel 0161 817 2202 lub diana.sliwka@dioceseofsalford.org.uk <mailto:diana.sliwka@dioceseofsalford.org.uk>. Diana jest Polką i może udzielić Tobie bezpłatnej porady w tej sprawie

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** this year 29th February to 13th March. Fairtrade makes a difference and ensures that small scale farmers get a better price, decent working conditions and grow sustainable crops. Fairtrade tackles poverty at the grass roots level.

**CAFOD** This year's Lent Appeal will support development projects in Africa and the chancellor will give £1 for every £1 Cafod raises. Hurst Green Flea market stall raised £85

### **CLITHEROE**

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

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** K.S.C. Jumble Sale Saturday 2nd April

**K.S.C. DANCE** Friday 18th March at 7.30pm. Dance to John Lancaster. Tickets £7 including supper.

**K.S.C.** Council meeting Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

**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

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** this year's ecumenical service is at St Mary Magdalene's at 10am followed by our Walk of Witness to a short open air service at Castle Gate

**LENT TALKS** 11am next Saturday 12th March in St Michael & St John's Parish Hall. 'Working with young people' by Chris Meyer of the Grand. Coffee served from 10.30am

**ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND** **Sat**—Welcoming - J.Bentley Reader - M.Taylforth Euch Ministers—B.Worden & M.Preedy **Sun**—Welcoming—R & C Conti Reader J.Hennigan Eucharistic Ministers—E.Thomson, I.Parkes, H.Addy Tea & Coffee—L & B Collinson Little Church—G.Hennigan & J.Golding

**'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.

**LOVE CLITHEROE** The 'Love Clitheroe' meeting Monday 7 March 7.30pm at the Clitheroe Community Church. An opportunity for local Christians to meet together in prayer and praise. Everyone is welcome.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** this week led by our Scout Group. Friday at 7.30pm

**EASTER REMEMBRANCE BOOK** see back page. 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.**

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

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

**READERS** There has been a good response to last week's appeal for readers but we still need more and if you are interested please contact one of the priests, Teresa Mercer or Toni O'Donnell. Training will be given.

***Easter Cards and First Holy Communion cards and gifts are now on sale in the side porch. Place money in the box situated on the inside wall***

### **SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** this week's winner No 55 a roll over. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** this Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm will be led by the CAFOD group. Please come along and join in this Lenten devotion. A group from Sabden will lead the Stations in St Michael & St John's to be held on Friday 18th March.

**CHARITY BINGO & FAMILY SOCIAL NIGHT** scheduled for Friday March 11th has been cancelled.

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

### **DUNSOP BRIDGE**

**ANNIVERSARY** This year it is the 150th anniversary of Thorneyholme RC Primary School in Dunsop Bridge. The school is asking past pupils to share their memories with the children on a form which is available on the school website. Should you know of anyone who attended the school, then please can you pass this message on. If anyone does not have access to the internet, then you can contact the school on 01200 448276 to receive a hard copy.