

Dear Parishioners,

I'm writing this on Halloween, a contraction of All Hallows eve, the eve of All Saints Day.

So, maybe a few thoughts about the most critical moment of life: Death. Death is life's moment of truth when we shall see and recognise ourselves for what we are. It is then that God waits to accept us into his infinite loving embrace. Some may fall into God's arms immediately. For others the embarrassment of fickle, imperfect, vacillating love may prevent an unconditional acceptance of God's embrace until love is purified and refined. Sadly, some may be so full of hatred and denial of everything good that they turn their face forever away from love, from God. An eternity without love is simply Hell.

On the other hand, Heaven is an endless moment of love. Nothing more separates the saints from the God whom they have sought their life long. Together with the angels they rejoice eternally in and with God. (Observe a couple in love) oblivious to the world as they look into each other's eyes or a suckling baby looking up to its mother's face -- then you have some inkling of Heaven. To be able to see God face to face is like a single, never-ending moment of love.

Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. One who dies in God's grace but whose frail and wavering love is in need of purifying of selfishness is in the state we name: Purgatory. After Peter's betrayal, Jesus looked at him but Peter could only turn in shame to weep bitterly -- he withdrew, unable to accept Jesus' forgiving gaze of love. Just such a purgatory, a purification of love probably awaits most at death -- the Lord will look at us full of love but on our side burning shame and remorse for past faithlessness and unloving behaviour will hold us back. Only after purification will our love rush us into God's loving embrace in untroubled heavenly joy.

We, who are baptized, both the living and the dead, are united in one family, in one communion. So we pray for each other -- we ask the saints to intercede for us and in turn we intercede for our dead. Our example is St Thomas More who wrote to his daughter Meg on the night before his execution: "Farewell, my dear child, and pray for me, and I shall for you, and for all your friends, that we may merrily meet in heaven."

All Saints is the day we praise God for his miracles of grace. All Souls is the day we remember and pray for our departed family and friends.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

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31st Sunday in Ordinary time - 4 November 2018

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am followed by Coffee

Monday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Tuesday & Friday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday

Eucharistic Service 9am

Reception 5pm—Nan Morrison

Thursday

Requiem Mass 10.30am—Nanette Morrison

Saturday (10th November)

Eucharistic Service at 10.45am Reconciliation 11—11.45am

Exposition 11—11.55am First Mass of Sunday—5pm

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Thursday—Eucharistic Service 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

Joan Worden, Eric Preedy, Special Intention, Private Intention, Holy Souls,
Special Intention, Sheila Egan, Winifred Barlow

LATELY DEAD

Pauleen Gregson, Nan Morrison

ANNIVERSARIES

Joan Worden, Eric Preedy, Winifred Barlow



PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £856.49 Sabden £163.51 Dunsop £153.50

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

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**

JUMBLE SALE FOR MARY'S MEALS The amount raised at the Monster Jumble Sale and K.S.C. Dance raised £1,552.81 Thankyou also for the cheque for £500 from the KSC. See letter of thanks in porch

K.S.C. XMAS QUIZ this year will be on Thursday 27th December. More details later

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

CAFOD Not returned your Harvest Family Fast Day Envelope? These can be placed in the offertory baskets during Mass at each of our churches. Your donation will help provide clean water and so reduce sickness and transform lives in remote villages in East Africa

S.V.P. Help needed. From time to time the SVP need use of a van to transport items of furniture to people's houses and wondered if any parishioner may be able to help us when needed. We are also looking for a microwave, a kettle and a toaster for a young single parent. If anyone could help with any of this, please ring Peter on 01200 441081 or speak to any SVP member. Thank you

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME In 2019 there will be a Youth Pilgrimage (over 18's) to Rome led by Bishop John from 16—23 February. Cost £690 inc flights, full board, accommodation and insurance. More info from Tracey Ward on 0161 817 2222 or email tracey.ward@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

ARMISTICE CENTENARY CONCERT Blackburn Music Society on Saturday November 10th at Blackburn Cathedral at 7pm. Advance tickets £12—Details etc on poster in porch. Early booking recommended

PARISH FORUM The next meeting of the Forum is on Wednesday November 7th starting at 7.30pm. Items for the agenda will include Fr John's Golden Jubilee, review of recent events, Christmas Masses and the CCP. Everyone is very welcome.

