

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

1st June 2014



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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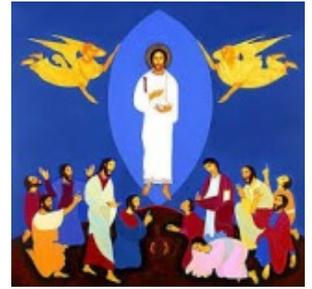
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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson & Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday - The Ascension of the Lord (A)
Weekdays - 7th Week of Easter
Today **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (A)**
(World Communications Day)
Tuesday Saints Charles Lwanga & Companions
Thursday St. Boniface
Sunday **Solemnity of Pentecost**



GOSPEL REFLECTION

All over the world, there are monuments and museums that help us remember the great people, nations and civilisations of the past. There are war memorials which commemorate those who gave their lives in the great wars of history, and triumphal arches to celebrate important victories. There are mausoleums that are meant in some way to immortalise those who have died, like the Taj Mahal in India or the Pyramids of Egypt. Yet, no matter how hard we try, our memories of the past fade, our monuments crumble into dust and the dead remain dead. It is a great joy for parents to see their life continued in the life of their children and grandchildren. People recognise traits of each other that are passed down from one generation to the next. No matter how strong the resemblance, however, each person is unique. Still there is a deep-seated yearning in all of us, if it were possible, for immortality, to see our life continuing beyond death. Nevertheless, somewhere, somehow, every one of us is destined to die and our memory, for the most part, could be forgotten.

The Good News of Jesus Christ, however, is that ultimately we are destined NOT for death and dissolution, but for life and eternity. The story of the Gospel is the story of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary, who was born in Bethlehem and grew up as the supposed son of a carpenter, Joseph. At his baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, Jesus experienced a calling and anointing from God as his own "beloved Son", with a mission to be the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. After a public ministry of only three years, Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders of his day and was handed over to the civil authorities to be put to death. So far, Jesus of Nazareth follows the path of all human life from birth to death. However, Jesus is raised from the dead and appears to his disciples. He gives them a new mission: to proclaim the Good News to all people. For those who believe, this is a completely new stage in human evolution. Our destiny is not in the fading memory of decaying gravestones, but in the life of the resurrection from the dead. Today's Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is a celebration of this faith. Jesus in his physical body ascended into glory at his Father's right hand so that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all those who believe, he might continue his mission on earth to bring eternal life and hope to all people.

In the days following the ascension of Jesus into Heaven, the disciples went back to Jerusalem and joined in continuous prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus, as they awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit. Their experience of Jesus had changed their lives. They were about to become the Church, the gathering together of the friends of Jesus, who were to be sent out to be his presence in the world.

(continued on page 2)

Psalm Response

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Gospel Acclamation

Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always, yes to the end of time.



Serving
the Catholic
communities of

St. Ambrose
Barlow
Astley

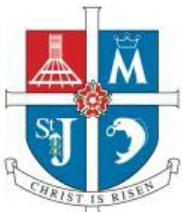
St. Gabriel's
Higher Folds

Holy Family
Boothstown

St. Richard's
Atherton

Sacred Heart
Hindsford

Archdiocesan
Mission Statement



Taking to heart the
last words of the Lord
Jesus, we will go into
the world to proclaim
the Good News to the
whole of creation.

(continued from front page)

This is still our mission today. Like Jesus at his baptism, like the apostles at Pentecost, we too have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We too have been born again to new life with Heaven as our destiny. We too have been sent out to be a continuing presence of Jesus in today's world, with the same assurance: "And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time." So then, during the coming days, as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost, let us spend time in prayer with Mary for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and into our lives. No matter what difficulties and disappointments life throws at us, we know that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. This is our destiny also, if we continue to believe and trust in God.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

World Communications Day

Today is World Communications Day when we are invited to reflect on the command of Jesus to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. Today's Second Collection is for the Catholic Communications Network, which enables the Church to engage with local and national media in a professional way in order to share the Good News.



Pope Francis stopped and prayed at the 'security' wall during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land last weekend.

CAFOD & Traidcraft

CAFOD and Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the morning Masses today (Sunday). Tea, coffee, toast and delicious home made cakes will also be available, and all the proceeds from these refreshments will go to our CAFOD project Connect2Ethiopia. All are welcome, so please come along if you can.

'With You Always'

St Gabriel's - Rehearsal for Parents and Children (Group 2) on Tuesday 3rd June in church at 6.00 pm.

Holy Family - Rehearsal for Parents and Children (Group 1) on Thursday 5th June in church at 6.30 pm.

Ladies Group

The next Ladies Group meeting takes place on June 4th and comprises of a meal at The Bull's Head. Can those who are coming please meet for 6.45 pm. Contact Maria for more information.

