

Dear Parishioners, An extract from Pope Francis speaking with recently married couples in Dublin.

Nowadays we are not used to anything that really lasts for the whole of our lives. If I feel hungry or thirsty, I can eat; but my feeling of being full does not last even a day. If I have a job, I know that I might lose it or I may have to choose a different career. It is even hard to keep track of the world as it changes all around us, as people come and go in our lives, as promises are made but often broken or left unfulfilled. Perhaps what you are really asking me is something even more basic: Is there anything precious that endures at all? Even love itself? We know how easy it is today to find ourselves caught up in “the culture of the provisional”, the ephemeral. That culture strikes at the very roots of our growth in hope and love. How can we experience “the truly lasting” in this culture of the ephemeral?

Here is what I would say to you. Of all the kinds of human fruitfulness, marriage is unique. It is about a love that gives rise to new life. It involves mutual responsibility for the transmission of God’s gift of life, and it provides a stable environment in which that new life can grow and flourish. Marriage in the Church, that is, the sacrament of matrimony, shares in a special way in the mystery of God’s eternal love. When a Christian man and a woman enter into the bond of marriage, the Lord’s grace enables them freely to promise one another an exclusive and enduring love. Their union thus becomes a sacramental sign of the new and eternal covenant between the Lord and his bride, the Church. Jesus is ever present in their midst. He sustains them throughout life in their mutual gift of self, in fidelity and in indissoluble unity. His love is a rock and a refuge in times of trial, but more importantly, a source of constant growth in pure and lasting love.

We know that love is God’s dream for us and for the whole human family. Please, never forget this! God has a dream for us and he asks us to make it our own. So do not be afraid of that dream! Cherish it and dream it together each day anew. In this way, you will be able to support one another with hope, strength, and forgiveness at those moments when the path grows rocky and it becomes hard to see the road ahead. God binds himself to remain faithful to his covenant, even when we grieve him or grow weak in our love. He tells us: “I will never fail you nor forsake you!” (Heb 13:5). As husband and wife, anoint one another with those words of promise, every day for the rest of your lives. And never stop dreaming!

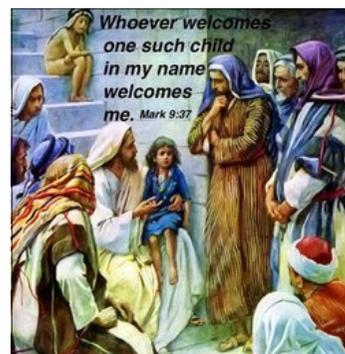
Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

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25th Sunday in Ordinary time - 23rd September 2018

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Tuesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Saturday (29th September)

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

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Thursday—Mass at 9.15am **Saturday** Mass at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church, Sabden

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

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Pat Barnes, Private Intention

LATELY DEAD

Fr Philip Price—Parish Priest, English Martyr's, Whalley, Pat Barnes

Callum thanks you all for the reception the parish gave him last Friday evening for the presentation of the Spiritual Bouquet and generous £1,000 cheque towards him passing his driving test and buying a car.

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £680.71 Sabden £154.97 £ Dunsop £210.00

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

HOME MISSION SUNDAY Clitheroe £247.93 Sabden £44.18 Dunsop £51.20

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME in February 2019 led by Bishop John 16—23rd February. Over 18's only cost per person £690 which includes flights, full board and insurance. More info email: tracey.ward@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or 0161 817 2222

RETREAT at Xaverian Mission Spirituality Centre, Preston (formerly TABOR) There is an OPEN DAY TODAY 23rd September 12—4pm (not Tuesday 25th as previously advertised) Story telling, Food from around the World, Family games.

SALFORD DIOCESE we are recruiting parish members for our 2018-2020 CCRS—Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies course which ensures that governors, teachers and the church community has a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic Faith for those involved in Education, RE Curriculum and Parish Catechesis.

PAUSE FOR HOPE a service for people affected in any way by cancer, Sunday 14th October, here at St Michael & St John's at 3pm. Participants will include patients, professional practitioners and fund raisers as well as local clergy and the Ribble Valley choir will sing. The service was first initiated by Prof. Ray Donnelly, a retired thoracic surgeon who is now President of the Roy Castle Foundation. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for loved ones and to obtain a special prayer card. For further information please contact Carol Riley on 01200 426769

ANTI-TRAFFICKING EVENSONG Blackburn Cathedral Sept 23rd at 4pm. Come and pray for victims of human trafficking and to bring an end to modern day slavery.

