

Dear Parishioners

As you are probably aware, the most famous daughter of Albania, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was canonised last Sunday and is now St Teresa.

On 5th November 38 Albanian martyrs will be beatified (the final step before canonisation) representative of many bishops, priests, men and women religious, and laity who accepted death rather than deny their faith under one of the most despotic communist regimes in Europe.

Among them is a young young teacher who was preparing to join an order of religious sisters. Maria Tuci was 21 years of age when she was arrested in 1949 while teaching at a primary school run by the religious order she intended to join. Maria died a martyr's death the following year at the age of 22.

In prison, she was brutally tortured for her faith and her religious vocation, humiliated and sexually assaulted by the prison guards. One of the guards told her: "I will reduce you to a state that even your family would not be able to recognize you." That is exactly what happened.

Resisting to the end, she was tied naked inside a sack with a feral cat whom the guards had beaten and tormented for days. Inside the sack, the cat was again beaten by sticks. Maria was scratched and repeatedly bitten by the cat. Puncture wounds from cat bites can be serious, introducing bacteria deep into the flesh. Infection can be lethal if not quickly attended to.

After days of brutal torture, Maria was admitted to the hospital, disfigured and bruised over her whole body. She died an agonizing death on October 24, 1950, holding a rosary in her hands.

Before her death she said: "I thank God because he gave me the strength to die free." Despite terrible torture, the 22-year-old forgave her tormentors and the prison guards.

Such witness to faith should prompt us to ask ourselves, what does my faith cost me?

Fr John

WARNING

Today Sunday 11th September, Lowergate will be totally closed to re-surface the road. Cars may be parked on the school car park. Please enter and leave by Bayley Fold via Peel Street and Highfield Road

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 11th 2016

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Friday

Mass at 9am

Saturday (17th September)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am Reconciliation 11am - 11.45am

Exposition 11am—11.55am First Mass of Sunday 6pm

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Wednesday—Mass at 9.15am

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am Parish Mass book p.136

Eucharistic Prayer Various Needs III p.52 with own Preface p.49

Tuesday —Mass at 9.15am

This weekend there will be a retiring collection after all masses for the Catholic Education Service

Next weekend there will be a retiring collection after all masses for Catholic Evangelisation (Home Mission Sunday)

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

In thanksgiving, Degg family & relatives,
Bernard Higgins, Bill Southworth, Molly Hartley

SICK

Joseph Kitching, Bert Bradley, Joseph Wright, Bill Dewhurst, Joan Simpson,
Jane Crowther, John Carpanini, Angelo Natale

LATELY DEAD

Clifford Chatburn, Dave Murray

ANNIVERSARIES Bernard Higgins, Bill Southworth, Molly Hartley

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £813.81 Sabden £143.31 Dunsop £236.90

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

Please make an effort to attend the parish meeting in Dunsop Bridge this Wednesday evening 14th September at 7.30pm. What did you feel when you first heard the proposal to amalgamate Sabden, Clitheroe and Dunsop Bridge parishes into the ONE? Fears lead to opportunities—do you recognise new opportunities in the amalgamation. Tea will be served from 7pm followed by the meeting at 7.30pm which will end at 8.30pm. Do come

COME AND SING (or hear) HANDEL'S MESSIAH with Burnley Municipal Choir in St Mary Magdalene's on 24th September at 7.30pm. Singers are invited from the Clitheroe area and wider afield to come and join. There will be a workshop on the day from 1.30pm-4.30pm to prepare for the evening performance. Please look on the poster in the porch. Everyone Welcome. Flyers available from porch

SALFORD DIOCESE Vacancy for Deputy Director of Education—see poster in porch

REFUGEE RESPONSE Keep up to date with what our Parish is doing about refugees. Visit the Refugee Response webpage under Groups on the Parish website

<http://www.olotv.org.uk/parish-groups/refugee-response>

FOOD BANK is currently short of sponge puddings, instant mash, packets of biscuits, meat pies (Fray Bentos tins), ketchup, brown sauce, toilet cleaner, bars of soap and fruit cordials. We are also appealing for large fleecy blankets for clients without gas or electricity. These were obtained from RVC winter warmth scheme but funding for this has stopped. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

MASS OF HEALING Sunday Sept 25th at 2pm. Anyone wishing to attend please complete form available at the back of church and post in box provided by Monday 19th September. Numbers are required for transport arrangements and for catering.

