

## The San Damiano Crucifix

The picture of the San Damiano crucifix (pictured on the front) that has been introduced to our churches is a copy of the cross before which St. Francis of Assisi was praying when he received the commission from the Lord to rebuild the Church. It is a fitting **icon** for us to meditate on as we follow the **Hope in the Future** programme.

We say “**read**” an icon, because each particular detail of an icon is something to understand and not only a thing to look at as in a common picture. Therefore, we **look** at a picture and we **read** an icon. So it is with the icon of the crucified Christ that we see now displayed in our Churches.

Even theologians can find great pleasure in reading the immense and profound messages within this icon. In the large figure of Jesus, we can see the Primacy of Christ. His garment identifies him as a High Priest of the New Covenant interceding for us in heaven.

For us to spend time, on this page exploring the meaning of all the symbols we see in the icon, just to mention a few: the Seashells, the Crown of Glory, the Frame, the Veil, the Centurions, the Rock and the Rooster, we would run out of space in this Newsletter.

So, in the newsletter over the coming weeks we shall explore in greater detail each of the symbols and their meaning, so that the spirit of light can enlighten our hearts and enable us to appreciate and understand the profound teaching contained in this icon.

This icon, is often referred to as an Icon of Hope, for we see the Risen Jesus, victorious over death and evil. The black background represents evil and emphasises Christ’s victory over evil. The Virgin Mary smiles at John. Jesus shown ascending into heaven (at the top) is also smiling. All the characters are shown in a state of joy.

The border of the icon is formed of a number of shells. Among the ancients the seashell was a symbol of the beauty and eternity of heaven, because of its beauty and endurance. So, this border of seashells shows us that the icon is destined by its very nature to reveal a heavenly mystery. However, the border is not fully complete. It is not closed at the base but a space has been left free to allow for an entry. (For us when our time is right.) Right at the opening we see some characters that might be believers, they are already in heaven, possibly us in the future. Two of the characters are easily discernible; the others probably have been erased by the kisses of the faithful venerating the icon.

*Michael Hargreaves*

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge  
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## Third Sunday of Lent - 4th March 2018

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



#### Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

#### Monday & Thursday

Eucharistic Service at 9am in the Presbytery

#### Tuesday

Mass at 9am  
Children's First Reconciliation at 6.30pm

#### Wednesday

Eucharistic Service at 9am in the Presbytery  
Deanery Lent Station Mass 7pm  
St Joseph's, Blackburn

#### Friday

Mass at 9am  
Stations of the Cross 7.30pm (in church)  
led by The SVP group

#### Saturday (10th March)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am Reconciliation 11-11.45am  
Exposition 11-11.55am First Mass of Sunday—5pm

### St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Thursday—Mass at 9.15am

Saturday—First Mass of Sunday at 6.30pm

### St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Tuesday—Stations of the Cross 7.30pm

Wednesday—Mass at 9.15am



**HOPE**  
IN THE FUTURE

#### HOPE IN THE FUTURE MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Meeting 1—St Michael & St John's Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm

Meeting 3—St Mary's Sabden Wednesday 7th March at 7.30pm

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge—meeting cancelled

The main door of the Church will be closed another week as the floor of the porch is repaired. Entrance will be by the side porch opposite the Presbytery front door.

**MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK** Violet Robbie

**SICK** Canon Tony Dorran, Jonathan Taylor, Margaret Cunningham, Ruth Edwardson, Bill and Barbara Dewhurst, Violet Robbie

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

### **PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN**

**OFFERTORY** Clitheroe £819.24 Sabden £263.72 Dunsop £187.50

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £265

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs: all from farmers in developing countries who aren't paid what they deserve. Many are paid prices too low to provide for their families, especially their children. The Fairtrade logo guarantees a fair price. If you wish to support Fairtrade Fortnight, please pick up a list from the porch, showing supermarkets which sell Fairtrade products.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** Friday 20 April. Fundraising party for Refugee Day; "Wonderful Tonight". Delicious curry and entertainment at the Old School Rooms, Lowergate. Tickets £10 from Tom or Kathryn Clay 07962 136749

**ST AUGUSTINES QUIZ NIGHT** Friday 9th March doors open 7pm quiz starts 7.30pm. £3 per ticket can be purchased on the night. See poster

**WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE** Saturday 5 May led by Bishop John. Pilgrimage includes, Procession, Reconciliation, Mass £20 return. See poster in porch. More information from John Griffin 0161 817 2222 or john.griffin@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

**THIS YEARS DEANERY STATION MASS** Wednesday March 7th at 7pm in St Joseph's Church, Audley Range, Blackburn. This year it has a Youth theme "Called to Greatness". Many schools attended last year and St Michael & St John's Liturgical Stick Dancers were to the fore. Open to all parishioners. Refreshments served afterwards.

