

## Dear Parishioners

You may recall a few weeks ago that I quoted Pope Francis stating that we shouldn't think of sin as a 'stain' on the soul that needs washing away but rather as a wound that needs healing. There is a sacrament of this, that heals both spiritually and psychologically: it is the sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as Confession.

In the same interview Pope Francis was asked: "You have said many times, that God never tires of forgiving, it is we who get tired of asking him for forgiveness. Why does God never tire of forgiving us?"

He replied: "Because he is God, because he is mercy, and because mercy is the first attribute of God. Mercy is the name of God.

There are no situations we cannot get out of; we are not condemned to sink into quicksand, in which the more we move the deeper we sink. Jesus is there, his hand extended, ready to reach out to us and pull us out of the mud, out of sin, out of the abyss of evil into which we have fallen. We need only be conscious of our state, be honest with ourselves, and not lick our wounds. We need to ask for the grace to recognize ourselves as sinners. The more we acknowledge that we are in need, the more shame and humility we feel, the sooner we will feel his embrace of grace. Jesus waits for us, he goes ahead of us, he extends his hand to us, he is patient with us. God is faithful. Mercy will always be greater than any sin; no one can put a limit on the love of the all-forgiving God.

Just by looking at him, just by raising our eyes from ourselves and our wounds, we leave an opening for the action of his grace. Jesus performs miracles with our sins, with what we are, with our nothingness, with our wretchedness.

This week the First Holy Communion children from our three schools, Dunsop, Clitheroe and Sabden, will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

**On Tuesday evening at St Michael and St John's beginning at 6.30pm.**

**On Wednesday evening at St Mary's Sabden, beginning at 6pm**

Parents and parishioners are invited and encouraged to join with them and take advantage of this opportunity to receive this great sacrament of healing, forgiveness and peace. *Fr John*

## Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

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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

## Fifth Sunday of Lent - 13th March 2016

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

#### Tuesday & Wednesday

Mass at 9am

#### Thursday

School Mass at 9.15am & 7.30pm

#### Friday

School Mass at 9.15am

Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

#### Saturday (19th March)

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 176 Eucharistic Prayer III page 24

Preface III of Lent p.71 **Tuesday** —Mass at 9.30am

**Friday** 11.30am—Requiem Mass— Elizabeth Parkinson

**MASSSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK** Helen Addy, Alice Fullalove, Eric Whitehead  
Family Anniversaries, Antonio & Giuseppe LoPresti, Antonia Antonucia, Cynthia Sharp

**SICK** Fr Michael Dunn, Norman Dudman, Helen Addy, Bert Bradley

**LATELY DEAD** Fr Robin Duckworth, Elizabeth Parkinson (Dunsop Bridge)

**ANNIVERSARIES** Alice Fullalove, Eric Whitehead, Antonio & Giuseppe Lo Presti,  
Antonia Anoullcia, Betty Morton

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £810.38 Sabden £168.81 Dunsop £249.00

**S.V.P.** to date—Clitheroe £654.18 + £50 cheques Sabden £89.93 Dunsop £102.02

**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 Clithero, 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** Ribbles Valley Mayor's charity appeal 'Drop the Floor'-traditional Irish band at Mellor Brook Community Centre, Friday 18th March at 7.30pm. Dance Display and Irish Stew Supper. Tickets £15 from Janet: 07791 558 554 or buy online at mellorbrook.org. **ALSO** 'Spring into Song' - Peter Riley (Swing Commanders) and more local talent Thursday 24 March—See poster

**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. Wednesday 16th March 6.30pm in the Wesley Room, Trinity Methodist Church.

**CAFOD** In a letter to CAFOD, prompted by your campaign actions, Climate and Energy Secretary Amber Rudd highlighted the important role that Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si played in securing an ambitious deal on climate: "I would like to thank CAFOD for the key role they played in helping to communicate the document and look forward to working closely together to build on what was achieved at COP21. **"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

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

**FOR POLISH READERS** Jesteś po rozwodzie? Myślisz 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

**CHRISTIAN AID ROAD SHOW** Tuesday 5 April 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist—see poster

**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.

**S.V.P. MASS** for deceased members Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm

I have tickets for the Chrism Mass which this year will be celebrated by the Bishop in the Cathedral on Wednesday 23rd March the day before Maundy Thursday. The Oils which will be used in the Sacraments during the coming year will be blessed and the priests of the Diocese will renew their promises. If you wish to attend please contact me: first come, first served.

Bishop John has asked all parishes to discuss the re-structuring of the Diocese to form Missionary Parishes prior to important Deanery meetings towards the end of April and in May. We need to move! So, in place of the forthcoming Forum on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm we shall hold our Parish meeting. Details later. Finally there are still some Family Paschal Candles at £10 each. Fr John

## 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** NEXT Friday 18th March at 7.30pm. Dance to John Lancaster. Tickets £7 including supper.

**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. 'Whole life disciples—the onward journey' with Shirley Jenner of Manchester University Global Development Institute. Coffee served from 10.30am

**ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND** **Sat**—Welcoming - J.Luciani Reader - V.Murray Euch Ministers—A.Harkin & A.Southworth **Sun**—Welcoming—J.Byrne & P.Dixon Reader J.Smith Eucharistic Ministers—P.Sutcliffe, A.Marsden, P.~Donnelly Tea & Coffee—B.Parkinson & B.Barker Little Church—Allyson Watson

**'MELT IN HIS MERCY'** There will be an hour of prayer and praise after Thursday evening mass from 8.10-9.10pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** this week led by our Sabden Parishioners - 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.

**BAPTISM** We welcome Jessica Florence Clifford and Isabella Marie Ashley who were baptised last weekend

**LADIES GROUP** Committee meeting Mon 14th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

*Easter Cards, Paschal Candles, 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 47—B.Taylor. There is just one bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** this Tuesday 15th March at 7.30pm Please come along and join in this Lenten devotion. A group from Sabden will lead the Stations in St Michael & St Johns to be held on Friday 18th March.

**EASTER BONNET PARADE/COFFEE MORNING** Saturday 26th March 10.30am—noon Judging of bonnets at 11am. Tickets £1.50 inc refreshments

## 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.

**'TROUGH TEAS'** at Dunsop Bridge Village Hall Sunday 3rd April. Refreshments from after 10am Mass to 16.00 hrs. Lists at back of church for helpers and donations of food etc. Proceeds in aid of St Hubert's