

Dear Parishioners

This an abbreviated extract from an American Bishop's column in a regional newspaper.

Mercy may seem reckless to us at times. Mercy trusts those who have proven themselves untrustworthy, those who have failed us. Mercy loves those who acted without love. Mercy hopes in those for whom it seems all hope is lost.

Very often, we question the practice of mercy. A wife forgives an unfaithful husband, and her friends call her a fool. If we befriend the weak, or the elderly, or the unborn, or the disgraced, the world believes we are wasting our time.

But God is merciful. God trusts us, even when we have failed him. God hopes in us, even when we disappoint. God loves us, with love beyond measure, even when we do not believe that we are worthy of his love. God is not merciful because he is reckless. God is merciful because we are his children. God is merciful because we are made in his image; in God's sight, we are worthy of his sacrificial love, for the sake of our redemption. God's mercy is a mystery. But the mystery of God's mercy gives us new life.

Our lives are often messy, complicated, and disappointing. Very often, we have the sense of being unloved. Our sins can leave us depressed and despondent: without a sense of meaning, or purpose, or hope. Unhappiness, rootlessness, and loneliness seem often to be endemic to the human condition. But mercy gives us new life in God's friendship.

There is nothing more profound than receiving the mercy of God. And in his grace, we can receive his mercy through the sacramental life of the Church. Pope Francis says that the sacraments - especially the sacrament of confession - are the "bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness." St. Paul says that at all times "God is rich in mercy, because of his great love." In the sacrament of confession, God reminds us that his love has no conditions, no bounds, and no exceptions.

There is no sin too great for the Lord to forgive. No matter what we've done, he loves us. In the holy sacrament of confession, mercy conquers our sinfulness.

Mercy forgives, and it strengthens, and comforts, and restores. Mercy is not reckless, because mercy prepares us to leave our sinfulness behind, and to love as God loves, in faithfulness and freedom. Mercy sets us free for new lives of holiness and joy.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

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Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy Pastor Emeritus Mgr John Chaloner

The Most Holy Trinity - 22nd May 2016

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffe

Monday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm

Saturday (28th May)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am

11-11.55am Exposition

11-11.45am Reconciliation (Confessions)

6pm—First Mass of Sunday

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 p 81 Eucharistic Prayer I p18

Preface Holy Trinity page 64 **Tuesday** —Mass at 9.30am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Peter Booth, In thanksgiving, Moira Robinson x 2, Kathleen King, Richard Legget

Horace Hudson x 3,

SICK

Bert Bradley, Helen Addy, Norman Dudman, Joan Simpson, Mary Lambert

LATELY DEAD

Horace Hudson, Kathleen King, Peter Booth, Richard Legget

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £822.31 Sabden £166.76 Dunsop £282.00

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

HELP FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES Thank you for all the wool and donations. We now have enough needles, wool, blankets squares, dolls and card making equip to fill around 5 suitcases plus £170 in donation. All this will travel to Turkey from now to August. Some wool and needles has been held back for a Knit and Knatterthon to be arranged. Contact Anthony Brown 01200 422811 or a.brown@caritassalford.org.uk

READERS TRAINING There will be a training session for new readers and those who would like a short refresher NEXT Wednesday 25 May at 7.30pm in St Michael & St John's Church. Further sessions will take place in St Mary's Sabden and St Huberts Dunsop Bridge. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to be a reader.

LECTIO DIVINA (reading & praying Holy Scripture) on Wednesdays 7.30-8.30pm in presbytery.

ST JOHN SOUTHWORTH PARISH, NELSON A course will be run at St John Southworth Parish in Nelson with the aim of enabling people to talk about their faith.

Details <http://www.schooloftheannunciation.com/site.php?id=135>

PRAYER AND PRAISE ON THURSDAYS NEXT Thursday 26th May 8.10-9.10pm. Come and praise God in song, silence, prayer and praise. Fr Kevin

RETREAT AT CRAIG LODGE DALMALLY, SCOTLAND 12-16 SEPTEMBER Fr Kevin will be leading a retreat called 'Prayer, Parable, Poetry and Praise!' at this wonderful retreat centre in Scotland, where Mary's Meals is based. The five days will be centred in reading and writing that reflect the Catholic faith. You will get a chance to pray, relax, worship and be creative with words. See Fr Kevin if interested.