St Ambrose Barlow Church Forum

The forum group will be meeting on Wednesday 4th June at 7.30 pm in the Church hall. The purpose of the meeting is to look at future events and issues affecting St Ambrose Barlow Church community. This is an open meeting for any interested parties.

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Date of Draw 25 May 2014

£200 - 1071, £50 - 570, £25 - 3

£10 - 309, 704, 269, 553

£5 - 556, 839, 1122, 617, 40

Thank you for your continued support

Forthcoming Events



Two Cathedrals Service

Pentecost Sunday, 8th June at 3.00 pm. Join Christians uniting in prayer, walking from Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, along Hope Street to the Metropolitan Cathedral.

Justice & Peace Group

There has been some discussion, at recent parish meetings, as to how we should commemorate the centenary of the commencement of World War One. The Pastoral Area Justice and Peace group invite you to an evening at St Ambrose Parish Hall on Monday 9th June, commencing 7.00 pm, to reflect on this question. There will be a short film, 'Days that shook the World - the Christmas Truce', followed by structured discussion, a chance to share family memories and suggestions for how we might respond. All are welcome.

St Margaret Clitherow Parish Barbecue

This year's barbecue takes place on Saturday 14th June (weather permitting) in the grounds at St Ambrose Barlow. Everyone welcome. Fires will be lit at 4.00 pm. Family games on the lawn, bouncy castle and raffle. Come along with your own food to cook and drinks. Bread, salads, sauces, etc., will be provided. Tickets: Adults £4.00, Children £2.00, Family Ticket £10.00. Please contact Des (876050) or Steve (876487) for more details and tickets.

Charity Fund Raising Event

There will be a Charity Champagne Afternoon Tea on Saturday 14th June from 1.00 – 4.00 pm at 13 Stansfield Close, Leigh WN7 3DU to raise funds for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Entrance is by £10 ticket only. Please call Thirza on 0161 917 5091 to reserve a ticket.

PARISH NOTES

Newsletter

Please ensure items for the newsletter are sent in by Wednesday evening. Thank you.

Clergy Addresses

Fr Paul Seddon

St Richard's Presbytery, Mayfield Street, Atherton, Manchester M46 0AQ

Fr Dave Heywood

Holy Family Presbytery, 208 Chaddock Lane, Boothstown, Worsley, Manchester M28 1DN

Finance

The monies for the five church communities of the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow are held in one account. So please make all cheques payable to **St Margaret Clitherow** (Please note the spelling of 'Clitherow'). Thank you.

Pastoral Area Website

www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

Catholic School Websites

www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk

www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk

www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

Visit of Archbishop Malcolm

Our new Archbishop, Malcolm McMahon, will be visiting us later this month. He will have a meeting with the priests and then celebrate Mass in St. Richard's at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 25th June. We would like to encourage as many as possible from the Pastoral Area to come along and join us. It will be a good opportunity to meet the new Archbishop and welcome him to the Archdiocese.

CAFOD Energiser Day

Organised and presented by CAFOD's Campaigns Team, this day will outline the next major CAFOD campaign, focusing on the effects of climate change. The guest speaker is Anthony Mbandi, Director of CAFOD partner Caritas Kitui in Kenya. He will share a first-hand account of some of the challenges the people in his diocese face in the light of climate change. You'll also hear from CAFOD climate change policy analyst Rob Elsworth and have the opportunity to take part in workshops. The day is taking place at Fulwood Methodist Church, 2 Watling Street Road, Preston PR2 8EA on Saturday 28th June from 10.30 - 4.00 pm. Lunch is provided. To book your place, please visit www.cafod.org.uk/events or phone CAFOD (Liverpool) on 0151 228 4028.



"Celebrate the Child"

The annual Mass to give thanks to God for the gift of children, and those who nurture them practically and spiritually, will take place at St Mary's, Lowe House, St Helen's, on Sunday 6th July at 1.30 pm. Our new Archbishop, Malcolm McMahon OP, will preside. Children, parents and catechists are invited to attend.

—Children: please arrive at 12.30 pm if you would like to take part in a task (artwork) for the Mass.

—Volunteers are needed for Welcoming, Reading, Bidding Prayers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers, Music, Refreshments. Please contact 0151 522 1043 if you would like to help.

—Picnic after Mass if the weather is kind; hot and soft drinks available.

—Plenty of public car parks (free on a Sunday) nearby.



After a very successful Dance Night in July 2012, the Catenian Association of Leigh are delighted to sponsor and promote another live Band "Dancing to Swing" on 5th September at St Richard's Parish Centre, Atherton. Ticket price of £10 will include live dance band and a buffet. Tickets available now as there was a strong demand last time. Please contact Des 876050 or Eamonn 892967.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 25th July - Lourdes 'At Home' Day at St Ambrose Barlow, Astley.

