

Our Lady of the Valley
Parish Newsletter 19th July 2020 – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well, as thankfully I am too.

It is encouraging to see that people are coming into church for a time of quiet prayer, and that those who I have spoken to, say how much they appreciate being able to come into church again, and how safe they feel in a prayerful atmosphere. At the end of each week I have to inform the diocese of how many visits have been made during the week, we average around 120, this includes some people who call into church each day.

St. Michael and St. John's, Clitheroe, continues to open for quiet prayer

Monday – Friday 11am till 12 noon.

Saturday 11am till 1pm.

Stewards are always around to make sure that procedures for coming into church are carried out, and to help anyone with any enquiries. Again, thank you to all our stewards for all you are doing to ensure that people are safe in church and also for cleaning after the doors are closed. Without your generosity we would not be able to open the doors.

Last weekend I appealed for more volunteer stewards, especially as we look toward being able to celebrate public Mass in a few weeks time.

Thank you to those who have volunteered these past few days, and more help would again be very much appreciated. Please let Janet or Ann Harkin or Fr. Paul know if you are able to help.

We are now able to celebrate a Requiem Mass in church, we will have our first one this coming week for Ruth Humphreys R.I.P. Again we have to follow the instructions we have been given which also states that no more than 30 people can be present at a funeral in church, so it is not open to everyone to be present, but only to those that the family have asked to join with them.

We are also able to celebrate baptisms, but again under certain conditions, and with a limited number of family present.

It is essential that we adhere to all that we are being asked to do, so that as far as we possibly can we can ensure people's safety.

Next week someone from the diocese will be visiting our other two churches in Sabden and in Dunsop Bridge, a risk assessment will be made and we will then be informed what is possible in those churches.

Most importantly, stay safe at this time! Please remember we are in the "time of restrictions"! Just remember what we have become so conscious of during the past four months—that our Lord is with us wherever we are—at church, at home, at school, at work, and as we hear in our reading today from Romans 8:26-27,

'The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness'.

Each day I continue to remember you at the altar during Mass, keep me in your prayers.
God bless you and your families. Fr. Paul

LATELY DEAD: We keep in prayer all who have died recently especially:

Ruth Humphreys

GIFT AID OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2020/2021 envelopes are now ready to collect from the presbytery. They will also be available when masses re-commence. You may collect your envelopes personally or a friend or relation may collect them on your behalf. Social distancing etc when collecting them will apply of course.

Also, boxes are now available in church for you to place any donations you have been putting aside at home since lockdown began at the end of March. Some parishioners have been posting their offertory through the presbytery door. If you are one of those who have and who Gift Aid, did you put your number on the front of the plain envelope you used? If not please contact Janet as without it we cannot claim the tax back.

Please make any cheques payable to 'Our Lady of the Valley'

Separate procedures for the distribution of envelopes are being arranged for Dunsop Bridge and Sabden – hopefully more on this next week

LIVE SIMPLY PONDER OF THE WEEK:

As we are coming out of lockdown, will you go back to your 'normal' life or will you embrace a simpler way of life? Have you looked back at the last few weeks and reflected on what was good and what was not-so-good?

CAFOD URGENT CORONAVIRUS APPEAL

Families who have been forced to flee their homes and have lost everything in places like Syria, South Sudan and DR Congo are particularly vulnerable to the virus. We have joined forces with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to scale up our response, ensuring that no one is beyond reach of the aid they need to survive.

Please would you donate generously via CAFOD

Website: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>

On behalf of OLOTV CAFOD/LAUDATO SI GROUPS

Compassion and forgiveness need humility

Somebody said to me recently that they were sick of hearing this term “the New Normal”; and yet without the “New Normal” that Bishop John has frequently referred to we will not respond to Pope Francis’ call to become a missionary church or to tackle the issue of climate change. We must become more outward looking with a compassion and forgiveness that needs humility.

