

Dear Parishioners

Advent is a particularly busy time for us all: cards to send, presents to buy, meals to plan and the list could go on. But amid all this frantic panic and haste we must remember that Advent should be above all else a time to reflect, to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and remind ourselves of what Christmas is about. There is no better way to do this than to buy an Advent **Walk with Me** booklet, available at the back of church (£1). This provides a short reflection and prayer for each day of Advent. Remember that a prayer a day not only keeps the Devil at bay but according to an increasing body of scientific research helps us live longer and so celebrate many more Christ-mases!

We are privileged this year to begin Advent with a copy of a Lampedusa Cross. It is made from pieces of a boat that was wrecked on 11 October 2013 off the coast of Lampedusa, a Mediterranean island south of Sicily, while crossing from Libya to Europe. 311 Eritrean and Somali refugees were drowned but the inhabitants of Lampedusa helped to save the lives of 155 others. After meeting some of the survivors who are Eritrean Christians in the church on Lampedusa, Francesco Tuccio, the island's carpenter, was moved by their plight but felt frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation. The best he could do was to use his skills as a carpenter to fashion for each of them a cross from the wreckage of the boat as a thanksgiving for their salvation from the sea and hope for the future. A similar cross was made for Pope Francis who carried it at a memorial service for those who had perished. The cross stands witness to the kindness of the people of the small island of Lampedusa who do so much for the refugees and migrants who arrive on their shores. CAFOD has supplied a copy of the cross which will be in our parish.

This Sunday for the Advent service in **St Mary's Sabden** at 4pm. Tuesday it will be in **St Hubert's Dunsop Bridge** at Mass.

On Saturday it will be processed into **St Michael and St John's** at the 6pm Mass and the 9.30pm Mass on Sunday.

During the week it will be displayed in St Michael & St John's.

Have you considered inviting a refugee family to a meal with your family? Full details are to be found at the back of each church?

Fr John

Our Lady of the Valley Parish

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

First Sunday of Advent - November 27th 2016

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by
Christmas Fair in the Hall from 10.30am

Monday & Tuesday
Eucharistic Service at 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Mass at 9.15am

Thursday
Mass at 9.15am & 7.30pm

Saturday (3rd December)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am Reconciliation 11am–11.45am
Exposition—11am—11.55am First Mass of Sunday 6pm

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday—Mass at 10am **Advent Carol Service** 6.30pm

Parish Mass book p.82 Eucharistic Prayer II p.24 First Preface of Advent p.685

Tuesday Mass at 9.15am

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am **Service of Light—4pm** **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Alice Wells (100th Birthday) x 2, Fr Joseph Wareing SJ, Deceased relatives and friends,
Paul O'Reill x 4, Ashfield Batts, Fr Edmund Willoughby SJ, Special intentions x 2,

SICK

Joseph Kitching, Bert Bradley, Bill Dewhurst, Jane Crowther, Jean Schofield
Ian Chew, Fr Joseph Wareing SJ, Sean Bennett, Olive Bromley

ANNIVERSARIES Fr Edmund Willoughby SJ, Ashfield Batts, John McDonald
Julia Tresnan

PARISH—Clitheroe, Dunsop and Sabden

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £742.48 Sunday afternoon Presidents Mass £155.80

Dunsop £258.66 Sabden £155.80 Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

LADIES GROUP ANNUAL MEAL Friday January 27th at the Newdrop and the cost is £27 for a three course meal including transport and tips. Menu's are available from the porch. Please return at our next meeting on November 30th

REFUGEE Christmas Cards on sale—see Katherine Clay (07857 808984

FOOD BANK Friday & Saturday 2/3 December the Tesco Christmas Foodbank collection takes place. We are very short of volunteers to help. If anyone could give an hour and a half between 9am & 5.30pm on either day please ring Margaret Donnelly 01200 441081 or email info@ribblevalley.foodbank.org.uk

REFUGEE email info@ribblevalley.foodbank.org.uk with times or

COME DINE WITH ME If you would like to host a meal for a refugee household, please collect the leaflet/form from back of church this and return it to the Parish office or Tom Clay in an envelope marked "Refugee meal FAO Tom Clay" by 4th December.

COURSE The five Northern Dioceses are running joint courses for Aspiring Deputies and Headteachers in Catholic Primary schools. A two day residential for those aspiring to deputy headship will take place on 19-20 January 2017 and for those aspiring to headship, a two day residential will take place 2-3 February. Interested in either course please contact one of the priests.

WANTED Sewing machine needed by a refugee family Tel: Lily Perrin 01200 428493

CAFOD Looking for Christmas presents with a difference—CAFOD World Gifts could be the answer! Delight your friends and family and make a huge difference to people around the world. See the new Christmas catalogues in all three of our church porches.