HOPE IN THE FUTURE Please do consider how you may contribute to our Parish and return completed leaflet by TODAY Sunday 4th November

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Messiah by Candlelight Blackburn Music Society on Saturday December 1st 7pm Blackburn Cathedral. See poster in porch

LOURDES The meeting for anyone interested in joining a Parish group on the Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2019 is on Wed Nov 21st 7pm in presbytery

LADIES GROUP Annual Christmas meal at Whalley Golf Club on Friday 18th January. Menu's are now available from the porch. Please return together with money at our next meeting on Wednesday 28th November

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE Christ Church, Chatburn Sat 24 Nov. See poster

CLITHEROE

During winter time the church will close by 4pm

ROTAS Sat Welcoming volunteer **Reader** C.Riley **Euch Min** M.Preedy **Sunday—Welcoming** A & J Marsden **Reader** S.Smith **Euch Min** H.Loffhouse, B.Collinson, P.Donnely **Tea & Coffee** C.James & A.Pritchard **Little Church**—S.Fellows & C.Mashiter

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

CCP-CLITHEROE CHRISTIANS IN PARTNERSHIP are to organise a Carol service on the 1st December, on the day of the Town's Christmas Market. It will take place on the castle Bandstand at 4.30pm. I need a parishioner or two to represent the parish on the planning committee. Volunteer/s, please contact me.

CHRISTIANS SPORTS QUIZ The Old School Rooms Thursday 22 November Cost £2. See poster in porch

K.S.C.DANCE Friday 23rd November from 7.30pm. Dancing to John Lancaster. £7 inc supper. Tickets from Arnold 01200 427096 or Betty 01200 427029

Christmas Cards/Gifts are now on sale from the side porch

DUNSOP

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Everyone is invited to attend a 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1 at the Cenotaph in Dunsop Bridge on Sunday 11th November at 10.40am. Some pupils from Thorneyholme have volunteered to read their war poems. Following the 2 minutes silence there will be light refreshments in the village hall where the pupils' art work will be on display

DUNSOP BRIDGE PLAY GROUP would love to welcome you to join them on Wednesday mornings from 9.30—11.30am in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall. Search on facebook for further details or call Laura on 01200 448304

RUN FOR FUN COUCH TO 5k Start 4th November. Run for free (no charge) Sundays 10am and/or Wednesdays 6.15pm from Holmehead Cottages Dunsop Bridge. Register to join the fun groups.runtogether.co.uk/ToHillAndBackDunsopBridge

SABDEN

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

BONUS BALL This week's winning number is 56 Janice Shorter Congratulations

KNIT, STITCH & NATTER every Monday 10.15am to noon in the Top room in the Hall. All welcome to pop along for tea/coffee and biscuits and a chat. Bring your own crafts if you wish to knit, stitch or just natter.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR will be on Saturday 1st December 11am—3pm It will comprise of craft stalls plus some of our own. The Grand Draw will take place at 3pm. This years first prize will be Afternoon Tea in Blackpool Tower Ballroom, plus lots of other splendid prizes. Look out for tickets which will be available soon. If you can help on the day or would like to have a stall, put your name on the list in the porch. There is also a list of suggestions for raffle prizes if you would like to donate. Draw tickets now available—lots of fabulous prizes—please take some to sell.

BAPTISM We welcome Cormac Michael Jude Devenney who was baptised on Sunday **SERVICE OF LIGHT** this year will be a Christingle Service where each child ends up with an orange and candle. It is intended that the children make their own (with help). If there are oranges left over then the grown ups can make one. The service is for all denominations and will be on Sunday December 2nd at 4pm in Sabden Baptist Church.