

Dear Parishioners, a few extracts from Pope Francis' comments on prayer at his general audience last week.

It is in Luke's Gospel that the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. And from this request is born Christ's teaching on the words to use in addressing God. He is to be addressed as "Father."

"Jesus explains also some things to give us confidence. They emphasize the attitudes of the praying believer.

For instance, there is the parable of the importunate friend, who goes to disturb a whole family that is sleeping, because a person arrived suddenly from a trip and he has no bread offer him. What does Jesus say to this man who knocks on the door and wakes his friend? 'I tell you, though he will not get up to give the bread to him because he is a friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him whatever he needs'(Luke 11:9)."

There follows the story of the father and hungry son, in which Jesus suggests that a father would not give a serpent to a son who is hungry and asks for a fish. Thus, God will not forget his children.

But why is it that sometimes prayers seem to go unanswered? "We've all experienced this — how many times have we knocked and found a closed door, Pope Francis asked. "In those moments, Jesus recommends that we insist and not give up. Prayer always transforms the reality — always. If the things around us don't change, at least we change, our heart changes. Jesus has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and every woman who prays."

"We can be certain that God will answer. The only uncertainty is due to the timing, but we must not doubt that He will respond. Perhaps we'll have to insist our whole life, but He will answer."

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge
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13th January 2019 - The Baptism of the Lord St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



Sunday

Mass at 9.30am
followed by Coffee

Monday, Tuesday & Friday
Mass at 9am

Wednesday & Thursday
Eucharistic Service at 9am

Saturday (19th January)
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

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Special Intention, Henry Thornber, Sam Smith, In Thanksgiving,
Special Intentions, Holy Souls, Private Intention

LATELY DEAD
Sam Smith

ANNIVERSARIES
Henry Thornber

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £804.37 Sabden £169.72 Dunsop £131.50

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

MISSION APPEAL Clitheroe £652.78 Sabden £218.26 Dunsop £75.00

PARISH FORUM Parish Forum meets Wednesday 16th Jan 7.30pm.

Agenda items will include Fr John's Golden Jubilee, SMSJ School report, Review of Christmas Services, Input from Gateway Trust Counselling and Hope in the Future update. Everyone welcome. Meeting closes before 9pm!

HOPE IN THE FUTURE The next meeting is on Tuesday 15th January at 8pm in the presbytery. There is also a Gifts, Talents & Charisms Formation & Discernment Day on Saturday 12th January 10am—5pm St Mary's Parish Hall, Burnley (Mass at 9.30am). All parishioners are welcome. Please register online at www.dioceseofsalford.org/parishes/event or email hope@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

SALFORD DIOCESE NQT Diocesan Primary Teaching Pool 2019 required for 1 Sept 2019. The Primary Pool will identify and recommend high quality candidates who will gain QTS in summer 2019. for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for 1 September 2019. More details/contacts see porch

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Calling all Health Care Workers. Please join us at St Mary's, Levenshulme every third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm - (October—June) for Mass, mutual support and speaker-led discussion about medical and ethical issues. See poster in porch

WHALLEY & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB NAFAS Valentines flower demonstration by Mena Coulston & Jane Brown Thur 14 February 7.30pm St Michael & St Johns Assembly Hall. Visitors £6 inc Tea & Biscuits.

REACHING OUT TO REFUGEES 23rd January 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms & Assembly Hall. Sean Ryan will speak about his experience with refugees as the National Caritas Community Sponsorship coordinator making links with Hope in the Future and Live Simply. Sean is a charismatic speaker and accomplished musician who will build music into his presentation.

CLITHEROE

CLITHEROE CRIB OFFERINGS this year will be given to the charity 'Friends of the Holy Land', which helps the most vulnerable Christians living in and around Bethlehem. Cheques should be made to 'Friends of the Holy Land'

LADIES GROUP The 2019 Programme is now available from the porch.

CAFOD Our CAFOD group are holding a meeting in the presbytery on Tuesday 15th January at 10am. Please come and join us—find out how CAFOD helps with the development of the Third World

TEA DANCE Because of the repairs in the Hall there will be no Tea Dance in January or February 2019

ROTAS Sat Welcoming—J.Bentley **Reader** V.Murray **Euch Min** B.Worden & A.Ward **Sunday—Welcoming** M.Rogers & C.Willman **Reader** J.Hennigan **Euch Min** G.Lambert, P.Lambert, P.Sutcliffe **Tea & Coffee** P.Byrne & family
PARISH DRAW Names and money now being taken for the Parish Draw (the first draw will be at the end of January). Janet Clegg, Arnold Marsden, Peter Sutcliffe, Ann Harkin, or Bernard Mercer.

CLITHEROE CHRISTIANS IN PARTNERSHIP (CCP) has arranged two events to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Saturday 19th January Prayer & Praise meeting at Clitheroe Community Church led by the Community Church and The Salvation Army. Prayers for our community, our country, our world and for our shared outreach in Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley. The second event—United Worship at 6.30pm Sunday 27th January at Trinity Methodist Church led by Rev'd Michele Jarman of the Clitheroe United Reformed Church.

LADIES GROUP XMAS MEAL next Friday at Whalley Golf Club. Please meet at the bus stop on Lowergate (in front of Stanley House) at 6.30pm for the coach.

APR MISSIONS-RED BOXES Could all of those parishioners who do not have a collector please bring their Red Boxes to church to be emptied by 26th January.

LADIES GROUP Committee meeting Monday 14th January 7pm in Bowland Court

DUNSOP

THORNEYHOLME SCHOOL (DUNSOP BRIDGE) are looking to appoint a School Cook/Server for the Primary School. In a quiet very small rural area. 20 hours per week Monday to Friday.—£9.01 hr (term time only) Applications to be in by Monday 7th January. More information ☎ School 01200 448201 Mrs Janet Wells on 01200 448201 or email janetannewells@aol.com

SABDEN

FOODBANK DONATIONS can be left at the back of church.

BONUS BALL This week's winning no 6 Carol & John Hartley 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. Re-commences Monday 7th January.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ this is still running but the deadline for Quiz sheets to be handed by today Sunday January 13th.

WINTER WARMER The Knit, Stitch & Natter Group is holding a Social on Saturday 5th February from noon in the Hall. Pie & Peas and Trifle lunch, stalls, music and entertainment, Raffle & Tombola. Adm by ticket £6 on sale from Carol Hartley, Margaret Waling, Margaret Parsons. Proceeds to church and charity.