

We continue our examination of the San Damiano Cross, In the Bible, clothing generally reveals the true identity of a person. And so, the icon uses the symbolic language of clothing to demonstrate the vocation of the person.

The loincloth that **Jesus** is wearing is of linen with a gold border. Linen and gold were used for the Old Testament priestly vestments. The size of the loincloth was usually quite small. One of the prescriptions of Temple liturgy specified that the priest should not ascend the steps of the altar for fear of immodesty. It is a simple loincloth, Egyptian style, which in Hebrew is known as the ephod. Another passage in the Old Testament confirms the use of this small garment by the priests. We read of David exercising his priestly function: sacrificing before the Ark of the Covenant while wearing the ephod. In the Icon Jesus is depicted wearing a loincloth to show that he is both priest and sacrifice. We contemplate Jesus who fulfils to perfection both the priesthood of the Old Covenant and the temple sacrifice: he is both priest and the sacrifice, the Lamb of God

If we look carefully at **Mary** we can see running down her back and covering her hair, a great mantle of white. This mantle carries a three-fold message. In the first place it expresses the victory of fidelity to the Gospel: "The victor shall be clothed in white" Secondly, white vestments are a sign of the purification wrought by Christ. Justly Mary can be so clothed, she whom from the beginning was preserved from every stain of sin. Thirdly, this vesture is a sign of the good works that God gives to the saints to accomplish, "Behold the wedding of the Lamb, His bride is ready and has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints" On the white mantle, although now faded, we would have seen a great number of precious stones arranged in rows, you can still see the markings, although not as impressive as when first painted, the jewels represent the divine favour with which Mary was and continues to be covered, according to the greeting of Gabriel "Rejoice, Full of Grace." Under the great mantle, Mary wears a dark red vestment, practically burgundy in colour. Since red is the symbolic colour of love, dark red signifies intense love. Finally, we see that Mary is wearing a purple tunic. Purple reminds us that she is the Ark of the Covenant which bore the Word of God made flesh, Jesus Christ. The interior of the ancient Ark of the Covenant was lined with purple.

Michael Hargreaves

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

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Fifth Sunday of Lent - 18th March 2018

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am
followed by Coffee

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9.15am

Friday

Mass at 9am
Stations of the Cross 7.30pm
(Anti-trafficking group)

Saturday (24th 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 2—St Hubert's, Dunsop Wednesday 21st March at 7.30pm

Meeting 3—St Michael & St John's Wednesday 21st

MASSSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK Joan Preedy, Ann Marie Ibbotson x 3, Holy Souls, Special intention, Brian Carr, Michael Edwardson, Therese Wilkinson x 3, Betty Morton

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

LATELY DEAD Therese Wilkinson, Ann Marie Ibbotson,

ANNIVERSARIES Alice Fullalove, Joan Preedy, Brian Carr, Michael Edwardson, Betty Morton

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £898.30 Sabden £129.92 Dunsop

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

THE CHRISM MASS at which the Bishop blesses the sacramental oil to be used this year and priests renew their commitment to the service of the Diocese is on Wednesday 28th March at 11am in the Cathedral. Entrance is by ticket only. If you would like to attend please ask me for a ticket. Fr John

LIVERPOOL & DUBLIN anyone considering attending either the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool or the World Wide gathering of families in Dublin needs to contact Fr John.

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

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

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

REFUGEE FUNDRAISING Silverwoods Clitheroe are to Auction a selection of quality items at the Wonderful Tonight Refugee Fundraising event. If you have any items to help this auction we would be delighted. Our target is £1200 to pay for transport for the day. Thankyou for your unerring support.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2018/2019 will be distributed NEXT weekend. Some people from Clitheroe have a different number as will all those people from Sabden and Dunsop Bridge. **Please let Janet know before next week if you no longer pay tax.**

CHEQUES a reminder: The bank will only accept cheques made payable to ‘Our Lady of the Valley Parish’.

WANTED People to welcome at the services over Easter. Maundy Thursday 8pm Mass, Good Friday 3pm, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion. Easter Vigil 8pm Saturday 31st March and 9.30am Sunday 1st April. Please see Fr John

CLITHEROE

K.S.C.DANCE Friday 6th April from 7.30pm. Dancing to John Lancaster. £7 including Hot Supper. Tickets from Arnold 01200 427096 or Betty 01200 427029

EASTER CARDS are now on sale from the back of church

ASTER 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 Palm Sunday 25th March.

ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND Saturday Evening—Welcoming—A.Harkin Reader V.Murray Eucharistic Ministers B.Worden & A.Ward Sunday morning—Welcoming B.Parkinson & P.Dixon Readers Eucharistic Ministers H.Lofthouse, B.Collinson & S.Smith Tea & Coffee—P.Geldard & T.O’Donnell Little Church—D & C Carr

LENT TALKS in our Assembly Hall throughout Lent. Saturday—24th March at 11am (Coffee 10.30) - speaker ‘Healing through the cross of Christ’ - Rev’d Mark Woodward

TEA DANCE Wed 21st March run by Ladies Group in The Assembly Rooms 2—5pm. Potato pie etc at £5. If you require a ticket for this event please contact Daphne 01200 427912 by today Sunday 18 March.

COFFEE MORNING April 14th in Mayors Parlour 10-12noon. Tickets £1 on sale 24/25 March & 7/8 April. Proceeds to Sea Shell Trust, supporting children and young adults with complex learning disabilities. Our final effort to boost £642 already raised

LADIES GROUP TRIP to Terracotta Warriors exhibition in Liverpool. At last they have come back to us to confirm the booking. It is Thursday 26th April leaving the Clitheroe Interchange at 8.30am open to all, men included. Cost £25 which includes coach, tip for driver and entrance to the exhibition. Names and money please S.A.P. to either Janet or Daphne. There will be plenty of time for shopping too!!

DUNSOP

GIFT OF BOOKS Thorneyholme Primary School is a collection point for ‘Gift of Books’, a unique campaign in Greater Manchester. The aim is to reduce book poverty for the region’s most disadvantaged children. The campaign is calling on your spirit of generosity and asking you to donate a favourite childhood book—complete with a printed note explaining why you want to share it (available from school or online)

<https://www.cartridgesave.co.uk/printwhatmatters/gift-of-books/> In turn it will be gifted to one of the 40,000 children in Greater Manchester who have no books of their own. Drop a book off at the collection point at school, from now until 31st May.

SAVE THIS DATE Sunday 13th May we will be hosting the Trough Teas in Dunsop Village Hall—refreshments served from 10am-4pm. More details nearer the time.

SABDEN

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

BONUS BALL Winning Bonus Ball Number 50

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.

DOWN MEMORY LANE this weekend’s exhibition has been extended to take in today Sunday 18th March from 1pm—3pm. Parishioners can go in after Mass. Proceeds will be for the hall re-decoration fund.

KNIT, STITCH & NATTER every Monday morning 10.15am in the Hall. Very informal, all welcome. Come along for a chat and a cuppa.

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 the Stations will be led by the Anti-trafficking support group.

EASTER CARDS are now on sale—see Pat Whitwell