

Dear Parishioners,

The Bishops of England and Wales have written a joint letter encouraging Catholics to play an active part in the coming General Election. While voting for any particular political party is a matter of conscience, the bishops encourage us to use our vote at this pivotal time. They begin with a quotation from Pope Francis' letter *Evangelii Gaudium*: "An authentic faith ... always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters." These words of Pope Francis, the Bishops write, encourage us to approach this General Election with a positive determination to consider carefully all that is at stake. An important duty of every UK citizen with the right to vote is to take part in the General election. Please make sure that you are registered. Please do vote.

The letter can be found at catholicnews.org.uk/election17 and I shall refer to it in my homily at the weekend.

Among a number of issues highlighted by the Bishops is the sanctity of human life, reminding us that in 2015, Parliament voted overwhelmingly to protect society's most vulnerable people, by preventing the legalisation of assisted dying. Much of the success of the campaign that preceded this vote was led by the campaigning group, "Right to Life," an organisation which this parish supports.

In this connection, Arnold Marsden writes: "Fifty years ago this year the abortion act was passed, and since then eight million unborn babies have been destroyed. The unborn child is unable to defend itself, and relies on us for its very life; and the parable of the good Samaritan warns against walking by on the other side. A week on Monday, the Bank Holiday of 29th May, we host our annual sponsored walk, to raise funds for "Right to Life" to help it fight the constant battle on behalf of these children. Archbishop Kelly our own Bishop John along with several priests will join us along with many other walkers from the north-west. If you are unable to walk and collect sponsorship, you may sponsor our own Fr John or Fr Kevin or any other walker. This is a once a year effort to support this cash-strapped campaigning group in its efforts to defend life from the womb to the grave."

Finally, a reminder that the new Mass schedule begins on 10th June. *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

6th Sunday of Easter - 21st May 2017 St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that this revised Mass schedule will take effect on Saturday 10 June

Saturday evening
6pm Mass at St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Sunday morning (no change)
9.30am Mass at St Michael & St John's
11am Mass at St Mary's, Sabden

Sunday evening
5pm Mass at St Michael & St John's

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am
followed by Coffee

Monday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Tuesday & Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Saturday (27th May)

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

Tuesday—Mass at 9.15am

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Wednesday - Mass at 9.15am

There will be a retiring collection after all masses next weekend for the Catholic Communications Network

MASSSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK Mary Cushion, Sr Yvonne Pilarski, Norman Berry, Special intention, Tom Walmsley, Anthony Abbot, Canon David Lupton
SICK John Dixon, Cliff Astin, Joseph Wright, Mgr Peter Wilkinson,
LATELY DEAD Norman Berry
ANNIVERSARIES Tom Walmsley

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £819.43 Dunsop £163.50 Sabden £153.23
Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

ECC EDUCATION FUND Clitheroe £515.18 Sabden £59.23 Dunsop £96.30

TABOR The Carmelite friars are to close their Tabor Retreat House in Preston. Please remember them in prayer and the many in the North West who have relied on this spiritual resource.

PRAYER & PRAISE The remaining two meetings before the summer break are on Thursday 25 May and Thursday 29 June. We will carry on with music, scripture, adoration and praise. Fr Kevin

PARISH THEATRE TRIP—Blackbirds at Dawn Friday 15 September at 7.30pm at the University of Cumbria in Lancaster. The play concerns modern day slavery, and is suitable for those over 16 years. It addresses many of the issues connected to our parish's work on anti-trafficking and there is a discussion after the performance. Total cost, ticket + transport (minibus) is £8.50. Please collect a form from the back of church and return with payment to Fr Kevin to book a place.

CLITHEROE HUSTINGS A meeting with all the General Election Candidates at Trinity Methodist Church Friday 26 May at 7.30pm. The topics will be Health and Social care, Poverty/Inequality, The Economy, Housing, Environment, Immigration, Brexit. We welcome questions on each of these topics. Please telephone 01282 777647 or email nigeltrix@btinternet.com with the heading "Questions for candidates"

MASS OF HEALING A huge thank you to all who responded to the request for help and made this such a successful occasion. Everyone who came found it both spiritually and socially rewarding. The Autumn Mass of Healing will be on Sunday 17th September at 2 pm

THE BIG SWIM Helen Addy (nee Mercer) is going to 'Swim the Channel' for Rosemere Cancer Foundation in recognition of the excellent care she received during her cancer treatment. She will swim a mile a day (64 lengths) at Stonyhurst College Pool for 21 days starting June 1st. Her Just giving page for sponsorship of www.justgiving.com/Helen-Addy or telephone 1200 441015.

