

## **A few words from the vicarage ...**



As we are about to enter into the penitential season of Lent we begin to concentrate our minds upon what this season means to each of us. Whether you are one who subscribes to the notion of '*giving something up*' for Lent or taking on something extra, it is certainly a time during which we all focus our attention on the long road stretching towards the cross.

That road is one which we all view differently and it is a personal journey for each of us. Just as our views on faith and worship are individual, so too is our perspective upon how we journey through this season. It is not for me [or anyone else for that matter] to dictate how you conduct yourself through Lent – all that I ask is that you treat it prayerfully and sensitively as you make your way towards Holy Week and Easter.

It is certainly my earnest prayer that we all achieve a deepening of our personal spirituality which, in turn, we may transform into mission and growth by spreading the Gospel message to others.

There are many people searching for something more within their lives at present – indeed, a visit I had a few months ago to a 'Spirituality Fair' at the Lowther Pavilion here in Lytham was proof enough of that. Sadly, many of those attending that fair were being seduced by what was on offer, be it palm reading, tarot cards or some other form of seduction. What was missing was any real sense

of belief in what was being presented – everything came at a price and the cash registers were ringing loudly!

What we have to offer, on the other hand, is quite free – we offer the love and grace of Jesus. Our doors are always open, with no entrance fee and no sales pitch. The Holy Spirit is our guide through the traumas of life – not what someone may deem to ‘interpret’ from the palm of our hand or the cut of the cards. Whereas Jesus never leaves anyone simply to muddle through on their own – charlatans offer no after sales service!

I was desperately uncomfortable and deeply saddened by that experience – I also felt challenged and it is that challenge which is presented before us all now. This season of Lent challenges each of us to tell the Good News of Christ crucified, risen and ascended; of a loving, caring and supporting Father who will enfold us in his arms and keep us safe – if only those with ears to hear will listen and take heed.

God bless you,

*Fr D.*

### **Church Organ Repair Fund – Gift Day**

Please note that a Gift Day will be held on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March in aid of the Church Organ Repair Fund. I would appeal to all members of the congregation [and others] to consider making a generous financial contribution to this fund.

The arrangements for the Gift Day are as follows:

Donations will be received by me –

- at the fundraising shop on Woodlands Road -  
from 10.30am until 12.30pm.
- at church - from 1.30pm until 3.30pm.

Anyone who is unable to attend at either of these times is invited to submit their donation separately before that date if possible.

*Fr D.*