**LOURDES** The Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage this year led by Rt Rev John Arnold, takes place on 27 July-2 August. Cost for flight, 6 nights hotel accommodation and meals is £729 (single supplement £186). If you would like to join a group from the Parish please put your name and details on the list at the back of church by March 18th. Volunteers of Doctors, Registered Nurses, Healthcare assistants to help and support sick and disabled pilgrims. tel 0161 817 2209 or email: pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

**CAFOD** Lent Family Fast Day envelopes can be returned any time during Lent—they can be placed in the offertory basket at Mass. Ideally we would like you to add to the envelope each week and return it on Easter Sunday.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** Refugee Day—23rd June

**PAUSE FOR HOPE** Due to the weather last weeks meeting had to be cancelled but has been re-scheduled for next Thursday afternoon 7th March at 2.30pm in the Presbytery.

**JOB VACANCIES AT CARITAS/CATHEDRAL CENTRE** See poster in porch

*The first SVP collection will take place next weekend 10/11 March.*

*Please be generous*

### **CLITHEROE**

**JUMBLE SALE** a suitable date for spring could not be found, so the next Jumble will be in the Autumn.

**PARISH DRAW** Winners £100—34 A.Thornber, £20—86 D.Bleazard, 13-P.Lambert £10—41 M.Valovin, 48 C.Astin, 69 E.Clegg, 127 C.Riley

**LADIES GROUP** Our next event—Coffee Morning at the Mayor's Parlour Saturday 14th April 10am—12noon

**UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZE** from Ukulele Band Pink 108—collect from presbytery  
**LENT TALKS** in our Assembly Hall throughout Lent. Saturday—10th March at 11am (Coffee 10.30am) - speaker 'Healing through the power of the Holy Spirit' Julie Young  
**EASTER LILLIES** The remembrance book for deceased relatives and friends is now open. A donation of £2 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 Palm Sunday 25th March.

**ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Saturday Evening—Welcoming—J.Bentley Reader C.Riley Eucharistic Ministers A.Southworth & A.Rowley Sunday morning—Welcoming J.Clegg & E.Davies Reader—S.Smith Eucharistic Ministers —G.Lambert, P.Lambert, P.Sutcliffe Tea & Coffee—M.Geddes & E.Curphey Little Church—C.Naylor Preston**

**CLITHEROE CIVIC SOCIETY** 'Scandinavians and Celts : early medieval Bowland' - an illustrated talk by Dr Fiona Edmonds. Ribbles Valley Council Chambers Monday 12th March at 7.30pm. £3 (Students Free) inc refreshments.

**LADIES GROUP** Thursday April 26th trip to Liverpool and the Terracotta Warriors although the date has still to be confirmed. We have already got 30 people on the list so if you want to go please let us know SAP to avoid disappointment.

**SPRING HAPPENING** meeting Wednesday 7th March 11am & 7.30pm in the presbytery. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute do not hesitate to contact Jane Brown 01200 441949 jane\_ann\_brown@hotmail.com

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

### **DUNSOP**

**DUNSOP BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL** Sat 17 March at 7.30pm. Clive Carroll World-Class guitarist will perform an inspirational evening of medieval lute music, Spanish guitar classics, Reinhardt through to the Beatles and much more. Tickets £8 ☎01200 448201 Non alcoholic drinks available—bring your own alcoholic drinks and glasses

**THE SLEEPING BEAUTY** Come and enjoy some of the pupils from Thorneyholme School who are taking part in Sleeping Beauty in Slaidburn Village Hall 8/9/10 March at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 Adults £3.50 Children Contact Linda Blakeman 01200 446358 or email lindablakeman@hotmail.com

### **SABDEN**

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

**BONUS BALL** Winning Bonus Ball 24-02-18 Number 7. A few numbers have now become available please let me know if you would like one. Donna

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to go on the cleaning rota for the Church and Hall. Please help if you can it only involves a couple of hours every few weeks. Please see Jennifer, Suzanne or DamiEn after Mass.

**OLD SABDEN EXHIBITION** An exhibition of Old Sabden is taking place in the Hall on Sat and Sunday March 17/18. If you have any pictures of people and places, any old maps, newspaper cuttings or memorabilia please dig them out. Any items borrowed will be looked after and returned. Please leave with Kay Galea, Jean Haythornthwaite, Pat Whitwell, Margaret Waling or Margaret Parsons,

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** each Tuesday at 7.30pm evening through Lent. If any group or individual would like to lead one week please let us know—01282 433455. This week will follow the Way of the Cross through Mary's words.