

*Dear Parishioners,*

*What does Pope Francis say when he visits an ordinary parish in Rome?*

To be a Christian, first of all, is to give witness of Jesus. – This is the first thing. And this is what the Apostles did: the Apostles gave witness of Jesus, and because of this Christianity spread throughout the world. Witness and martyrdom: they are the same thing. One gives witness in little things, and some in great things, they give their life in martyrdom, as the Apostles did. But note the Apostles did not take a course to become witnesses of Jesus; they didn't study, they didn't go to university. They felt the Spirit within and followed the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; they were faithful to this, but also they were all sinners! The Twelve were sinners. "You may say: No, Father, only Judas!" No, poor man. We don't know what happened to him after his death, because God's mercy was there also at that moment. No, they were all sinners, all of them. There was jealousy between them. "No, I must occupy the first place and you the second"; and two of them spoke to their mother, asking her to go to speak to Jesus to give the first place to her sons. They were like this, with all their sins. They were also traitors, because when Jesus was seized, they all fled, full of fear; they hid themselves, they were afraid. And Peter, who knew he was the head, felt the need to get somewhat closer to see what was happening. And when the priest's servant said: "But you also are his follower", he said: "No, no, no!" He denied Jesus, betrayed Jesus. Peter, the first Pope betrayed Jesus! And these were the witnesses! Yes, because they were witnesses of the salvation that Jesus brings and all because of this salvation, were converted, they let themselves be saved. It was good when, on the shore of the Lake, Peter said: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." To be a witness does not mean to be a saint, but to be a poor man, a poor woman who says: "Yes, I'm a sinner, but Jesus is the Lord and I give witness of Him, and I try to do good every day, to correct my life, to go on the right way."

*He later added:* On this day of my visit, I would like this community to make the resolution not to gossip. And when you get the desire to gossip, bite your tongue: it will swell, but it will do you so much good. Never gossip about one another. A parish where there is no gossip is a perfect parish; it is a parish of sinners, yes, but also of witnesses. And this is the witness that the first Christians gave: "How they love one another, how they love each other!" Love one another at least in this. Begin with this. May the Lord give you this gift, this grace — never, never talk about one another. *Fr John*

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge  
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Email: smsj@btinternet.com Parish Priest: Mgr John Corcoran RD  
Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy Pastor Emeritus Mgr John Chaloner

## 3rd Sunday of Lent - 19th March 2017

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

#### Tuesday

Mass at 9am

#### Thursday

Mass at 9am & 7.30pm  
Prayer & Praise 8.10pm

#### Friday

Mass at 9am

Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation 7.30pm

#### Saturday—25th March

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 followed by Reconciliation

Tuesday—Mass at 9.15am

### St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Tuesday— Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Wednesday - Mass at 9.15am

**There is an opportunity as you leave church to make an extra donation to CAFOD for the East African Famine Appeal. The money will be used to assist CAFOD's work, primarily among women and children.**

***Lenten Thought for the week:***

***Buy loose, not pre-packed fruit and vegetables—don't put them in a bag.  
This is linked to the damage caused by plastic waste.***

**MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK**

Eve Turnbull, Margaret Maffia x 2, Deceased members of the Ladies Guild, Bernadette, Kevin and Peter, Joan Preedy, Brian Carr, Mgr Peter Wilkinson, Mary Kelly x 2, James Nolan

**SICK**

John Dixon, Cliff Astin, Joseph Wright, Cap't Elizabeth Smith (Salvation Army), Mgr Peter Wilkinson

**LATELY DEAD**

Eve Turnbull, Mary Kelly, Margaret Maffia, John Brown

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Joan Preedy, Brian Carr, James Nolan, Derek Pearson

**PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN**

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £826.70 Dunsop £199.50 Sabden £182.58  
Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

**S.V.P.COLLECTION** The quarterly collection will take place after Masses next weekend 25/26 March. Gift aid envelopes will be distributed at Masses this weekend. Please give generously, all the money collected in the last collection at Christmas was distributed locally to people in need.

**FOODBANK** Thank you for your continued weekly donations. Because of everyone's generosity at Christmas, we have enough in date chocolates left to distribute to clients with a special Easter message so will not need Easter Eggs this year.

**"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY AND PRAISE"** The Prayer and Praise each Thursday in Lent from 8.10-9.10pm, just after the evening mass. For the seven sessions in Lent, Fr Kevin will introduce different ideas of how to pray and there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scripture and lively music. Do make this your Lenten devotion.