WALK WITH ME Advent booklets now on sale at back of church £1

Today there will be a retiring collection at all Masses for S.V.P.

CLITHEROE

CHRISTMAS CARDS Christmas Cards/Advent Calendars/gifts on sale in side porch (to the left of the door into the sacristy). Open before and after all masses/service.

CHRISTMAS FAIR TODAY in our Parish Hall after the 9.30am Mass. Tombola—Mystery Tombola—Cake Stall—Games—Jewellery—Sweet Stall—Christmas Cards/Gifts Toy/Book stall—Craft Stall—Name the Teddy—Grand Raffle—Refreshments

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICER The diocese is to recruit a suitable experienced and qualified practitioner to support the Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Please see the notice board for further details.

CHILDREN IN NEED Thankyou to everyone who supported the cake stall after Mass last Sunday. We raised £25.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE Clitheroe Christians in Partnership are holding an Advent Carol Service in St Mary Magdalene's Church, Clitheroe tonight Sunday 27 November at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome to explore the special meaning of Advent in hymns, readings and prayers.

LADIES GROUP meeting Wednesday 30th November at 7.30pm. A seasonable demonstration 'AUTUMN DELIGHTS' by Celia Brown. Admission £2 inc light refreshments. At this meeting we will present Grace Fellows the representative from CAFOD with a cheque for £1,500, the amount raised at the Mercy Bros concert.

FR WAREING Please continue your prayers for Fr Wareing, he is quite exhausted and should not be visited for the moment.

ROTA'S NEXT WEEKEND Sat Welc J.Luciani Reader—V.Murray, Euch Ministers—A.Harkin & N.Dixon Sun—Welc—R & F Holgate Reader—P.Sutcliffe Euch Min—J.Hall, S.Hall, K.Downes

ADVENT LUNCH and short service followed by lunch will be held each Tuesday during Advent at the United Reformed Church 12.30pm commencing on 29th November. All welcome

JOY TO THE WORLD a special Christmas service celebrated in music, drama, dance and poetry with Ribble Valley Choir and Orchestra. An offering will be taken to support the work of Christian Aid with Syrian refugees. Sunday 11 December 6.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church.

MAYORS CHRISTMAS PARCELS Anyone over 80 years of age, living alone, who would like a parcel and hasn't previously received one, please contact Ann on 01200 422890

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL opens next Friday 2 December at Christ Church Chatburn 7.30pm. Saturday 11am-4pm, Sunday noon-4pm.

LADIES GROUP TRIP TO YORK Wednesday 7 December leaves Clitheroe Interchange at 8.15am prompt.

PARISH DRAW NOVEMBER WINNERS £100 31 J.Parkinson, £20 151 L.Dixon, 37 A.Thornber £10 70 P.Jones, 74 E.Richardson, 121 A.Manhold, 153 F.Holgate

RAFFLE TICKETS Arnold will be selling Dunsop Bridge Raffle tickets next weekend.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Wednesday 28th December K.S.C.Annual Quiz Night in our Parish Hall at 7.30pm

DUNSTOP BRIDGE

CHRISTMAS DRAW Tickets are available for the Christmas Draw—please support by taking tickets to sell to your friends and family. The draw will take place at the Bingo on Monday 12th December in Newton Village Hall.

CAROL SERVICE Tonight First Sunday of Advent 27th November at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and refreshments in the Village Hall.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL Congratulations to winning number 40. Two numbers have unexpectedly become available—if interested please see Donna Wharton.

CHRISTMAS FAIR next Saturday 3rd December 2pm-4pm. All the usual stall and attractions. Father Christmas will be in residence 2pm-3pm List in porch to volunteer to help—please get involved. Last chance to donate to fair—please take a bag. Draw tickets sold and unsold need to be returned by start of fair next Sat. p

CHRISTMAS WREATHS will be assembled Thursday 1 December from 9.30am in the hall. Greenery needed—if you have any please leave outside the hall before Thursday.

GRAND DRAW TICKETS available this week. Please take a couple of books to sell. Again a big selection of super prizes.

SERVICE OF LIGHT St Mary's Church today Sunday Nov 27th at 4pm, led by Fr Kevin and the children. Special family service to mark beginning of Advent with special music and readings. All welcome. Coffee/Tea, mince pies and biscuits served in Hall afterwards.

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church. Donations at this time of year are so important to help others have food in their cupboards at Christmas.

JIMMY CRICKET CONCERT was a huge success, a lovely community event raising £731 for church funds. Special thanks to Jimmy, his wife May Marion, and our own Fr Kevin and compere Kevan Lingard for their support, and to organisers Pauline Hindle and friends.