The first time I heard Bishop John speak in 2015 he said: “This Pope has grounded me wonderfully”. In those words he summed up the clarity of Pope Francis’s message on how we are to live our lives. In 2013 Pope Francis issued his first apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* in which he urged the entire Church “to embark on a new chapter of evangelism”. According to the exhortation, the Church must understand itself as a “community of missionary disciples”, who are “permanently in a state of mission”. *Evangelii Gaudium* has been described as “the manifesto of Francis” and a “Magna Carta for church reform.” It touches on many of the themes of Francis’ papacy, including obligations Christians have to the poor and the duty to establish and maintain just economic, political, and legal orders. Different dioceses have responded to *Evangelii Gaudium* in different ways. For us in Salford Diocese it is the five year Hope in the Future programme led in our Parish by the Missionary Steering Team.

In 2015, Pope Francis published the encyclical *Laudato Si’* concerning care for the planet. On the face of it these documents tackle two totally different subjects but reading them you realise they are two sides of the same coin and emphasise the interconnectivity of all that Jesus calls us to do. To really comprehend our obligation to the poor we have to acknowledge and respond to the threat of environmental change, and in responding to climate change we recognise that it is the poor who will suffer most if we fail to act. But *Laudato Si’* goes beyond that and when Pope Francis says: “It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God’s creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet”, he reminds us that our responsibility extends beyond our obligation to care for the whole of humanity - we are the stewards of the whole of creation. CAFOD embraced *Laudato Si’* with its Live Simply Award and we are pursuing action towards our own Parish Live Simply Award via our *Laudato Si’* (Live Simply) Group.

The “humble conviction” reminds me of a homily I heard a few years ago in the small and insignificant township of Cheteck in Northern Minnesota. It gave some very practical guidance on how to practice humility and how humility is the key to the Christian way of life.

We were told that that there were three ingredients to humility:

- Not thinking first and foremost about ourselves and wanting to be the focus of attention
- Acknowledging and complimenting others
- Thinking about others and being aware of their needs

It was a simple enough message but presented in such a way that made it clear that humility shouldn't just be one of a number of virtues to practice, it is at the core of our faith. So what specifically did our priest in Chetek have to say about his three ingredients of humility?

Not thinking first and foremost about ourselves

Many people tend to talk rather than listen but humility should temper this inclination. Our priest didn't dwell too long on this one but what he said later led me to quiz him more closely over coffee and pancakes. His thinking was much influenced by Francis de Sales and a particular theme was giving, or being the recipient of, hurt or offence. I looked up the relevant quotes later. They are instructive: "Be very watchful as to what can give offence to others; if you fail in this, try to repair the mischief as quickly as possible." Another quote covers the other side of the coin too: "It is a great degree of lowliness of heart...to fear honours and flattery as much as little minds enjoy them, who easily take offence at any affront." How often does a lack of humility make us focus on ourselves and our discomfort when someone praises us? It struck me that humility has its greatest test when someone is offended by what we do or say; or when we are offended by them.

Acknowledging and complimenting others

Humility should teach us to acknowledge praise graciously. Just as we should graciously acknowledge a compliment, so should we look outwardly to others rather than to ourselves and recognise and acknowledge them. But the key to it all is whether we think foremost about ourselves or others. If the heart is pure, so too will be the acknowledgement and we will learn to tread carefully the fine line between praise and flattery.

Thinking about others and being aware of their needs

This final point extends and embraces the other two. It is easiest to start with the people we know and like but we should think of all others and not just those closest and those we feel most comfortable with. We should think of those we don't know particularly well or don't particularly like and reflect on whether perhaps a lack of humility has failed us.

So as we continue with the privations of the current pandemic let us reflect on how we can practice humility. Let us prepare for a New Normal when we finally return to a freedom in which we can either resume our old ways or go forward incorporating a new way of thinking into the practice of our faith.

Anthony Brown

From the Archives – fast forwarded this week to 1968.

Not sure which priest has written the following. Any ideas? Fr Hannan maybe?

