

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

First Sunday of Advent (A)

27th November 2016



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Readings Week 1
Sunday – First Sunday of Advent (A)
Weekdays – Advent, Wk 1

Sunday First Sunday of Advent (A)
Wednesday Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle
Saturday St. Francis Xavier
Sunday Second Sunday of Advent (A)



First Sunday of Advent

LEIGH DEANERY

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel Jesus draws upon the story of Noah and the flood to warn his disciples that they must be on their guard for the coming of the Son of Man. This may seem like a harsh judgement: were all the people of Jesus' time as wicked as the people of Noah's generation? In the days of Noah everyone is busy going about their daily business. But in the midst of all this normal business there is an old eccentric who is busy with his family building a boat – in spite of the fact that there is nowhere in sight to sail it. In the end Noah is the one who is ready to face the elements because he is alert to something others are doing nothing about: the coming catastrophe. In the tale of Noah we are not being advised to run out and build a boat, or buy a parachute, or construct an air-raid shelter. We are being asked to listen to the Lord so that, as Isaiah says, "He may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths." Whilst the modern day equivalent of the Flood might be nuclear war, or some other kind of disaster, the story of the Flood reminds us to be ready, to be prepared for whatever change may come our way. The Season of Advent reminds us of this every time we hear the readings. This is why we have to pay attention to the Word of the Lord. As Paul writes in today's Second Reading, "You know the time has come: you must wake up now." He tells the Christians in Rome to avoid drunkenness and wrangling and jealousies. None of this makes them alert to the kind of time they were living in; it just numbs their spiritual sensitivity to the world beyond their own flesh. When people are engaged full-time in satisfying their own desires, they are not very well disposed to facing reality and taking responsibility for the world in which they live.

So it is that Jesus talks about the future coming of the Son of God to encourage people to take responsibility for the present time. The only way to be ready for an unpredictable event is to make the present time a time of fidelity to God and oneness with those around us. Then, if we can live by faith, there can be nothing to fear. In the Gospel Jesus gives this advice before his Passion on the Cross. It is as though he himself is aware that he doesn't have all the time in the world. He must be ready for the time of pain ahead and he uses the present time to prepare himself. The only way to secure the future is to care about the present. We are all responsible for the world in which we live. If we do nothing ourselves, how can we accuse others? Peace never comes about because people are not bothered. It takes modern day prophets – people who speak up for what they believe in – to make a difference in the world today. So, as we begin this wonderful season of Advent, let us pray that we may be ready for the coming of the Lord. And by being prepared for his arrival in our lives, may he make us strong and ready for any challenges and changes that we may have to face. If we can be people of prayer then our relationship with him will remain strong and steadfast and, as St. Paul writes, if we place our hope in him, then ultimately all will be well.

Psalm Response I rejoiced when I heard them say:
"Let us go to God's house."

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

PARISH NEWS This Week



St Margaret Clitherow Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will be held **today**, Sunday 27th November **immediately after the 11.00am Mass in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall**. Father Christmas will be attending!!!!

Donations of items for the stalls – especially home baked cakes and good quality fancy goods – will be gratefully received. Also donations of bottles for the bottle tombola.



There is a list of items for the hamper in the church porch at St Ambrose. If you can donate any of the items please write your name next to the item you are donating. Many thanks.



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the **9.00am Mass only, today**, Sunday, November 27th. The usual selection of refreshments, including bacon butties, will be available and proceeds will go to our CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia project. The Traidcraft stall, with an array of Fairtrade produce, will also be available.

If you normally attend after the 11 o'clock Mass and need to stock up on your Fairtrade goods or would like a breakfast, please call in **before** that Mass as the Café will be closed afterwards.

This change is for November only and is to enable as many people as possible to attend our Parish Christmas Fair at St Ambrose Barlow, which starts after the 11 o'clock Mass there.

Advent Reconciliation Services

For those of you wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent, please check the Newsletter for times of Confessions. There will be an **Advent Reconciliation Service in Holy Family Church on Wednesday November 30th at 7.00pm**. This will include a time of prayer and reflection, followed by individual Confessions. There will also be a "Confessathon" in St. Joseph's Church, Leigh, on Saturday December 17th between 10.00am-2.30pm.

Christmas Draw Raffle Tickets

These are available to purchase after Mass in the porch at the back of our churches. Last year we received tremendous support with good quality bottles and premium items for the Grand Draw. Please support us again – Donations can be left at any of our Churches. Alternatively, please contact Des. (876060)

Alternative Christmas Cards

Stars are available in the church porch at St Ambrose Barlow from this weekend. Write your message on a star and place it in the basket for placement on the display. Then put your donation in the envelope provided and hand it in. All monies raised will go to CAFOD.

Padre Pio Group

The Padre Pio Group meet regularly for prayer and meditation. The meetings will continue every Saturday at the same time 10.00 am until further notice.

