

Dear Parishioners

During a recent flight, a friend fell into conversation with his neighbouring passenger from Sweden. When occupations came up my friend explained that he was a Catholic priest to which his companion responded: "I admire your Church. It is the only organisation I know of that consistently defends the dignity of human life."

On 13th March 2017, a bill which would effectively decriminalise **abortion** had its First Reading in Parliament and was passed by 172 votes to 142. A second reading on 12 May was thwarted by the General Election and the dissolution of Parliament. Abortion procedures range from the use of chemicals to achieve an early miscarriage, to later surgical procedures that, by the use of sharp medical instruments or powerful suction, remove the baby piece-by-piece from her mother's uterus. Such actions always violate the right to life of the unborn child herself, and can cause emotional and other harms to the mother.

Partly due to the disregard of the rights of the unborn child, **scientific research** and medical practice has often been undertaken which involves the destruction of human beings when they are at their embryonic stage of development. To date, no such research has led to any beneficial medical breakthroughs.

In 1961 Parliament legalised **Suicide**, the attempt to take one's own life, but it remained illegal to assist someone to take their own life, with a punishment of up to 14 years in prison. In countries where this has been legalised, palliative care has been undermined. Every charity supporting the disabled is against legalising assisted suicide.

Euthanasia, unlike assisted death, is the direct killing of an individual by a medical doctor or other practitioner. In Holland and Belgium where euthanasia is legal there are signs that it has led to involuntary euthanasia as Doctors and Nurses arrogate to themselves the right to decide who ought to die, and in pressure being brought to bear on vulnerable people. Euthanasia, even more than assisted death, dehumanises the human person and subverts the vital doctor patient relationship.

In our Parish, we have a Pro-Life Group which is in need of support. We shall meet this Tuesday, July 25th, in the Presbytery at 7.30pm. Please come and help us champion the dignity of human life.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge
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Tel 01200 423307 website: olov.org.uk

Email: smsj@btinternet.com **Parish Priest:** Mgr John Corcoran RD
Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Murphy **Pastor Emeritus** Mgr John Chaloner

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd July 2017

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am
& Mass at 5pm

Monday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Thursday

Mass at 7.30pm

Saturday (29th July)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am Reconciliation 11-11.45am Exposition 11-11.55am

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Thursday—Mass at 9.15am **Saturday** Mass at 6pm

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am **Wednesday**—Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK Patrick Emerson, Brian Ashton, Canon Jim Duxbury, Ann Stanley

SICK John Dixon, Joseph Wright, Gordon Gorrighan, Margaret Fagan, Cliff Astin, Pat Horrocks, Josephine Kelly,

LATELY DEAD Canon Jim Duxbury, Ann Stanley, Barbara Clayton (nee Jackson) died 14 July in Whitley Bay (late of Kirkmoor Rd).

ANNIVERSARIES Brian Ashton

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £571.56 Sabden £145.74 Dunsop £265.71

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

SALFORD DIOCESE—(CCRS) Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies, a two year programme commencing September 2017. See poster in porch for more information and who to contact.

VOLUNTEERS - Are you ready to put your faith into action? A youth ministry project based in Salford run by the Spiritans are looking for volunteers between ages of 18-26 to join our team in Salford this summer. Email us for more info admin@justyouth.co.uk or visit our website <http://www.justyouth.co.uk>

PRO-LIFE WALK Any parishioners with sponsorship money for the recent walk still to hand in please place it on the collection plate in an envelope with their name on. As soon as all the money is collected in we will be able to give a final figure of money raised.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 28 JULY Anyone who wishes a petition to be taken and placed at the grotto, please use the marked boxes at the back of our churches in Clitheroe, Sabden and Dunsop which will be available until TODAY Sunday 23 July. Also, we are collecting for a candle to be placed at the grotto for all the people of the parish. If you would like to contribute to this, please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Our Lourdes Candle' and put it in the offertory basket today at Mass or post it through the Clitheroe presbytery letterbox today at the very latest.