Jan	25	Bible Service on Unity. (Composed by Dom E.Jones O.S.B of Cockfosters). Other denominations attended. It took place at 7.30.
	28	In the morning, we found that someone had broken into the Church. The veil of the tabernacle and a corporal were missing; the sanctuary

		lamp had been spilled, and a crucifix removed and missing. The first impression is of Kensit-complex rather than simple vandalism. Later it was noted that the crucifix from the temporary altar had been thrown away in the Castle grounds. It was brought in by some good Catholic who found it. One of the crucifixes in Church was mutilated. Various other bits of damage. The police took the matter up.
Feb	23	Fr Charles Somerville's eyes collapsed with dramatic suddenness about three weeks ago. The specialist says simply: "He can't read". He has peripheral vision.
	28	I took a bus load of our youth to a talk by Fr Giarchi, C.S.S.R who is giving a "preach-in" for Youth at St Joseph's Nelson. I was very impressed, as were the Youth, I think. We could not afford more than one night each week.
Mar	6	Fr Gallagher took the party over to Fr Giarchi
	8	Lenten Sermon no 1. Peter Low from Stonyhurst.
	15	Lenten Sermon no 2 Fr Peter Low
	19	I went down to London for Final Vows of Bro.Michael Dunn O.P. at Haverstock Hill. He is a native of this parish.
	22	Third Lenten Sermon by Fr Peter Low. S.J.
	29	Lenten Sermon no 4 by Fr Peter Low S.J.
April	5	Lenten Sermon by Fr J.F.Gallagher Volunteers came to scrub the Church for Easter. Only four turned up. N.B. Chocolates for cleaners. Cigars for collectors. Try to pursue Jim Marsland to accept something for himself.
	11	Maundy Thursday. Fr Burns said the children's Mass at 9am 8pm I said the official Maundy Thursday Mass. Fr Gallagher went to Haslingden to collect the Holy oils from the Dean.
	12	Good Friday. Solemn Liturgy at 3pm. 7.30pm Joint Inter-denominational Service in the Anglican Church. Fr David Hoy, Rector of Stonyhurst preached the Passion sermon. N.B. Fr David Lonsdale S.J. from Heythrop has been helping out in Holy Week.
	21	Low Sunday. United Scout Service in Congregationalist Church
	22	Fr John Gallagher appointed permanently to Clitheroe
	23	Public Meeting on the new Cheshire Home in Lancaster area. (Garstang is thought of as likely place)
	25	St Mary's College, Blackburn provided popular music in our Hall 7.30 onwards
	26	Badminton season in the Hall closes to-day until autumn. Fr C Somerville goes to see specialist re his eyes.
	28	Vocations Sunday (2 nd after Easter).
May	5	The Apostolic Delegate spoke at a huge rally in St George's Hall, Blackburn
May	10	Visit to house of the Jesuit Assistant from Rome, sch V.Rev Fr Snoek. (Flemish, I think)
	12	May Procession
	25	Saturday. First Communion Day here
	26	World Communications Day. Special letter from the Pope.
June	2	Whit Sunday. "New Pentecost" speakers at request of the Hierarchy: Wilfrid Metcalfe; Pat Fullalove; John Cowman; Bernard Warren; Tony Thornber
	16	Corpus Christi Procession. Points to attend to: 1. Flower strewers from First Communicants. 2. Canopy-bearers: Mr Marsland picked them for me 3. Singing 4. Altar Staff 5. Preacher 6. Outdoor Altar 7. Wardens during procession.
	28	Governors Meeting at St Augustine's, Billington Last Day of Marian Crusade. This was organised by a Belgian priest, at request of His Lordship the Bishop, from Whit Sunday up to to-day. The organiser in Belgium sent directions, but did not come during the Crusade. A Marian Sign was obtained by a few.

