

Christmas Cards and Gifts now on sale FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH

*Come along, you will be made very welcome, to the Assembly Hall (our Parish Hall) after Mass on Sunday morning and join other parishioners for a cup of Coffee or Tea and biscuits. You will be most welcome*

### DUNSOP BRIDGE

**PILATE SESSIONS** Mon evening 6-7pm. More Information-

Christine Billington992@gmail.com

**SEWING GROUP** on Fridays 1.30-3.30pm. Details Janet 01200 448201

**PLAYGROUP** in Dunsop Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday mornings 9.30—11.30am term times only ( some holiday sessions) contact Laura 07790 516260

**KEEPING FIT WITH MATT** Thurs & Fri email mdfitnesscoach@outlook.com

### SABDEN

**KNIT STITCH & NATTER GROUP**, each Mon 10.15am—12.15pm in the top room in St Mary's Hall. £1 admission with tea/coffee and biscuits. Everyone welcome—come along for a natter/knit/stitch or just come for a chat

**BONUS BALL** Winning number 30 Knit and Natter group

**SCRABBLE CLUB** St Mary's is holding Scrabble Nights in the top room on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, from 7pm to around 9.15pm. Everyone welcome £1 admission

**FOODBANK** There is a box in the porch for the Ribble Valley Foodbank if you would like to help needy families in our area. See Food Bank notice—middle page

**VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE** which St Mary's is hosting TODAY Sunday December 17 at 4pm and extra special by holding it outdoors, or indoors if weather is bad, followed by hot drinks, mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall. If anyone can help with refreshments or donate mince pies or mulled wine see Damian Buggie or Margaret Parsons.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY** The Village Folk Pantomime is back this year with Cinderella Wednesday February 28th to Saturday March 2nd. More details soon.

### COFFEE

*There is tea/coffee and biscuits in the Hall most Sundays after Mass, a lovely chance to meet up and have a chat. Please join us*



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve

4pm (Clitheroe), 6pm (Clitheroe) 7pm (Sabden)

Christmas morning

8am (Dunsop) 10am (Clitheroe)

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley

Catholic Communities of Clitheroe, Sabden & Dunsop Bridge

Tel 01200 423307 website: olov.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 or smsj@btinternet.com

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: Ms Claire Halstead

## Third Sunday of Advent—17th Dec 2023

### MASSES THIS WEEKEND

#### Saturday

12noon—Mass at Dunsop Bridge

5pm—Mass at Clitheroe

#### Sunday

9.30am—Mass in Clitheroe

11am—Mass at Sabden



Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Mass at 10am (Clitheroe)

Saturday (23rd December)

Confessions 11am to 12noon & 4.15pm—4.45pm

### ADVENT

*Do try to join us for weekday Mass during Advent*

*Baptisms by appointment with Fr Paul*

### MASSES RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Bernie Maher, Elaine Hudson x 2, Luke Smith, Special Intention.

Private Intentions x 4, Frances Whittaker

**LATELY DEAD** Alban Snape, Elaine Hudson, Bernie Maher

**ANNIVERSARIES** Frances Whittaker

**SALFORD DIOCESE** are currently in a period of Synod which is a time where the Bishop, priests and lay people come together to discern what God is asking of His Church in our diocese and will hopefully help us to live out our calling to be Missionary Disciples. There will be a few meetings over the coming month where you can feed back your thoughts to the diocese, these will be publicised through the bulletin in future weeks. More information can be found at this website [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/fait/synod](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/fait/synod) and you can also send your comments directly through this same link.

**LIVE SIMPLY T.O.T.W LET'S KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS** Amidst the frenzy on consumerism, let's take time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas: the birth of Jesus. Do we love our neighbour? Have we fed the poor? Do we bring love and peace among our family and friends, workplace? Let's take time to reflect on the birth of Jesus.

**CAFOD** In the wilderness, on the margins of society, John the Baptist offers faithful witness to the work of God. He draws attention, not to himself, but to Christ; As we listen to these words of John, our mind may turn to a scene three years later. An upper room, where Christ kneels on a dusty floor and undoes the straps of his friends' sandals to wash their feet. In this act of gentle service, Jesus reveals to us the heart of God and shows us how to give our own lives in love. Today is Gaudete Sunday (Latin for 'rejoice') there is much to celebrate. We reflect on John's humble witness to Christ, and who is with us as we seek to bring his hope and love to our broken world.