THE BEACON The July edition of the Beacon, the newsletter of Caritas Salford, is now available in the porch. This edition highlights what we can do in our Parish, as part of the Missionary Parish Programme to be launched on 4th October, including celebrating the World Day for the Poor, and taking action on Human Trafficking and protecting the environment.

CRAIG LODGE RETREAT—25-29 SEPTEMBER There are still some places available on the retreat entitled "Recreate me in Heart and Spirit." Minibus transport to and from this event is available: places are offered on a first-come-first-served basis, so please see Fr Kevin if you would like to book a place.

FAMILY LIFE & PRO-LIFE At the recent Parish Forum we were made aware of the constant attack on Family Life issues. It was decided to arrange a meeting for anyone interested to discuss how we as individuals and as a parish could help combat these very important issues. A meeting has been arranged on Tuesday 25th July at 7.30pm in the presbytery.



CARITAS JOB VACANCY—Refugee Response Coordinator—see poster in porch

SALVETE the next meeting is on Thursday 27th July at 6.30pm in the presbytery. Parishioners are welcome to attend—find out more about the group by ☎ 07834 338661 or email salveteolotv@gmail.com

CLITHEROE

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Sun morning Welcoming—R & C Conti Reader—N.Wallace Eucharistic Ministers—J.Hall, S.Hall, K.Downes Tea & Coffee—P.D'Souza Little Church—C.Naylor-Preston Sunday Evening—Welcoming—Reader P.Withers Eucharistic Ministers—N.Dixon & F.Ellis

HELP! HELP! We could still do with some volunteers for Welcoming and reading at the Sunday 5pm evening mass. Please see Fr John or Janet if you are willing to help.

LADIES GROUP MEETING Wednesday 26 July at 7.30pm in our Parish Hall. Speaker is parishioner Bridget Hilton who will give a talk 'My year as Mayor' (Ribble Valley Mayor 2015/16). This meeting is open to everyone including gentlemen. Next months meeting will be on Wednesday 30 August—the annual Treasure Hunt followed by supper at a local hostelry—Cost this year £13 including tips etc. Menus will be available at next Wednesdays meeting. If you don't want to take part but just want to come along for the supper then pick up a menu, which will be available next weekend from the porch

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY By popular request—Rosendale Male Voice Choir Friday 13 October 2017

DUNSOP

TEAS TODAY SUNDAY 23 JULY We are hosting and have the proceeds from the teas from 10am-4pm. Support is required to help serving and baking cakes for the event. If you can help please put your name on the list at the back of church. Also it would be great support also if our parishioners and family made plans to call in for lunch or refreshments. Julie Bennett 011200 448630

DUCK RACE—AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY Our annual Duck Race is approaching very soon on the river Dunsop. Please help by taking a book of tickets and selling them. Available from the back of church. Further details Julie Bennett 01200 448630

SABDEN

BONUS BALL Congratulations to winning number 23 This years Bonus Ball payments will end on 30th July. Please could you make sure you are up to date with your £1's!!! It will recommence on 10 September and run again for 45 weeks. Luckily some extra numbers have now become available, please consider having a Bonus Ball if you haven't already got one! You have got to be in it to win it and the very lucky ones several times!!! Please let me know if you are happy to keep the same number or would you like to change it whilst other numbers are available? I will leave a little reply slip at the back of church to put in the Bonus Ball Box or I can be contacted on 01254 8264225 or 07970 398288 or dmaa1@hotmail.com. Many thanks for you continued support Donna Wharton

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

SUMMER FAIR still some unclaimed raffle prizes—Yellow 501-505, White 81-85, Yellow 551-555, Pink 616-620, Pink 611-615, Pink 566-570. This is your last chance—please search your bags and pockets. Please claim prize from Sacristy after Mass. Thanks to a donation from St Mary's School, the profit from the fair is now £440. Thanks again to all who contributed.