

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

1st Sunday of Advent (B)

30th November 2014



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson & Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings Sunday - 1st Sunday of Advent (B)
Weekdays - 1st Week of Advent

Today 1st Sunday of Advent (B)
Wednesday St. Francis Xavier (*Migrants Day*)
Friday St. John Almond
Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)
(*Bible Sunday*)



First Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This weekend, we begin the season Advent when we begin to prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord. In today's First Reading, we get a glimpse of the difficulty people face when their waiting for God seems to be in vain. The exiles have returned from their captivity in Babylon, spurred on by the fresh hope that God will adopt them again as his people. But Jerusalem is in a heap of ruins. God seems to have become distant from them and the people see no signs to confirm their hope. They become exhausted with waiting and they grow tired of hearing nothing from God. The only thing the people can do to renew their hope is remember what God actually did for them in the past and hold onto their relationship with him. When they remember God as their Redeemer, they bring the past into the present, and this sacred mystery acts like a light in the midst of their darkness. The memory of God's love is life. It gives the people a reason to wait. It builds up their hope. This is why their memories are so precious. They make the difference between despair and hope, between death and life. What they remember keeps them awake to what is still to come: God will live up to his ancient name and be the Redeemer of his people.

Their hope is not in vain, but so many people fail to recognise the Redeemer when he does come. As Christians, we celebrate the name of the Redeemer, Jesus, the only name by which we are saved. He is the Chosen One, the beloved Son, God's answer to the cries of a waiting, struggling people. He is the ancient name of God who became human like us here on earth. In Jesus, God pursues his people with a love that is tireless, a love that refuses to allow hate and indifference and stupidity to steal its power. The Redeemer walked the roads of Israel seeking out the lost, the broken and the wounded. His enduring love takes the shape of outstretched arms on a cross, and it is on the cross that the Redeemer proves what he must do: empty himself for the sake of others. In Jesus, God lives up to his ancient name.

The story of Jesus, our Redeemer, has become our story too. We are between two times: between the first coming of Jesus and his second coming on the Last Day. We remember the first and we wait for the second - and today's Gospel tells us how to wait. We must wait together and stay awake to the times that we live in. We stay awake by living out the values of Jesus in our own place and time. The memory of Jesus becomes life for us, not only in the Eucharist, but when we share with others the truth and values that Jesus so readily shared with us. In the meantime, we wait and pray that the Lord will grant us peace "as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

Psalm Response God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

STAY
AWAKE

LEIGH PASTORAL AREA

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

St Ambrose Barlow
Astley
St Gabriel's
Higher Folds
Holy Family
Boothstown
Sacred Heart
Hindsford
St Richard's
Atherton

Parish of St Edmund Arrowsmith

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sacred Heart
St Joseph's
Twelve Apostles
Leigh

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.



First Week of Advent

CAFOD & Traidcraft

CAFOD & Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the 9.00 & 11.00 am Masses today (Sunday).

Parish Christmas Fair

Today (Sunday) at St Ambrose Barlow from 12.00 noon. Father Christmas will be attending.

Advent Service of Carols

An Advent Service of Carols will be held in St Phillip's Church, Atherton, today (Sunday) at 6.30 pm. The service is for people of ALL faiths. Please feel free to come along.

Advent Service of Carols

A Service of Carols will be led by local guides and scouts at St. Richard's on Wednesday December 3rd at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us.

Ambrosians Christmas Dinner

The Ambrosians Christmas Dinner takes place on Friday 5th December in St Ambrose Church Hall. Reception at 6.30 pm with the meal at 7.00 pm. The cost is £18 per person. Tickets may be purchased from Kay Lee on 01942 749348.

Atherton Nativity

The annual Nativity Play will be held on the streets of Atherton on Friday December 5th beginning at 6.00 pm outside Atherton Parish Church.

Second Week of Advent

Christmas Card Campaign

Cards will be available at the back of each church next Sunday to send to Prisoners of Conscience. Each card (with stamp) costs £1 (to cover costs) and contains a leaflet which explains what you need to do. Please send a message of hope this Christmas.

Christingle Service

The annual Christingle Service will take place at Holy Family on Sunday 7th December at 4.00 pm. 'Christingle' is an ancient Service of Light celebrated during Advent to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World. The service is especially suitable for children, who will be invited to lead a procession of candlelight around the church.

Churches Together in Boothstown

Annual Outdoor Carol Service on Sunday 7th December at 5.00 pm at the Standfield Centre, Boothstown. Everyone welcome.