July	9	Very Rev Fr Provincial-Delegate (Fr Charles Pridgeon) arrived at 3 and made an immense impression on me as a true representative of the Society in Vatican II era. He stayed the night. See diary for account of his conversation which gave real guidelines of policy
	15-26	Fr Gerald O'Mahoney S.J. on supply here. He did excellent work
	18	Infants and Junior schools close for summer holidays.
	22	Kathleen Bowker gave notice of her retirement as assistant housekeeper. She departed on 28 th July.
Aug	1-12	Fr Dom Doherty S.J. on supply here.
	7	Interdenominational effort in Waddington for BIAFRA
	12	Mrs Rose Conti started as assistant housekeeper to-day
	15	Two talks on Lourdes, with coloured slides, by Mr Harrison and Mr W Corbishley, laymen from Preston.
	20	Trouble in Youth Club Sunday 13 th to be solved with three clear rules which I gave: 1. Full lighting all the time 2. Parishioners (men appointed ought to be in the Hall almost all the time, and parents should be invited. 3. The numbers ought to be limited.
	24	Work on Boiler House chimney started. One might note here the material jobs I have had to do: 1. Rebuild boiler house for Infants, and change over to oil-firing. 2. Chimney of Church Boiler-house. 3. Louvres of Church Towers; Build a car park (orders of County Council about limited parking on Lowergate made this necessary) 4. The walls of Stanley House....a danger to life and limb, as were the louvres of Church Towers. These jobs all completed by the time I handed over on Oct 22 nd .
Sept	1	Canon Clark, Anglican Vicar of St Mary's came to lunch... a farewell gesture as he leaves shortly for Lytham. Fr Adamson departs after supply from Aug 19 th
	4	Lantern lecture by Sister Ignatius Jackson S.N.D.of the Rhodesian Mission (Bulawayo diocese, Mariannahill fathers)....on the Mission. She is a former parishioner, and her mothe, Mrs Walter Jackson, is still alive.
	8	Diamond Jubilee of Fr E.S.Burns S.J.who has served here since 1946 and still does excellent work for us.
	11	Currently, two priests, natives of the parish, are on visits to their parents, and help out: Fr Peter Walmsley a professor at Lisbon College (English); and Fr John Taylor, a Mill Hill father, going to Rome for higher studies. Also Fr Foley, a White father, cousin of Pat Fullalove.
	18	About this time we began the system of duplicating the Church notices, as the Bishop wishes to save the amount to be read out. Mr Warren very kindly does the stencilling.
Oct	27-29	Forty Hours Devotion. This Sunday was also Home Mission Sunday
	22	Rev Fr F.W.Dillon S.J. arrived as the new parish priest to succeed Fr H.McEvoy who never slept in the house after Nov 16 th 1966. Fr Hannan had a long caretaker job as Vicar Substitute from that date until to-day, and is most grateful to be relieved, as bad eyes are a big handicap. But many hands helping made the work much lighter than it would have been, and God bless all those who supported him in the long two year inter-regnum. Deo Gratias.
Nov	18	Monday. Installation of Fr Dillon as parish priest by the Dean, Fr Peter Purcell of Haslingden.
Dec	1	United Service, a Bible Service, in our Church: they asked to be invited. They really wanted to come to our normal Evening Service, but His Lordship the Bishop on the principle of reciprocity, does not wish non-Catholics to be invited formally and in a body to a Eucharistic service.
	21	Joint Service at the Crib 3pm and this was repeated at 4pm. Fr Dillon spoke at the first service.

<p>1969 Jan</p>	<p>18-21 1 9 22</p>	<p>Earlier on December 11th and Thursday December 12th: A Musical play was presented by the schoolchildren of Lowergate. It was based, I understand, on Dickens' "Christmas Carol", but dramatised and songs and music composed also.</p> <p>The Youth Club produced a very successful Pantomime under the direction of Edmund Cambien, and with dancing mistress Mrs Frances Sherliker. A non-Catholic acted as pianist, Miss J.Hincks, who lives on Lowergate. Mother Goose was title.</p> <p>Old Folks Party organised by Fr Dillon. Partly a social; partly very good meal; and partly a concert in the Hall.</p> <p>Wednesday the United Service took place in the Congregational Church: very well organised</p> <p>On Tuesdays in Lent there were a series of discussions on World Hunger in Trinity Methodist Church. Mr McColl was our representative on committee.</p> <p><u>Good Friday</u> A large Cross was erected outside the Congregational Church as a symbol of witness from all the Churches of the town to our gratitude to Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.</p> <p><u>Holy Week here.</u> Fr Gilbert Modakayi S.J. a native from Southern Rhodesia supplied for us.</p> <p><u>Our own Lenten sermons</u> These were preached on the Sunday evenings of Lent (up to Passion Sunday inclusive). The preacher was Fr David Hoy Rector of Stonyhurst</p>
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