**LIVE SIMPLY Thought of the Week LAUDATO SI' MEETING/GARDENING DATES** The next Laudate Si' meeting will be on Monday 18 December at 3.30pm in SMSJ school.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS** Due to the closure of Barclays Bank and limitations on cash payments at the post office, dealing with cash in the parish has become more difficult in terms of security and handling. Please consider moving to a system on Monthly Standing Order via your bank if you can possible do so. It is safe, secure and totally flexible. Forms are at the back of church and if in need of assistance, please contact Janet in the parish office. ***Please note if you complete a Standing Order form you need to give it to your bank***

**ASSISTANCE REQUEST**

The parish has to meet various compliance issues, including periodic checks of services such as gas, electricity, oil and fire extinguishers etc, and other periodic inspections of land and property used by the parish, to include cemeteries and other places of public access.

In order to discharge our obligations, a number of parish volunteers (adult males or females) would be greatly appreciated. It is hoped that each church will have a minimum of two volunteers, who can work as a pair and provide continuity. The items that need to be checked and the frequency of checking will be determined by the diocesan H & S coordinator, and the appropriate checking forms and instruction will also be provided.

The work can be described and a planned checking and reporting system, in order to achieve documentary proof of specified checks and to identify any required action that the parish needs to commission. If you are able to assist, please contact John Spencer [j.spencer526@btinternet.com](mailto:j.spencer526@btinternet.com) who is coordinating the parish activity in liaison with Martin Heywood, Diocesan H & S officer.

**SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION** Each Wednesday during Advent there's an opportunity to reflect on the Sunday Gospel at 1.30pm in the presbytery. Through a period of quiet contemplation we can consider what the reading is saying to us today. Refreshments afterwards. All are very welcome. No need to book in advance, just come along. Any queries to Liz Cullen 07814 460574

**CLITHEROE**

**SEEDLINGS PLAYGROUP** Wed 9.15-11am. We invite children 0-4 years and their parent/carer to join us for a morning of toys, craft, song time and snack

**REMINDER about SMSJ school concert** on Monday (18th) at 10.45am followed by refreshments—all welcome! (if you haven't yet got free tickets you can get them still from reception.)

**ANNUAL BIG QUIZ** in aid of Mary's Meals will be held at 7.30pm (doors open 6.45pm) on Wednesday 27th December. **Entrance by Ticket only £4.50, almost all have been sold**, includes sausage sandwich or vegetarian alternative are available from Carol Riley 01200 426769 or the Old School Rooms. Raffle prizes would be very much appreciated or you can make a donation. Any profit made on the night will once again be doubled.

**CAROL CONCERT WITH SLAIDBURN BAND** in the Assembly Hall (SMSJ Parish Hall) on Thursday 21st December, doors open 7pm. Tickets £3 (only 9 left) are available from The Old School Rooms include a mince pie and mulled wine.

**ADVENT JESSE TREE REFLECTIONS** Parishioners are invited to come to St Michael & St John's primary school at 8.45am Monday to Friday for a short Jesse Tree reflection prior to the start of the school day. The reflections will begin on Monday 4th December to Friday 22nd December. Please come to the school office and you will be welcomed through to our Prayer Room.

**LADIES GROUP ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER** at The Swan and Royal. On Wednesday 24th January 2024. Cost £22 Menu's are available from the church porch.

**CAROLS & SEASONAL SONGS** Thursday 21st December in the Assembly rooms. Tickets £3 inc Mulled Wine. Tickets £3 from the Old School Rooms 01200 42307

***Could Mr Padley please contact Janet 07866 898109 regarding the Standing Order form he signed recently***

**ROTAS NEXT WEEKEND**

**Readers** **Saturday**—Ann Southworth **Sunday**—Kevin Downes  
**Eucharistic Ministers** **Saturday**—Robert Ward  
**Sunday**—Helen Lofthouse  
**Tea & Coffee**—Carol Riley

**ROTA—CHRISTMAS MASSES  
VIGIL MASSES**

**4pm Reader** Roisin Bowes **Eucharistic Minister**—Damian Buggie  
**6pm Reader**—Michael Willcox **Eucharistic Minister**—Betty Collinson

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10am Reader** Carol Riley **Eucharistic Minister**—Peter Sutcliffe