

Dear Parishioners, An interesting extract from an article written by the respected journalist John Allen

Over the last three weeks, Christians and others concerned with religious freedom have been watching the drama play out in Pakistan, where Asia Bibi was finally released from nine years on death row on a blasphemy charge only to be forced into hiding inside the country with no clear exit strategy for asylum.

Bibi, an illiterate Catholic mother of five, at least has the good fortune that her case has become something of an international cause célèbre, so it garners steady media and political attention. Yet hers is hardly an isolated story, with most other victims of religious persecution around the world languishing in silence.

In this context, it's worth revisiting a landmark study released in the spring of 2017 by "Under Caesar's Sword", a joint partnership between Notre Dame and the Washington based Religious Freedom Institute, which is devoted to understanding global Christian communities. In this case, the study focused on Christian responses to persecution in 25 nations, generally those where anti-Christian oppression is the strongest and most violent.

Although there are several annual reports on religious freedom violations worldwide, few focus specifically on anti-Christian persecution, and this is the first to ever ponder not merely the fact of oppression but how Christians respond to it.

In terms of why the focus on Christians, the study couldn't have been clearer: "In short, Christians are the most widely targeted religious community, suffering terrible persecution globally."

Further, the study noted another compelling reason for the focus on Christians: "Perhaps the most troubling aspect of this persecution is the lack of press coverage it receives ... the mainstream media and human rights organizations give it little attention."

As an example, the study noted that during a period from 2008 to 2011, Human Rights Watch, one of the world's most respected watchdog groups, devoted just 2.5 percent of its reports to religious persecution of any sort, and fewer than half that number included Christians. This despite the fact that the low-end estimate for the number of Christians killed for their faith around the world every year works out to one new martyr almost every hour of every day.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

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Christ the King - 25th November 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 (1st December)

Eucharistic Service 10.45am

Reconciliation 11am—11.45am

Exposition 11am—11.55am

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

There will be a retiring collection at all masses next weekend for Catholic Youth Service

MASSES

Deceased relations and friends, Harry Woods, David Woods and deceased Wood and Woods families, Wedding anniversary x 4, Margaret Peters, Francis Bolton, Sheila Ryan, Winifred Davies, Jean Boyer. Monica Atherton, Joseph Fullalove

LATELY DEAD Jean Boyer, Monica Atherton,
ANNIVERSARIES Margaret Peters, Joseph Fullalove

There will be a retiring collection at all masses this weekend for the S.V.P.

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £841.26 Sabden £184.01 Dunsop £155.60

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

RETIRED PRIESTS Clitheroe £507.99 Sabden £85.50 Dunsop £76.00

CAFOD A big thankyou for your generosity at Harvest Fast Day which raised £1,042.55 also for the Indonesia Emergency Appeal which raised £1,117.81. Thankyou to the Knights of St Columba for their donation.

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

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

GOLDEN JUBILEE Fr John celebrates his 50 years as a priest on Friday 1st March 2019. It is only fitting we celebrate this very special occasion with a mass of thanksgiving followed by a celebration. A meeting will be held in the presbytery on 27th November at 7pm to discuss arrangements. Please come along.

GLOBAL HEALING Wednesday December 5th at 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall An evening of film and cultural food. Admission free by ticket only available after Mass or from Anthony Brown 01200 422811. Bishop John was very pleased to hear that our plans in the Parish include Global Healing and has asked for any feedback on how our Live Simply Group is developing in relation to Hope in the Future.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge. Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm with Slaidburn Silver Band. This is a parish event—all are welcome

SVP CHRISTMAS COLLECTION will be taken after all Masses this weekend 24/25th. Please be as generous as you can to help an increasing number of needy families enjoy a little extra this Christmas.

CAFOD stuck for what Christmas gifts to buy? World Gifts deliver the true spirit of Christmas giving. Pick up a catalogue in all three churches.

ST AUGUSTINES are wishing to appoint a Cover Supervisor and a part time English teacher from January 2019. Details can be found on St Augustine's school website.

CHURCH CHOIR Come along and join our Church Choir most weeks at the 9.30am Sunday Mass—you will be made most welcome. No need to be professional or read music. At the moment we are short of male voices. We look forward to seeing you

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE at St Augustine's Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December. All are welcome

FOODBANK URGENT PLEA Volunteers needed to help collect Christmas food at Tesco 9am-5.30pm Thurs 29 and Fri 30 Nov and Sat 1 Dec. Each session lasts 90 mins, and we need people to help collect and sort donations, strong volunteers to carry boxes. Food donated ensures that our clients can enjoy special Christmas meals. Please assist if you can ☎ 07849 534431 or info@ribblevalley.foodbank.org.uk

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting Monday 26th November at 7pm

CCP CLITHEROE CHRISTIANS IN PARTNERSHIP 'Carols at the Castle' an open air carols event on the bandstand Sat 1st December 4.30pm. Free hot chocolate and mince pies. We need at least 50 volunteers for setting up, stewarding, and serving refreshments. Contact Mary Sellers if you would like to help ☎01200 428653

Some more dates—Advent Carol Service, St Mary's Sunday 2 December 6.30pm.

Advent reflections and light lunch at Clitheroe URC Tues 4, 11, 18 Dec from 12.45pm

'Joy to the World' Concert at Trinity Methodist church 6.30pm Sunday 9th Dec

DIARIES 2019 Diaries are now available at all three churches—50p each

LADIES GROUP Wednesday 28 Nov 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall (Parish Hall) come along and enjoy a fantastic talk 'Cycling round Tanzania' with Anne Geldard. Only £2 inc tea and mince pies. You are all very welcome. Names and money will be taken at this meeting for our Annual Christmas Dinner. Menu's available from porch.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE Sunday 2 December 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene's. A quiet and meditative reflection on Advent.

Pray your way through Advent—Walk with Me booklets £1 please find at the back of church.

CLITHEROE

ROTAS Sat Reader V.Murray Euch Min B.Worden & A Ward Sunday—Welcoming B.Barker & C.Riley Reader N.Wallace Euch Min A.Marsden, S.Smith, M.Smith Tea & Coffee P.D'Souza & family

ST HUBERT'S CHRISTMAS DRAW Arnold will be selling tickets outside church from this weekend £5 a book

CAFOD On Sunday 2nd December in the Parish Hall after 9.30am Mass there will be a fundraising sale of goods donated to CAFOD

The ecumenical Advent service in St Mary's church is next Sunday at 6pm., it clashes with services in Sabden and Dunsop Bridge, but we do need a volunteer parishioner to read one of the lessons.

Please see me as soon as possible. Fr John

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

DUNSOP

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm with Slaidburn Silver Band. This is a parish event—all are welcome

RUN FOR FUN COUCH TO 5k 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

BINGO & SOCIAL NIGHT at Newton Village Hall Monday 3rd December 7pm for 7.45pm. Cost £7 inc Hot Pot Supper and one Bingo Card.

SABDEN

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

BONUS BALL This week's winning number is 32 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 NEXT 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.

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.