

Dear Parishioners

The second extract from Pope Francis' letter Gaudete Exsultate (Rejoice and be Glad)

The Holy Spirit bestows holiness in abundance among God's holy and faithful people... I contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in parents who raise their children with immense love, men and women who work hard to support their families, the sick, elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence.

Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church. But even outside the Catholic Church and in very different contexts, the Holy Spirit raises up "signs of his presence which help Christ's followers". St John Paul II reminded us that "the witness to Christ borne even to the shedding of blood has become a common inheritance of Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants". He stated that the martyrs (particularly of the last century) are "a heritage which speaks more powerfully than all the causes of division".

Points to ponder or discuss: Where in my neighbourhood do I see signs of holiness?

As you are aware, three years ago it was decided to delay the age at which children receive the sacrament of Confirmation. After consultation and discussion, the Bishop has decided that Confirmation will be offered to Year 8 pupils, but that the preparation for this will begin in year 6 (after the dreaded SATS) and continue on through year 7 until Easter/Pentecost of Year 8. So, our present Year 6 pupils will be invited to begin their preparation in June this year with a view to receiving the sacrament in 2021. The proposed scheme is quite imaginative, involving community based activities and it certainly will not be restricted to the desk or classroom. Full details are to be published in the near future.

I mention all this now so that we may begin to enlist volunteers to help run the scheme. Please consider this and do not fear – training will be provided. So, if you are interested to learn more then watch this space or have a word with me.

Fr John

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge
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Parish Priest email: john.corcoran@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

17th February 2019 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Michael & St John's, Clitheroe



The Church of the Beatitudes Galilee

Sunday

Mass at 9.30am
followed by Coffee

Monday, Thursday & Friday

Eucharistic Service at 9am

Tuesday

Mass at 9am

Wednesday

11.15am Requiem Mass
Stanley Hulme

Saturday (24th February)

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—Eucharistic Service at 9.15am

S.V.P. COLLECTION The first quarterly collection next weekend
23rd/24th February. Please be as generous as you can.

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

William Joseph Wilson, Michael Jackson, Jim Hudson, Eleonora Tarantino,
Private Intention, Birthday Blessings, Special Intention, Maureen Mercer,
Michael Pryle, James Albert Hartley, Arthur Peters,

LATELY DEAD

Stanley Hulme, Eleonora Tarantino, Jim Hudson, Catherine Byrne

ANNIVERSARIES

Michael Pryle, Wilfred Clegg, James Albert Hartley

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP AND SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £818.21 Sabden £117.25 Dunsop £190.00

Clitheroe/Sabden Standing Orders £272

CARITAS Clitheroe £515.49 Sabden £92.40 Dunsop £80.00

SALFORD DIOCESE NOT 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

ST AUGUSTINE'S PFTA QUIZ NIGHT March 8th starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £3 per person and teams are limited to a maximum of 8. Cash prizes on offer as well as a bar. Your support is greatly appreciated.

FR JOHN'S JUBILEE Volunteers required to make HOME MADE desserts as part of Father's celebration. If you would like to contribute please put your name against the side of the dessert including your telephone no on the list at the back of church. Please bring your contribution to the Parish Assembly Rooms from 6pm on 1st March.

GOLDEN JUBILEE Lists at the back of all three churches for pledges towards a Spiritual Bouquet for Fr John's Jubilee on 1st March

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Wednesday 3rd April 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall (Parish Hall, SMSJ) a talk by Mr Michael and Mrs Margaret Cronin on their experiences at the World meeting of Families in Dublin last year.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, along with Relics of Saints Jacinta and Francisco will visit the Cathedral Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th February. A whole series of events and services are planned across the two days. Devotions are encouraged across the two days between services and all are welcome to celebrate this once in a lifetime visitation.

PARENTALK—THE TEENAGE YEARS A great new course that covers vital topics for parents of teenagers. Six free sessions from Friday 1st March 6-7.45pm at Clitheroe Community Church, Millthorne Ave, BB7 2LE. Open to everyone. For more details telephone 01200 444148 or www.clitheroecommunitychurch.co.uk

PARISH FORUM WEDNESDAY 20th February in the Old School Rooms at 7.30pm (refreshments from 7.15pm). Agenda includes Lent and Easter services, School report from St Mary's Sabden, Update on Trafficking, Fr John's Jubilee and review of Gateway Trust. Everyone welcome to listen and have your say. We finish before 9pm.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT February 25th—March 10th. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. With Fairtrade you have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices you can get farmers a better deal. That means they can make their own decisions and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

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***The Bishop will preach at Fr John's Jubilee Mass on Friday March 1st.
All parishioners are welcome to join him afterwards in the Assembly
Rooms, the Parish Centre***

SALFORD DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Booking forms are now available for the 2019 Pilgrimage. Anyone who is interested in joining a Parish group please contact Margaret Donnelly 01200 441081 or 079687103618 donnelmarg@aol.com ST AUGUSTINE'S are wishing to appoint a School Lay Chaplain to play a key role in the life of the school. Closing date noon 22nd February. The role is term-time only + 5 inset days, 27½hrs a week. Visit www.sarchs.com/about/vacancies for more info

AFTERNOON VARIETY SHOW the return of this event with Glen South in The Assembly Hall (Parish Hall) on Thursday 14th March 2-4.30pm. 6 inc light refreshments. Tickets available from Patsy 01200 441792 or Carol 01200 426769.

LADIES GROUP Our next meeting Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm in The Assembly Hall—Patrick Brown will give a talk entitled 'Colonel Green' an extraordinary Ribbles Valley Gentleman (lots of Cricket and First World War detail). Admission on the door £2 inc light refreshments. At this meeting Patrick will have a few copies of my book left, £25 - all profit to the Royal British Legion.

SIDE PORCH Please note this porch is open before and after mass/Service Monday to Friday and weekends. There is a large selection of items for sale including Golden Jubilee cards and Easter cards.

CLITHEROE

ROTAS Sat Welc—A.Harkin Reader J.Byrne Euch Min B.Worden & A.Ward Sunday—Welcoming B.Barker & C.Riley Reader K.Downes Euch Min A.Marsden, S.Smith, M.Smith Tea & Coffee Embery family Little Church A.McNulty & F.Garner K.S.C.DANCE Friday 22nd February from 7.30pm. Dancing to John Lancaster £7 inc Supper. Tickets from Arnold 01200 427096 or Betty 01200 427029

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Each Friday evening during Lent various Church organisations lead the Stations of the Cross. There is a list in the porch if you would like to take part, please enter your name and telephone number.

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN SCOUT GROUP are looking for a new Group Scout Leader. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to develop their leadership skills and who enjoys working with other adults. This position will allow you to help develop an existing Scout Group and help it to provide wider Scouting opportunities to more young people. A scouting background is not essential as training will be given.

DUNSOP

DUNSOP BRIDGE PLAY GROUP Wednesday mornings 9.30-11.30am in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall. Further details on Facebook or call Laura on 01200 448304

THORNEYHOLME SCHOOL are raising money for Cancer Research by having a 28 day Fitness February when pupils will keep a wellness diary over the month. If you wish to support the school the link to donate to the charity can be found on the latest news on the school's website.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL This week's winning no 12 Simon Doyle. Congratulations

KNIT STITCH & NATTER Monday's 10.15am—noon top room of the hall. All welcome for a chat, tea and biscuits and knit or stitch if you want.

EASTER BONNET PARADE The annual Coffee morning and Easter Bonnet Parade is on Saturday April 6th in the Hall from 10am—noon. More details to follow.