Sacred Heart Christmas Carol Service

A Christmas Carol Service will take place in the grounds of Sacred Heart, Hindsford (weather permitting) on Tuesday December 9th at 7.00 pm. Please come along and join us. Wrap up well!

Impact Advent Celebration

St. Mary's High School are organising an Advent Celebration on Wednesday December 10th at St Richard's. The celebration will begin with a social gathering in the Parish Centre at 6.00 pm followed by a Service of Prayer in church at 7.00 pm. The social is for young people only, but everyone is welcome to the service in church, which should last approximately 30 minutes or so.

'Confessathon'

The priests of the Pastoral Area will be available for Individual Confession at St Joseph's, Leigh, on Saturday 13th December: 10.00 am - 2.30 pm (except during Mass at 12.00 noon).

Third Week of Advent

Carol Singing

Astley Churches Together will be singing carols at Astley Independent Methodist Church on Manchester Road at 7.00 pm on Monday 15th December. Father Christmas is scheduled to make an appearance at some point. There will be tea, coffee and mince pies in the church after the Carol Singing. All are welcome.

St Mary's Senior Citizens Christmas Party

St Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite Senior Citizens to their annual Christmas party on Tuesday 16th December, 12.00 - 2.00 pm. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo. There are **40 places** for the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow. If you would like to attend, please phone Holy Family (0161 790 2390) or St Richard's (01942 883395). Many thanks.



Advent Service of Reconciliation

Tuesday 16th December at 7.00 pm at St Richard's

Advent Taize Service

Thursday 18th December at 7.00 pm at St Ambrose Barlow.

Advent Service of Reconciliation

Friday 19th December at 7.30 pm at Holy Family

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.co.uk

www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk

www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

PARISH NEWS

Atherton & Leigh Food Bank

Atherton & Leigh Food Bank are holding a number of food collections. If anyone would like to help, then you can contact Warren on 07980 881925 info@athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk The Food Bank are short of a number of items at the moment, such as coffee, fruit juice, mashed potatoes. The next collection will take place at Leigh Asda on 18th & 19th December.

Youth SVP

A number of people at Mass over the weekend wanted to express their thanks to members of the Parish Youth SVP Group for the lovely afternoon tea, sandwiches, gorgeous cakes and entertainment they provided for some of the "older" members of the Parish last Sunday. Well done and thanks to the young people involved. Your hard work was greatly appreciated by all those who came along.

Ladies Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.15 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Tea: Jo Hampson & Betty Copping. Raffle: Susan Gaskell & Pauline Wilson.

Sacred Heart & St Richard's Planning Group

Many thanks to all those who came along to the Planning Group at St. Richard's last Tuesday. We gathered mainly to look at organising social events for the Parish next year. A number of good ideas were put forward which we shall work on. A number of people who went to the Pilgrimage in York last week said how wonderful it was to spend a day out with people from the different churches. We obviously need more days like this. If any of you have ideas, please feel free to share them or come along to the next meeting of the Parish Forum and share your ideas with the group there.

Alternative Christmas Cards

Rather than spending money on Christmas Cards to give to people you see on a regular basis at church, why not donate your money to CAFOD, where it will be put to good use to help those suffering in the Ebola crisis, in Syria and the Philippines? If you would like to join in this initiative, please place your money in the blank envelopes, which will be available at the back of St Ambrose Church, then write your Christmas message on the star in the envelope. Stars will then be displayed at the back of the church.

"With You Always"

Services of Reconciliation for Parents and Children in Year 4:
Monday 1st December: 5.30 pm at St Richard's
Wednesday 3rd December: 6.00 pm at St Ambrose Barlow
Thursday 4th December: 6.30 pm at Holy Family
Tuesday 9th December: 3.30 pm at St Gabriel's

Vocation News

A discernment group for young men, aged 15-21, who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Sunday 8th December 2014 at St Charles Borromeo, Aigburth, Liverpool at 3.00 pm. Make a small commitment of time to the Lord and join our monthly gathering; we pray together, share our experiences, listen to some teaching and benefit from meeting like-minded individuals. Please contact Fr. James Preston on 0151 727 2493 for more information.

