

REFUGEE UPDATE

On the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on September 29th, Pope Francis celebrated mass in St Peter's Square, Rome, in front of 40,000 faithful.

At the end of mass, he underlined the moral imperative to welcome and give hospitality to refugees by inaugurating a 20-foot tall bronze, three and a half-ton sculpture, in St. Peter's Square.

Entitled "Angels Unaware", the work by Canadian artist Timothy P Schmalz depicts 140 migrants and refugees from various historical periods travelling on a boat, and includes the Virgin Mary and Joseph, Jews fleeing Nazi Germany and those from war-torn countries, along with an Angel.



Pope Francis said the statue had been inspired by a passage in "Letter to the Hebrews" from the New Testament: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Our Parish continues, alongside members of our community from other faiths and from none, to lend support to refugees and asylum seekers. Recently, a 4 generation family of Sikhs who had fled persecution in Afghanistan, and had been placed by the Home Office in Clitheroe, were finally given leave to remain in the UK. They have since moved to Southall in London to be part of the Sikh community there.

The future of the Kurdish Iraqi family, whose legal costs the Parish has been supporting, is now awaiting the outcome of a Judicial Review - we await the date. Their lawyer thinks they have a strong case. Another Kurdish family also living in Clitheroe, this time from Iran, is awaiting a Home Office decision on their future.

So we think of the migration of the Holy Family, firstly to Bethlehem and then, after the birth of our Lord, to Egypt to escape Herod's persecution, please pray for a good outcome for these families, and for all others fleeing persecution, war, and famine.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve 4pm Clitheroe
6pm Clitheroe
8pm Sabden

Christmas Day 8am Dunsop Bridge
10am Clitheroe

Advent Reflections

Tuesday 7.30pm St Mary's, Sabden

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

Tel 01200 423307 website: olotv.org.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Paul Brindle, Presbytery, Lowergate, Clitheroe BB7 1AG

Parish Priest email: paul.brindle@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Parish Secretary email: janet.clegg@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

St Michael & St John's Primary School Tel: 01200 422560 Head: Mrs Zoe Mabbott

St Mary's Primary School, Sabden: Tel: 01282 771009 Head: Ms Claire Halstead

Thorneyholme Catholic Primary, Dunsop Bridge Tel: 01200 448276 Head: Mrs Moya Smith

15th December 2019 - Third Sunday of Advent

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 (21st December)

Reconciliation—11am—11.45am Exposition 11—11.45am

First Mass of Sunday—5pm

St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

Thursday—Mass at 9.15am

St Mary's Church, Sabden

Sunday—Mass at 11am

Tuesday—Advent Reflection Service 7.30pm Wednesday—Mass at 9.15am

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK Frances Whittaker, Private Intention, Wendy Lonergan, Birthday Mass

SICK Lucy Wright, Beth Heseltine, John Fielding, Julia Moore

ANNIVERSARIES Frances Whittaker, Wendy Lonergan

Live Simply Thought of the Week: Wrapping presents: buy recyclable wrapping paper or wrapping made from recycled paper

PARISH—CLITHEROE, DUNSOP & SABDEN

OFFERTORY Clitheroe £912.27 Sabden £168.65 Dunsop £132.00

TRANSPORT A new disabled parishioner would like transport to the Saturday evening Mass. If you could help and would be willing to go on a rota please contact Peter Donnelly on 01200 441081 mobile 07967 103618 or donnelmarg@aol.com

LAUDATO SI Ribble Valley's very own plastic free shop 'REFILLUTION' here in Clitheroe is open at 16 Castlegate,. REFILLUTION is a community shop. It sells delicious and nutritious foods (with some treats) and household goods all free from plastic packaging, helping to protect our beautiful planet. Take your own containers to fill up. Maybe you could find some Christmas presents here!

WEBSITE CONTACT In order to keep information on the website up to date it would be helpful if all Parish Group identifies a person who will liaise with Andy Brown on a regular basis—andrewbrown595@btinternet.com. Please pop your completed questionnaire from last weeks back page of the newsletter in the box at the back of church.

FOODBANK CHRISTMAS COLLECTION The appeal for Christmas food is now ended—please do not deposit any more Christmas items. Ordinary items of course are still being accepted.