REFUGEE DAY OUT Saturday 15 July. Volunteers needed to help—please contact Tom & Kathryn Clay on email tomclay48@hotmail.com or ☎07962 136749

RIGHT TO LIFE WALK—MONDAY 29 MAY

Our annual walk takes place on Bank Holiday Monday 1pm from our Primary School Car Park. Bishop John and Bishop Kelly together with Lord David Alton, Fr Kevin and other Pro-Life groups from throughout the North West will join us in the walk which will be led by Fr John.

We would like as many people as possible to do this walk along the River Ribble. Please be generous in your sponsorship, as fighting Pro-Life issues has proven to be extremely expensive. Sponsorship forms are available from Arnold Marsden or from the back of church.

Thanks to the K.S.C. for their generous donation of £200



WADDOW LODGE GARDEN for the 90th anniversary of the National Gardens scheme SUNDAY 28 May 1-5pm—adults £4 children free. Profits from refreshments will go to Parish funds. Between 200 and 400 visitors can be anticipated so helpers with serving teas/car parking are essential. BBC Radio Lancashire will also be broadcasting their 'Gardening and Outdoor programme@ with Stephen Lowe during the day. For those helping please arrive at 12noon where we will have a picnic ready for you.

Donations of home baking Welcome (except scones) Helpers contact 01200 429145

MARK PAVER a student who stayed with us a couple of years ago will be ordained in Salford Cathedral on Saturday 22 July at 12noon. A bus has been organised and if you wish to travel to the ordination please sign the list at the back of church and pay a non-refundable £5 to one of the priests or Teresa Mercer. First come, First served!

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Sat Welcoming—J.Bentley **Reader**—J.Byrne **Eucharistic Ministers**—F.Ellis & M.Fox **Sun Welcoming**—R & C Conti **Reader**—J.Hennigan **Eucharistic Ministers**—H.Lofthouse, B.Collinson, S.Smith **Tea & Coffee**—P.D'Souza **Little Church** D & V.Harvey Higgins & C.Carr

LADIES GROUP The Ladies Group are hosting a variety concert with singing and dancing NEXT Wednesday 24 May 2-4pm—GO ON TOUR! £6 inc afternoon tea (sandwiches and homemade cakes) Tickets on sale this weekend and 20/21 May or ☎ Dap[hne 01200 427912, Patsy 01200 441792 or Carol 01200 426769 **OUR NEXT** monthly meeting will be on Wednesday 31 May at 7.30pm. Speaker Meriel Woodward 'Kises' - alleviating poverty in India. £2 inc Tea and Biscuits

EVENSONG Special Evensong today Sunday 21 May at 6.30pm at St Mary's Parish Church, Church Brow. Music and hymns—please join us

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION cards and gifts are on sale in the side porch which is open before and after Mass/Service Monday to Friday and Saturday and Sunday

NEW ROTA Because of the new weekend mass times the welcoming, reading and Eucharistic ministers rota for Saturday evening will be obsolete. Any parishioners on this Saturday evening rota who would be willing to change to the Sunday, either morning or evening would be welcomed. Please contact Janet by the end of the month—May 31 if you wish to change or you do not wish to carry on.

BAPTISM We welcome Luca Michael Crawshaw who was baptised last Saturday

DUNSOP

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS Thorneyholme's School Parliament wish to thank all the parishioners who have given vouchers to the school. Any remaining vouchers—please drop off at school. Once again, your help is much appreciated.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL Congratulations to winning number 52. Two numbers have unexpectedly become available—if interested please see Donna Wharton.

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

CHRISTIAN AID if you weren't able to get to the Coffee Morning yesterday, you can still return your envelopes to the box at the back of church. Churches Together in Sabden is appealing for the return of these envelopes as they are the r main yearly effort. They can also be popped through the door of 26 Whalley Road

EASTER COFFEE MORNING Some raffle prizes still unclaimed—No's 51-55 (Easter Hamper) and 551-555 (White Wine). Please pick up your prize from sacristy