TEA DANCE Wednesday 21st September in our Parish Hall. Dancing/Afternoon Tea only £3.50. Info Daphne 01200 427912

DIOCESAN ANNUAL MARIAN PROCESSION 2016 Pope Francis has encouraged public witness as a means of evangelisation. The Annual Marian Procession in South Manchester will be on Saturday 1st October 2016 starting at St Edward's Church at 10.30am. It is hoped that some Our Lady of the Valley parishioners will attend. If you would like to do so, please sign the sheet at the back of church. It might be possible to arrange a lift by minibus or car, depending on numbers and drivers. There is also the option to volunteer help on the day as a statue or cross-bearer, marshal or first aider. Please contact Fr Kevin if you have any queries.

WANTED Home baked cakes for reception after the Mass of Healing Sunday 25th September. Please take to our Parish Hall between 10.30 and 11am on the day.

TWO DATES FOR YOUR DIARY The Mercy Brothers (Fr Frankie, Fr Joe, Fr Chris & Fr Andrew) will be appearing in our Parish Centre on Friday 14th October **ALSO** The Ladies Group are arranging a coach trip to YORK Christmas Shopping with optional tour of York Minster on Wednesday 7th December—details later for both these events

RCIA The course will begin later this month, and is an introduction to Catholicism and is of interest to those wishing to learn more about the faith, who may have missed making their First Communion or those who wish to join the church or are simply curious about what makes Catholics tick! If you have a friend who may be interested but possibly shy to come along, then do please consider inviting and accompanying them to at least the initial session.

SVP AWARENESS MONTH The theme this week is 'Feed the Hungry'. According to Oxfam an estimated 3 million people in the UK are malnourished or at risk of becoming so. The SVP is very involved in foodbanks across the Diocese. In Clitheroe we collect donated food and transport to the warehouse for sorting and storing. It is then taken to Trinity for bagging and distribution. Our members help to give this to those in need.

CAFOD 18th September 3-5pm St John's Burnley. Come and hear more about our work in Bolivia. See poster in porch

CHRISTMAS IN LOURDES 6 days by coach departing 22 December. No overnight travel—£390 or £450 (single room). Contact Northern Star Travel 0161 763 8722

CLITHEROE

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

ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND Sat Welcoming A.Harkin Reader—A.Harkin Eucharistic Ministers— B.Worden & B.Hilton **Sun**—Welcoming— J.Byrne & P.Dixon Reader— K.Downes Euch Min— H.Addy, P.Donnely, H.Lofthouse Coffee—No Coffee today Little Church—S.Fellows & G.Mashiter

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting 7.30pm in the presbytery Monday 12th Sept

K.S.C. Council meeting Tuesday 13th September 7.30pm in the presbytery

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

CATECHISTS Just a reminder that there is a meeting for Catechists after the 9.30am. Mass today (Sunday).

SABDEN

BONUS BALL This is the last week to purchase a Bonus Ball number to help raise much needed funds for OUR CHURCH. If you haven't one already please consider it. If you do have one why not double your chance by having two!—a few numbers remaining I can take your details today. Numbers and envelopes will be allocated next week.

COFFEE AFTER MASS—volunteers needed for this, please put your name on the list in the porch for any week you are able. Thankyou

RED BOXES are due to be emptied — please bring them with you next week and leave at the back of church as usual.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

ANNUAL BINGO & SOCIAL will be held in Newton Village Hall on Monday 12th December. Doors open 18.45, eyes down 19.30 hrs (please note this event is to be held this year on the 2nd Monday in December, not 1st Monday). Further details nearer the time will be issued or contact Julie Bennett on 01200 448630