CAFOD Our group invites you to join us on a 1 mile walk on Sun 7th Oct after Mass (St Michael & John's) to support Pope Francis' Share the Journey campaign by walking in solidarity with refugees and migrants. Every step you take will send a message to world leaders that they must also step up. Our Cub Pack have already done this.

DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL MINISTRY & LEADERSHIP In association with the Liverpool Archdiocese and this year Wrexham Diocese. The course begins January 2019 and ends December 2021 Cost £2,600 payable over three instalments. Information Evening at Salford Cathedral Centre Tuesday 9th October 7.30—9pm. This will be discussed at our next Parish Forum on 19th September.

CAFOD Some members of our Parish CAFOD Group are going to the Cafod Retreat on 24th November at St Patrick's Church Hall, Livesey St, Manchester M4 5HF, Please bring a shared vegetarian lunch. If you would like to join us please register via the CAFOD website (<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Salford-retreat>). We are thinking of hiring a minibus for the day, so if you need transport, please contact Grace Fellows (01200 425928). Registering needs to be done asap as this event is usually fully booked by the end of September. The topic is very apt in the run-up to Christmas—COUNTERING CONSUMERISM: Lessons from Gaudete et Exsultate

MONSTER JUMBLE SALE Saturday 13th October in our Parish Hall. Unwanted clothing, Books, DVD's, Bric a Brac etc can be collected the day prior to sale Friday 12th October. Tel Arnold 01200 427096 or Betty 01200 427029. All proceeds will be donated to Mary's Meals, a charity providing children in the poorest communities in the world with one daily meal in their place of education.

POETRY COMPETITION To accompany the Northern Scripture Festival (Salford Cathedral 6th October) parishioners over 16 are invited to submit a poem (no more than 20 lines) on the theme "Joy: the surprise of the Gospel". The poem can be any style, must be in English, not have been published previously and can't be a translation of another author's work. Entry forms available in porch or go to www.scripturefestival.org
DAY OF RENEWAL Sat 13th October at St Clare's, Preston—see poster in porch

R.C.I.A.

This years programme begins on Tuesday evening in the presbytery at 7pm. All are welcome

MASS OF HEALING

Sunday 30 Sept at 2pm in the Assembly Hall. All who would like to go please fill in a form from the back of church and place in the box by Mon 24 Sept. We need numbers for organising refreshments, transport and seating.

CLITHEROE

ROTAS Sat Welcoming—volunteer **Reader** C.Riley **Euch Min**— A. Harkin, N.Dixon
Sunday—Welcoming T.O'Donnell, J.Byrne **Reader** J.Hennigan **Euch Min**
G.Lambert, P.Lambert, P.Sutcliffe **Tea & Coffee**—P.D'Souza & family **Little Church**—S.Fellows & C.Mashiter

AFTERNOON VARIETY CONCERT— NEXT THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER Just a few tickets left— available from Daphne Marsden 01200 427912 or Carol Riley 01200 426769 or Janet Clegg 01200 423307 ext 3

ROSSENDALE SCOUT BAND in aid of East Lancs Hospice. Friday 5th October doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £6 Light Refreshments included. Bar open. Tickets are on sale this weekend and next weekend or from Daphne Marsden 01200 427912 or Carol Riley 01200 426769 or Janet Clegg 01200 423307 ext 3

LADIES GROUP MEETING next Wednesday 26th September. Speaker Steve Irwin—Treasure of Blackburn Art Gallery 7.30pm in The Old Assembly Hall (Parish Hall) only £2 inc light refreshments. Come along you are most welcome.

The Universe and Catholic Times price is now £1.50

DUNSOP

FRIENDS OF THORNEYHOLME are holding an Autumn Winter Fashion Show to raise funds for Thorneyholme RC Primary School. It will be held in Newton-in-Bowland Village Hall on Friday 5th October 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets are £5 and are available from Louisa on 01200 448677

SABDEN

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Monday 8 October from 11am. Admission £2.50. Raffle—Bottle Tombola—Cake stall—donations very welcome and can be left with Carol Hartley, Margaret Parsons, Pat Whitwell, Olive Doyle, Joan Thompson or Margaret Waling any time before the event.

BONUS BALL This week's winning number 44 James Robson Congratulations