Monday 4th August - World War 1 Memorial Service at Atherton Parish Church at 2.30 pm.

Tuesday 2nd September - Celebration for the Parish Feasts of St Edmund Arrowsmith and St Margaret Clitherow at 7.00 pm. Venue to be announced.

Recommendation

If you want to keep up with Church news across the world, and issues of concern that rarely get reported in our national news, I heartily recommend the website 'International Catholic News' (www.indcatholicnews.com). Some of the headlines this week include - Nigeria: More than 70 killed in fresh attacks by Boko Haram; Rich countries demand unfair payments from Argentina; Philippines: Priest saved from the Death Squad - by street children; Catholic Church agency responds to 'shocking' rise in UK child poverty; UK faith leaders call for death sentence on Mariam Ibrahim to be dropped.

Fr Dave

Pope Francis on the Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, we have this Advocate; let us not be afraid to turn to him to ask forgiveness, to ask for a blessing, to ask for mercy! He always pardons us, he is our Advocate: he always defends us! Don't forget this! The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Saviour, of our Advocate.

Audience in St Peter's Square, 17th April 2014

Pope Francis in the Holy Land

During his pilgrimage to the Holy Land last weekend, after an unplanned stop to pray at the 'security wall' in Bethlehem, Pope Francis was introduced to six Holocaust survivors, and while no words could be heard, an unprecedented act of homage took place: not to the Bishop of Rome, but from him... Pope Francis kissed their hands.



**"Cast yourself in the arms of God
and be very sure
that if he wants anything of you,
he will fit you for the work
and give you strength."**

(St Philip Neri, 1515-95)

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection	£1504.68 *
Monthly SVP Collection	£ 310.80 *

(*Doesn't include total from St Ambrose Barlow)

Thank you so much for your generosity

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today Catholic Communications Network
Next Weekend Aid to the Church in Need
Aid to the Church in Need helps Christians who suffer persecution or oppression for their faith in more than 130 countries around the world. You can find out more at: www.acnuk.org

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 1st June	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Daniel & Nelly Conneely 11.00 am Peter Walker 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Monica Thampassery	(Sat) 6.00 pm Confirmation & First Communion (1) (<i>Betty Wild</i>)	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ronnie O'Hara 9.30 am Patricia Shaw 6.30 pm Joseph Lawton Wood
MONDAY	12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Olive Atherton 7.00 pm Prayer Group		10.30 am Funeral Mass for Winnifred Nolan
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Anne-Marie Grant	11.00 am Funeral Mass for Peter Bousfield		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
THURSDAY	10.00 am George Baybut			9.15 am Bernadette Sproston
FRIDAY			12.45 pm Funeral Mass for Nora Teresa Webster	9.15 am Peter & Edith Connor
SATURDAY	10.00 am Fr Edward Morrissey	11.00 am Confirmation & First Communion Mass	6.00 pm Confirmation & First Communion (2) (<i>Barbara Johnston</i>)	6.00 pm Jean Neary
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Private Intention (LISC) 11.00 am Confirmation & First Communion (1) (<i>John Woodbyrne</i>)	11.00 am Florence & James Joyce		9.30 am Derrick & Stephen Langin 6.30 pm Frances Neal

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This Saturday

10.30 - 11.00 am at Holy Family
After 6.00 pm Mass at St Richard's
(or by appointment with one of the priests)

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism:
Joel Christopher Gabriel Angold,
Ruby Maria Carroll, Lucy Kate Gaffey
& Jack Christopher Anthony Burke
May God bless them and their families

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Pentecost Sunday

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, and the effect it had on them.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, for the good of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-23

The Risen Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples and inaugurates the mission of the Church.

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Sacred Heart & St Richard's

Jean Herron

Winnifred Nolan

St Ambrose Barlow

Peter Bousfield

St Gabriel's

Nora Teresa Webster

Those who are sick, especially:

Holy Family

Connie Crilly

Kevin Hughes

Kathy Kenyon

Sacred Heart & St Richard's

Fred Lyth

Margaret Hurley

Agnes Pilkington

Phil Tomkins

Shirley Leggett

Myra Roach

St Ambrose Barlow

Norah Atkinson

Alan West

Thomas Laing

Lynda Daly

Margaret Ross

St Gabriel's

Anne Broad

Pat Waring

If you wish to add (or remove) someone from the prayer list, please contact Fr Dave by phone or email.

**Mass for Terence Flaherty at 8.30 am
on Friday 6th June at Christ the King, Walkden**