Irenaeus 'Come and See' Day

Keynote speaker: Jim McManus CSsR
Faith Primary School, Prince Edwin St, Liverpool L5 3LW
Saturday 6th December: 10.00 am - 5.00 pm
£10 per person. Contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

Advent Collections

15th November - 17th December

In place of the Second Collections during Advent, there is the opportunity to help those in need in four practical ways:

- 1) The **Barnabus Project** in Manchester is looking for winter clothing for men and women living on the streets of Manchester. Suitable items include hats, coats, scarves, gloves, 'new' underwear, jeans, jumpers, shoes, socks, etc.
- 2) The **Windsor Drop-In Centre** in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.
- 3) The **Royal Manchester Children's Hospital** is looking for 'new' gifts for those children who will not receive a gift or a visit on Christmas Day. Children range from babies up to 18 years of age. The hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts, but they do welcome contributions of wrapping paper. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark and the European Standards CE Mark.
- 4) So many animals are abandoned at this time of year, so **Animals in Distress** in Irlam would welcome donations of cat or dog food, and old towels.

Items for the above collections can be left at the back of any of the churches in the Parish.

Thank you so much for your kindness.



Christmas Mass Times

	Christmas Eve
6.00 pm	St Gabriel's, St Richard's St Joseph's & XII Apostles
8.00 pm	St Ambrose Barlow
11.30 pm	Holy Family
12.00 am	St Joseph's
	Christmas Day
9.00 am	Holy Family
9.30 am	St Richard's & Sacred Heart
10.00 am	St Joseph's
11.00 am	St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family
11.15 am	Our Lady of the Rosary

A Tweet a Day for Advent from Pope Francis

Sunday: Indifference towards those in need is not acceptable for a Christian.

Monday: Love is the measure of faith.

Tuesday: When we meet a person truly in need, do we see the face of God?

Wednesday: A Christian brings peace to others. Not only peace, but also love, kindness, faithfulness and joy.

Thursday: If faith is to be strong and healthy, it must be constantly nourished by the Word of God.

Friday: To change the world we must be good to those who cannot repay us.

Saturday: A Christian is merciful by nature; this is heart of the Gospel.



LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection	£2242.76
Animate (Youth Sunday)	£ 498.17

Thank you so much for your generosity

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Advent Collections (see above)
Next Weekend	Advent Collections (see above)

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 30th November	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Ann & Joe Thompson 11.00 am Margaret Barry	11.00 am George Daniel Love Colin Foy	(Sat) 6.00 pm Margaret Hudson	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jean Neary 9.30 am Jim Isherwood 6.30 pm Connie Seddon Dennis Yates
MONDAY	<i>9.00 am Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh</i>			
TUESDAY	11.30 am Funeral Service for Sylvia Lydon <i>(at Howe Bridge)</i>	9.15 am Mary Coleman		9.15 am Vincent Heaton
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Mike Harding	9.00 am St Mary's Year 11 (Tony Devlin)		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Mary Briggs 6.30 pm Y4 Service of Sorrow			9.15 am Derrick Langin
FRIDAY	10.20 am Funeral Service for Elizabeth Roebuck <i>(Eccles Crematorium)</i>		10.00 am Mamie McAllister	9.15 am Teresa Trew
SATURDAY	10.00 am Deceased Members of Gillespie Family	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group	6.00 pm Private Intention (LISC)	6.00 pm Mary Furey The Mullin Family
SUNDAY	9.00 am Mary McLaughlin 11.00 am Terence Grady 4.00 pm Christingle	11.00 am Anna Bartoszek		9.30 am Joan McNamee 6.30 pm Jim & Mary Burke

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
Chloe Speakman, Georgia-Mae Elizabeth Maclean,
Gabriel Szyszka & Isabella Rose Aldred
May God bless them and their families

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

First Reading *Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*

The prophet Isaiah announces that God's glory is about to be revealed, and calls on the people to prepare for it.

Second Reading *2 Peter 3:8-14*

The followers of Jesus are called to lead holy and good lives whilst waiting for the new heavens and new earth, where righteousness rules.

Gospel Reading *Mark 1:1-8*

The first verses of Mark's Gospel announce the "beginning of the Good News" of Jesus Christ, and tells of the witness of John the Baptist.

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Holy Family
Sylvia Lydon Elizabeth Roebuck

Those who are sick, especially:

Holy Family
Connie Crilly Emma Oldham
Kathy Kenyon Rev Jim Melia
Dorothy Hampson Pat O'Neill
Claire Barlow

Sacred Heart & St Richard's
Fred Lyth Margaret Hurley
Agnes Pilkington Arthur Lucas
Shirley Leggett Phil Tomkins
Bessie Hulme Ronnie Scott
Enid Scott Thomas McLoughlin
Eileen Sherrington Irene McIntyre
Eugenie Cheetham

St Ambrose Barlow
Norah Atkinson Alan West
Margaret Ross Claire Barlow

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.