

Our Lady of the Valley
Parish Newsletter 22nd November 2020
Christ The King

Covid-19 Guidance – November 2020

Church remains closed for public worship in accordance with Government rules.

Fr. Paul continues to celebrate Mass each day in any one of our three churches, behind locked doors and without a congregation.

Advent:- As you know, this year the Season of Advent will be different. To help parishioners to build Church at Home, the Department for Formation have created a document of resources called Preparing the Way: Advent at Home. You can access the document via the website: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/covid19/advent-at-home/> They will be sharing weekly reflections, videos and resources on our website, social media and via the Wednesday bulletin in the coming weeks.

Lately Dead:- We keep in our prayer Camelius Sheehy and Cathleen Lakin whose funeral services we have this week.

Pastoral Letter: Bishop John has written a Pastoral Letter which can be found on the parish web site.

The Word This Week:- Shepherd-King' oer mountain steep, homeward guide thy wandering sheep. This hymn which we would usually sing today captures the readings perfectly: our King is not a cruel tyrant or despot, but a shepherd who loves his flock, who would (and did) give his life for them. Love for the flock means that he will have to judge them, separating the sheep from those who do not belong to him. Coming to the end of the Church's year leads us to look to our final ending, the homecoming the hymn speaks of. The judgement of the end of time we do not view as a trial or a terror, but as a coming home: look back to the Isaiah reading on the 28th Sunday to see what a homecoming party is offered. All we do is put our lives in order, living just and holy lives, longing for the day of the lord to come.

*So we come to this final Sunday of the Church's year. And what a year!
Let us continue to pray for each other, and support each other in whatever way we can at this present time.
Keep safe and well. Fr. Paul.*

LATELY DEAD

Kathleen Lakin aged 74 years, Camelius Sheehy aged 89 years

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A cutting from The Clitheroe Times 24th November 1899

A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

SS Michael & John's - Magnificiently Re-decorated

ART TREASURES

Until the congregation of SS Michael & John's Clitheroe, undertook the renovation of the outer fabric of their church, the ravages of time were very obvious. Indeed, the face of most of the stonework had worn to such an extent as almost to obliterate the ornamentation. The interior of the church, too, was badly in need of re-decoration, having received little attention for more than thirty years, and such was the urgency for repair and pointing of the outer walls that, after long and careful consideration, the decision was made to embark on a wholly comprehensive scheme, and (figuratively) to eat the apple rather than take occasional bites of it.

Such a scheme represents a tremendous undertaking at any time, but particularly so when industrial conditions are all against it. Still, notwithstanding that a sum running into four figures was involved, the promoters had faith in their ability to raise the money by the time the work was completed. The main effort was a bazaar, and until this three days' event took place young and old sought in devious ways to bring grist to the mill, the different sections entering competitively into these endeavours to build up the common fund. The result is now well known; the entire amount required was raised and a little more.

EARLY HISTORY

It is interesting to recall that the Catholic Church in Clitheroe, as we know it, had its beginning in the very humblest of circumstances. It was in 1796, in a loft four yards square, over a building in a little court off Lowergate, beyond the County Court House, (1) that one of the Fathers from Stonyhurst, who rode over on horseback, celebrated Mass before an assembly of half-a-dozen persons. A year later they moved from the loft to a small out-building, this temporary chapel abutting on the last house of the row. In the summer of 1798 a new Chapel of St John the Evengelist was built in Lowergate, and formed a part of what is the present Infant School and Hall, (2) the foundation stone of the school being laid in July, 1823.

The present Church was opened in 1850, and dedicated to St John the Evangelist with the added title of St Michael, thus perpetuating the link with the Chapel of St Michael, once within the Castle precincts. It is build of hard black limestone, which was quarried on the ground, with free-stone dressing, and there is a massiveness of expression in the design. The beautifully carved altar is of Bath stone. An imposing ceremonial marked the opening of the church.

1. *Now The Salvation Army*
2. *Now The Social Centre and Parish Hall*

The following is an extract from 'Clitheroe in the old Coaching Days by Stephen Clarke 1897

The Catholic Church had its origin at a much more remote period than many would suppose, for in 1796 a lift over a building, now pulled down, in the Alley just below the present County Court, (1) was used on Sundays by a Father who rode over from Stonyhurst, heard confessions, said Mass, gave Holy Communion and instructions etc, to the congregation, which numbered about six. In November of 1797 an out-building was annexed to the last house of the row in which the present girls and infants class-rooms now stand, (2) and was used as a temporary chapel. In July 1798, a new chapel was begun on this side, extending towards the Cross Keys Inn, (3) with the stable and house. The new chapel was opened and dedicated to St John the Evangelist. In July 1823, the present school adjoining the then chapel was begun, and later on in 1847 the present house and church were begun, and opened in 1850, being dedicated to SS.Michael & John.

1. *Now The Salvation Army*
2. *Now the Social Centre and Parish Hall.*
3. *Now Key Street*

Report from Clitheroe Advertiser and Times May 25th 1934

There was a record attendance at the Whitsuntide social and whist drive held at the Hall lowergate, on Monday evening. Upwards of five hundred were present and though the room was so crowded, the proceedings were very enjoyable indeed. Dancing was to a capital programme of music provided with unfailing enthusiasm and zest by Mr W.Crabtree's orchestra. The M.C.'s were Messrs J.Murray, J.Chatburn, J.Wrigley and J.O'Donnell. In an adjoining room, a very successful whist drive was organised with Messrs Snape and F.Cornwell as M.C.'s. The affair was a huge success and the arrangements, tested to the full by the popularity of the function, were a distinct credit to the secretary, Mr.J.C.Smith, whose organising

ability and zeal were fully exemplified not only in the social effort, but in the procession which followed on Tuesday.