EVENINGS FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Fr Kevin will lead two evening sessions for Eucharistic Ministers. The first will be for those who are shortly to begin serving in this role and will be on Thursday 2 June at 8.10-9.10pm after the evening mass and it is asked that you attend the mass as well. The second will be for those people who are currently serving in the role and will be a kind of "refresher course" and take place on Friday 3 June at 7.30-8.30pm. Please be sure to attend the evening that applies to you.

CAFOD asks supporters to email Nick Hurd MP, minister for International Development to bring renewable energy to more communities overseas—renewable energy is the most affordable way to reach those who don't have electricity, and it doesn't contribute to harmful climate change. Please add your voice. [Cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Power to the People](http://Cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Power%20to%20the%20People).

WANTED Home baked cakes for the reception after the Pro-Life walk on Monday 30 May. Please bring to our Parish Hall on Sunday (29 May) after Mass or on the Monday by 1.30-2pm.

QUEENS 90th BIRTHDAY Community Street Party Saturday June 11th. Two fund raising events supporting charities for asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and people of the dump in India (Revive, Medaille Truse and Kises UK). Childrens Party 2-4pm Cost £5 and Commonwealth Party from 7.30pm cost £15 both at St Michael & St John's Parish Centre, Lowergate, Clitheroe. Meal and entertainment. More info and tickets from Meriel Woodward 07989 922666 or Tom Clay 07962 136748

FOSTERING FORTNIGHT 16-29 May. There is desperate need to recruit fostering families in England for teenagers, disabled, unaccompanied asylum seeking and sibling groups. Contact Caritas Fostering 0161 817 2250 or email info@caritasfostering.org.uk or come along every Friday 1.30-3.30pm at Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford St, Salford M3 6DP

The date of the next Parish Forum is Wednesday 22nd June at 7.30pm, and will be held in Clitheroe.



PRO-LIFE SPONSORED WALK

You are reminded that the walk will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May. It is hoped everyone will accept their responsibility to do all they can to assist the most vulnerable in society (The Unborn). Sponsorship money will be collected this weekend. Please be generous.

CLITHEROE

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

THE TABLET is on sale at the back.—£3. Free copies are no longer available.

ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND Sat Welcoming A.Harkin - Reader—V.Murray Eucharistic Ministers A.Harkin & A.Southworth **Sunday**—Welcoming—JB.Parkinson & E.Thomson Reader J.Hennigan Eucharistic Ministers— J.Hall, S.Hall, G.Lambert Little Church—G.Hennigan Tea & Coffee—Fellows family

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION A good selection of cards and gifts for First Holy Communion are available in the side porch (to the left of the Sacristy door). Money for any purchases may be placed in the box on the wall or in the CTS box at the back of church.

APF RED BOXES Collection boxes due—please hand in at presbytery by 25th May. Also we are appealing for a volunteer to collect a few boxes in the Park Avenue Area—5/6 boxes in all. These boxes hold valuable contributions to our total. Please help if you can.

COMMUNITY BBQ AND FAMILY FUN DAY This annual event will be on Clitheroe Castle Field on Saturday 18th June. Free BBQ and providing activities—gladiator course, gyroscope, football cage, children's zone with craft, face-painting and a beach! We also proclaim the word of God with short gospel presentations. We need people who can come and set up in the morning e.g. putting up gazebos, distribute leaflets in town or serve food. Ring Nick Schumann 01200 423608 nick@stjamesclitheroe.co.uk to help

LADIES GROUP Next Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. Back by popular demand is Pat Osborne who will talk about Queen Victoria—some surprising and lesser know facts. Admission £2 inc Tea and Biscuits

SABDEN

BONUS BALL no 16 Pat Whitwell. There is just one Bonus ball left—only £1 a week. Please see Harry Waterworth. tel 01254 823748.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY St Mary's Summer Fete Saturday 25 June 2-4pm. All usual fun and attractions. Donations of gifts to sell and raffle prizes appreciated. Teddy Bear show and Toy Tombola. Lovely family afternoon out. Best cream teas for miles around. Please support.

PARISH DIRECTORY thanks to all who have checked their details, however there will continue to be some slips on the notice board for anyone who missed this, or new parishioners. Please complete one if you need and put back in the packet.

CHRISTIAN AID We are still collecting donations and if you wish to use the red envelopes which were delivered with Good News magazine they can be left in the basket at the back of church or with Betty Clarkson.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

SUNDAY TEAS Teas are available each Sunday until the end of August. Open from 10.30am—4pm in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall. To help telephone Julie Bennett 01200 448630

APF MISSIONS Red Boxes are now due.