**PAUSE FOR HOPE** an Ecumenical Service for all affected by Cancer on Sunday 30th April at 3pm here at St Michael & St John's, Church (in connection with Clitheroe Christians in Partnership). The speaker will be Professor Ray Donnelly MBE, FRCS Founder and President of the Roy Castle Lung Foundation.

**EASTER LILLIES** The remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is now open. A donation of £3 contributes towards the Easter lily display. Please see Jane Brown (Sat) or Teresa Mercer (Sun) by the Baptistry at the back of church. Please note that names and money to be in by April 9th—Palm Sunday.

**KNIT AND KNATTERTHON MARCH 29** The next Knit and Knatterthon is in St Michael & St John's Parish Hall 10am-4pm. Come and knit a square for Syrian refugees in Turkey. Knitting lessons for newcomers, wool, needles and refreshments provided. Anthony Brown 01200 422811 or a.brown@caritassalford.org.uk for details.

**REFUGEES IN TURKEY** Paul and Lynda Hembrough will speak at the Clitheroe Community Church today March 19 about their work in Turkey with local people and refugees. These refugees are the ones we are knitting for at the Knit and Knatterthons. See poster

**QUIZ NIGHT** in aid of Crossroads Care Ribble Valley on Friday 31st March at West Bradford Village Hall 7.30-11pm. Hot Buffet by Country Kitchen. Tickets £10. See poster

**LENT TALKS** next Saturday 25th March 'Good News for our neighbours in Clitheroe' Brenda Wise—Salvation Army at the Acorn Prayer House' Start 10.30am with Coffee Talk will start at 11am and conclude by noon. Please see details on poster in porch.

**K.S.C.** The KSC would like to thank parishioners and friends for supporting their events therefore enabling them to donate £423 to Mary's Meals, and £500 to St Augustines to support twelve 15/16 year old pupils to travel to Lourdes with HCPT. New members to help in our work would be made very welcome.

**GIFT AID/PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES** for the coming year are now available for collection from all three churches. Those at Clitheroe can be picked up from the side porch (near the Sacristy door). A few of Sabden 'regulars' at the Saturday 6pm Mass will find their envelopes here in St Michael & St John's. Likewise those Clitheroe people who are 'regulars' at Sabden on Sunday 11am can collect them there. If you cannot find your envelopes or have any queries then please see Janet. Thankyou

**CLITHEROE**

**ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND** **Saturday Welcoming**—J.Bentley **Reader** C.Riley **Eucharistic Ministers** A.Harkin & N.Dixon **Sunday—Welcoming**—R & C.Conti **Reader** D.Murray **Eucharistic Ministers**—J.Hall, S.Hall, K.Downes **Tea & Coffee**—Embery family **Little Church** S.Fellows & C.Mashiter

**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE** The total money raised in memory of Fr Wareing so far is over £1,000. Will update as and when

**LADIES FUND RAISING FASHION SHOW** and Pop up Shop ex High Street Fashion at 50% or less next Wednesday 22 March in our Parish Hall—doors open 7pm Tickets £5—proceeds to Derian House Children's Hospice. Our next fundraising event will be our Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th April at the Ribble Valley Mayors Parlour

**LADIES GROUP MEETING**—Wednesday 29th March in our Parish Hall. Only £2 inc Tea & Biscuits. Speaker Mrs Susan Walmsley—'A Short History of Booths—There's more to cheese than Lancashire & Cheddar' plus cheese tasting.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** K.S.C. Jumble Sale Saturday 22 April

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND RECONCILIATION** this coming Friday March 17th led by St Hubert's

**EASTER CARDS** are now on sale in the side porch (near the sacristy)

**MOTHERS DAY** Some cards on sale at the back of church £1.50

**DUNSOP**

**Parish Mass Boom page 158. Eucharistic Prayer II p.24  
Preface of the Samaritan Woman p.72**

**EASTER READ AROUND** All parishioners are warmly invited to Thorneyholme's School Hall for an Easter Read Around. The Easter story will include eye witness accounts of the events of Holy Week and will be interspersed with Easter hymns. It will be held on Thursday 13th April at 9.05am

**SABDEN**

**BONUS BALL** Congratulations to winning number 46 Two numbers have unexpectedly become available—if interested please see Donna Wharton.

**FOODBANK DONATIONS** can be left at the back of church.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** Each Tuesday morning a Caring and Sharing Bible Study Group—Sabden Baptist Church 10.30am to noon, with coffee, tea and biscuits.

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** Coffee Morning/Easter Bonnet parade Sat 15 April

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Tuesday 21st March at 7.30pm. This week we will follow Fr Morris' stations.