ENGLAND'S NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY The annual pilgrimage by Branches of Walsingham Association in 2020. Blackburn, Tuesday 19 -Thursday 21 May Cost from approx £190 per person for Standard room. Non-returnable Dep £50. To book a place tel: Vincent 01254 209101. Mini-bus from Clitheroe to join main coach in Blackburn. tel: Maureen 443499. Chorley, Monday 22—Friday 26 June Cost from approx £330 per person for Standard room. Deposit £25. To book a place tel Jose 01257 265498. Main coach starts in Clitheroe.

APPEAL FOR TOYS Caritas Schools Service are short of 95 sacks of toys for children who would otherwise receive nothing on Christmas Day. They would be grateful for any donations of new unwrapped toys by 17th December. Please contact Admin Team on 0161 717 2276 for collection/delivery dates or Anthony Brown 01200 422811 for more information

CLITHEROE

LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER January 24th 2020 at the Newdrop Inn. Menu's now available from the porch. Names to Daphne or Janet.

LITTLE CHURCH are looking for new leaders to help us run sessions. New Rota's are due out for Advent. Please join us—training will be provided. Contact Geraldine 01200 425504 or johnandgerry@talktalk.net

K.S.C. QUIZ NIGHT Friday 27th December in The Assembly Hall £2 Please let us know if you are going to come along to this event—WE NEED TO KNOW FOR CATERING NUMBERS—by Sunday 22nd December. Tel: Arnold Marsden 01200 427096 or Betty Collinson 01200 427029. All proceeds to 'Mary's Meals'

Christmas Cards and Gifts now on sale in the side church porch

LADIES GROUP thank all parishioners for supporting their charity events this year. We are pleased to have donated £2,000 to Ribble Valley Heart Fund and also £600 to our own parish (profit of Last Night of the Proms)

SATURDAY Welcoming—A.Harkin **Reader**—A.Southworth **Eucharistic Ministers**—M.Preedy, N.Dixon, A.Ward

SUNDAY Welcoming—B.Barker & C.Riley **Reader**—G.Lambert

Eucharistic Ministers—J.Hall, S.Hall, K.Downes

Tea & Coffee—Fellows family **Little Church**—D & V Harvey Higgins

Rotas (Welcoming, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Tea & Coffee) for January—April 2020 will be compiled during December. Would anyone who would like to change from Saturday to Sunday or visa versa, or come off the rota please let Janet know as soon as possible

*******VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*******

At all Christmas Masses for welcoming, stewarding, reading and Eucharistic Ministers. A list is available at the back of church.

SLAIDBURN SILVER BAND will be playing Carols in the Assembly Rooms (Top Bar) next Thursday 19th December from 7.30pm followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

HOUSE GROUP: HOPE IN THE FUTURE Friday 20th December 2pm (Please note change of day and time) Contact Mary Sellers 01200 428653

ECCUMENICAL SERVICES IN CLITHEROE

ADVENT REFLECTIONS Tuesday's 17th December at 12.45pm at The United Reformed Church, Castlegate. Short service followed by light lunch.

DUNSOP BRIDGE

ANNUAL BINGO & SOCIAL NIGHT held recently made £896 profit.

Thankyou to all those who supported us including Slaidburn YFC members, local community, parishioners and the team who helped with refreshments. Three raffle prizes still to be claimed Grey 641, Pink 751 and Green 891. Call Julie Bennett 01200 448630 to arrange collection.

SABDEN

BONUS BALL Winning no 39 Grace Fellows

KNIT, STITCH & NATTER Monday's at 10.15—noon in the Hall. All welcome for a chat, tea and biscuits and knit or stitch if you want.

CHRISTMAS FAIR A huge thankyou to everyone who made the fair such a success. The trees were amazing, catering out of this world. The choir were as usual beautiful. £1180 was made. There are some unclaimed prizes—see list in porch.

ADVENT REFLECTION SERVICES on Tuesdays throughout Advent at 7.30pm. First one next Tuesday 3rd December. Come and join in the journey to Christmas.

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE for all denominations takes place next Wednesday 18th December in St Nicholas's Church at 7.30pm and will be followed by refreshments. It is organised by Churches Together in Sabden. Let's make sure our parish is well represented