

Remember the people fleeing Afghanistan and those left behind

A Message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has urged Christians to intensify their prayer, penance, and fasting for the situation in Afghanistan. "In historical moments like this we cannot remain indifferent. As Christians, this situation commits us. I entrust the dead to the mercy of Almighty God and I thank those who are working to help that people so tested, especially the women and children. I ask everyone to continue to assist the needy and to pray that dialogue and solidarity will lead to the establishment of a peaceful and fraternal coexistence and offer hope for the future of the country.

An Afghan's Prayer 'Great God On High I know you are there, somewhere, but I need to see you now, right by my side, to hold and guide me and wipe away my desolation. I have lost everything but You and those that I love, and some can only be a memory now. So many hearts ceased to beat, so many hearts torn apart! So many with terror hanging over them! No home, no possessions, no job, no money, no future, entrapped without hope. Many have escaped but it doesn't feel like freedom, we are shocked and broken with our children looking at us for food, shelter and happiness we can't provide, we are so very far from home in body mind and spirit.

Blessed Lord we have been taught by those that have suffered for you before us over so many generations and shown us so much of You. Help us to grasp their vision and feel You closer as we strive to rebuild and make new neighbours, new friends.

We pray for the mercy of those in power over us, for all councils and all people to give of themselves in our plight that we might recover and repay a society that cares. We believe in good things and worked against tyranny in our own ways, please Lord, grant us a welcome, a safe home and a peace that lasts.'

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All powerful God, you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.

A prayer for our earth was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.

It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.

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: smsj@btinternet.com or janegg@hotmail.co.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 Olga Jackson

12th September 2021 - 24th Week in Ordinary Time

Mass Times

12 noon (Saturday) Dunsop Bridge

5pm (Saturday) Clitheroe

9.30am (Sunday) Clitheroe

11am (Sunday) Sabden

Monday 10am Clitheroe
(St John Chrysostom)

Tuesday 10am Clitheroe
(The Exaltation of the Cross)

Wednesday 10am Clitheroe
(Our Lady of Sorrows)

Thursday 10am Clitheroe (St Cornelius & St Cyprian)

Friday 10am Clitheroe

Sunday 18/19th September

12noon (Saturday) Dunsop Bridge

5pm (Saturday) Clitheroe

9.30am (Sunday) Clitheroe

11am (Sunday) Sabden

Baptisms by appointment with Fr Paul

MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

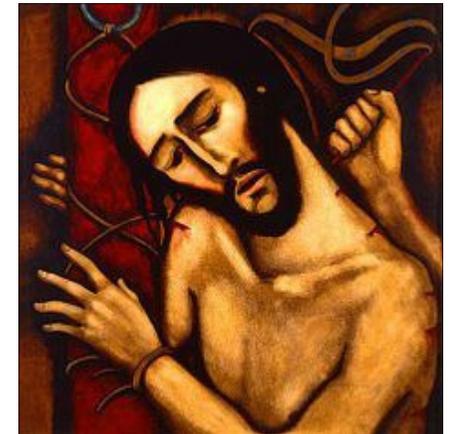
Molly Hartley, Ron Perry x 2, Rita & Frank Donbavand,
Raymond Waling, Alice Byrne

LATELY DEAD

Fr Joe Duggan SJ, Ron Perry,

ANNIVERSARIES

Molly Hartley, Raymond Waling, Alice Byrne



BAPTISMS: We welcome to God's family, Jaxon Benjamin Townsend and Renato Luigi Musgrove, baptised last Saturday at St Michael & St John's.

THANKS: Our continued thanks go to all our Stewards who have worked so hard, and continue to do so, to make our 3 churches safe places to worship in, and where everyone is made to feel safe and welcome. Without their generosity and hard work our churches would be closed. Thanks to all who came to Mass in Our Lady of the Valley parish for your continued understanding and patience in what has not been an easy time for anyone. Things will gradually get back to 'normal'.

CAFOD The Season of Creation runs from 1 Sept (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 Oct (the feast of St Francis of Assisi) each year. This year's theme: A Home For All? Renewing God's Oikos. "We hope that this Season of Creation strengthens the ecumenical unity to care for creation in a way that ensures all creatures have a home to flourish and participate in renewing the oikos of God <https://seasonofcreation.org/2021/05/10/season-of-creation-2021-celebration-guide-en-news>

ONLINE CHRISTIAN RETREATS VIA ZOOM Offering a space for Christians to explore and deepen faith... Seek 'life in all its fullness'... Created and led by Donna Worthington all retreats are an invitation to be rejuvenated and affirmed in faith, to know Christ better and to open up sacred space in order to listen to the Holy Spirit and experience a living spirituality that consoles, challenges and inspires. Varied methods enable Christians to deepen their own discipleship and travel on in their faith journeys (presentation, theological discussion, stillness, prayer, creative sessions, images, music etc). All retreats cost £20, unless otherwise stated. For bookings, please see the website or contact Donna Worthington: drworthington@live.co.uk <https://christianretreats.live>
The Parables| Nice little stories or subversive arrows that turn things upside-down? Sat 18th September 2-5pm OR Mon 20th September 10am-1pm The Fire, the Well & the Cloak—Explore the spirituality of St Brigid and her compelling symbolism Wed 29th September 6.30—9pm

PARISH FORUM The next Parish Forum will be held on Wed 22nd Sept in the Assembly room/Parish Hall at 7.30pm. Please be assured that, if you attend, you will not be sat 'cheek by jowl' but seating will be spread out in the hall. If you have an item for the Agenda please let me know, Carol Riley 01200 426769 or email cariley.t21@btinternet.com by 19th September.

PAUSE FOR HOPE The postponed Pause for Hope service will now be held on Sunday 24th October at 3pm here at St Michael & St John's. Please tell relations, friends and neighbours this is an ecumenical event open to all, especially those dealing with cancer.

ASSISTED DYING BILL This October, an 'Assisted Dying' Bill will be debated in the House of Lords. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The Bishops therefore urge you to pray this Bill is defeated, write to Peers and MPs expressing concern about this proposed legislation and share our resources and those of our allies, in the weeks ahead with family and friends, especially via social media. Guidance on how to write to politicians can be found at parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/ Resources, which will be updated in the weeks ahead, can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/>

CHEQUES: Just a gentle reminder that cheques must be made payable to "Our Lady of the Valley" otherwise they will not be accepted by the bank.

Congratulations: Our prayers and best wishes to go Rev Andy Froud, from St Mary's, Clitheroe, who will be made an Honorary Canon of Blackburn Cathedral next Sunday

LADIES GROUP Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm The Speaker will be Shirley Penman, a local lady, whose talk is entitled A Lost generation of local heroes in the two world wars.

CAMINO TO COP Camino to COP (26th Annual UN Summit on Climate Change

Hopefully some of you may have already read in The Tablet about the 500 mile Pilgrimage which has set off from London to Glasgow where the UN's 26th Annual Summit on Climate Change is taking place. 40 walkers from all denominations are walking to the Summit to lobby our World Leaders on the need for action to tackle the effects of Climate Change. Pope Francis will be addressing the Conference and will say Mass and Her Majesty the Queen will also be attending. The 40 walkers or caministas as they are called are hoping to engage with individuals and communities along their route with the aim of spreading the word about how we can all help tackle climate change. Excitingly the Walkers have chosen to stay overnight in both Clitheroe and Slaidburn on route to Glasgow. A group of us have agreed to provide a Jacob's Join style lunch for the walkers on Monday 4th October. Lunch will be served at St. Mary's Hall. We could really do with some help. Any offers of help would be appreciated. We will need hot and cold food for approx. 50 people. We will also need help with serving tea and coffee and assistance to clear up afterwards. It will be a wonderful opportunity to express your own thoughts and concerns about the effects of Climate Change and there will be lots of activities to get involved in on the day. If interested in helping or simply finding out more then please contact Anne Peplow on 07792637005 anne.peplow50@gmail.com or Gaye McCrum gayeparis@yahoo.co.uk 07817878310.

Requiem Mass for the late Fr Joe Duggan SJ (former Parish Priest here in Clitheroe) will take place On Thursday 16th September 12noon at St Francis Xavier Church, Salisbury St, LIVERPOOL L3 8DR

CLITHEROE ENGLISH CLUB held at The United Reformed Church, Castlegate, Clitheroe BB7 1AZ on Monday afternoons 1pm—3pm. These classes are starting up again tomorrow Monday 13th September at 1pm. We hope you can come. You will need to have had two Covid vaccinations. Please text 07977458470 Yes Please or No Thank you followed by your name. Looking forward to seeing you again. Jean Holmes Secretary.

AFGHANISTAN APPEAL: Latest from Caritas. The appeal has been fast moving. Caritas are still able to gratefully accept the donated items already collected, but we are now politely asking everyone that no further appeal to source items is made just for the time being please.

For context, Caritas was chosen to help the local authorities in providing practical support for the moment evacuees from Afghanistan began to land in the region. Those 'on the ground' now inform us that the immediate needs have been met, and they are now in the process of assessing the specific needs of individuals and their families, and then requesting only the exact items they need from us.

Our staff and volunteers in our various drop-off centres, are currently sorting through items and arranging deliveries based on these specific requests. Space for storing items is, of course, limited—but nothing will be wasted.

For these reasons, parishioners might prefer to make a financial gift instead, for the ongoing professional work that Caritas will need to provide to welcome and integrate these people. <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/afghanistan-appeal-2021>