Christingle

The annual Christingle Service will take place at Holy Family on **Sunday 4th December at 4.00pm**. "Christingle" is an ancient service of light celebrated during Advent to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World. This service is especially suitable for children, who will be invited to lead a candlelit procession around the church.

Assembling the Christingles

If you could spare an hour **from 10.30am on Saturday 3rd December**, please come to Holy Family Presbytery to help make up the Christingles. Please sign the list at the back of church so we know how many people to expect. Thank you.



Leigh Foodbank and Leigh Homeless Collection

St Ambrose Barlow Brownies are collecting items for the homeless and for the foodbank in Leigh. They would be delighted to receive your donations of tinned foods, dried foods – more or less anything that isn't perishable. The Brownies are having a presentation by the people who run Leigh foodbank at their meeting on Tuesday 6th December and they would like to present their collection on that evening. If you are able to donate items for the foodbank you can drop them into the Brownies on **Tuesday 29th November or 6th December between 6.00 and 7.30pm**. Or you can hand them in at the back of church after Sunday Masses – but please mark them clearly as being for the foodbank so that they don't get sold at the Christmas Fair! Many thanks. Caroline – Brown Owl.

RCIA

If there is anyone who is considering becoming a Catholic by making the 'journey of faith' this year please speak to one of the priests. A meeting will be arranged in the coming weeks for anyone who is interested.

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 Paul Grady

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. Please make all cheques payable to **St Margaret Clitherow** (Please note spelling 'Clitherow'). Thank you.

Deanery Website

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

Catholic School Websites

<http://stmaryschs.org.uk/>

www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk

www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk

www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk

www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St. Mary's Senior Citizens Christmas Party

St. Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite any Senior Citizens from the Deanery to their annual Christmas Party which will be held at St. Mary's on **Tuesday 13th December** between 12noon and 2.00pm in the Conference Centre.

Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo. If you would like to go then please sign your name on the list at the back of Church **by Sunday 4th December** so we can cater for numbers appropriately.

Thank you.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on **Tuesday 6th December** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Ladies, please remember to bring your Secret Santa gift.

Carols By Candlelight

A special Service of Carols By Candlelight will take place in the grounds of Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford, on **Tuesday December 6th** at 7.00pm followed by refreshments in Sacred Heart Parish Centre. If the weather is bad the service will take place in the Parish Centre itself. Please come along and join us.

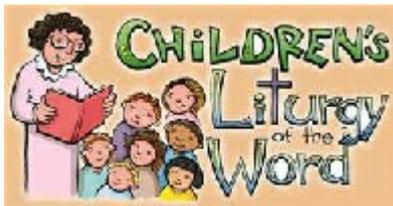


HCPT Carol Service

HCPT Manchester Region are holding a service of Christmas Carols in Salford Cathedral on **Friday December 9th** at 7.30pm with mince pies and mulled wine! For further details please visit hcptmanchester.org.uk/carol-service.

Parish Christmas Lunch, 15th December

The final payment of £11 per person is now due. We also need your choice of meals so please get in touch with Holy Family Office for a copy of the menu or pick one up at the back of church. Please don't forget to put your name on your menu sheet. Many thanks.



Children's Liturgy Catechists

If anyone would like to help with the Children's Liturgy during Sunday morning Mass why not come along and speak to one of the catechists after Mass to find out what it is all about. It is a wonderful way of sharing God's Word with the children of the Parish. We always need more helpers. Thanks to so many of you who have been running the Children's Liturgy for so many years. If you think you can help then please speak to one of the priests or/and one of the catechists whenever you can.

New Year's Eve Dance

Bring 2017 in at a fantastic dance at St Joseph's (large hall), Mather Lane, Leigh on 31st December from 7.00pm till late. Entertainment by country artist Pete Redfern. There will be a bar and tea/coffee will be available for 50p (bring a cup). Tickets cost £8 and are available from Theresa on 01942 792293. Book early. It was a sell-out last year.

Please note

that from January 2017 the **500 club** will be run by **Mr Michael Farrimond and Mr James Duffy**, and the Monthly Draw will take place during the Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass at St. Richard's on the first Sunday of every month.

New members will be welcome from January.

Christmas Card Campaign 2016

Our annual opportunity to send cards to prisoners of conscience will take place next weekend, **3rd & 4th December**. Cards, together with information about the prisoners, in stamped, addressed envelopes, will be available after all Masses. A donation of £1.20 per card is requested to cover the costs including postage. Please support this campaign and send a message of hope this Christmas.

Advent Collections

27th November to 11th December

1. **The Barnabus Project** in Manchester is looking for winter clothing for men and women living on the streets. E.g. Hats, coats, scarves, gloves, jeans, jumpers, shoes and socks. They would also be grateful for new underwear.
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 to 18 years old. Hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts but they do welcome contributions of wrapping paper. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark or the EU Standards CE Mark.
4. Many animals are abandoned at this time of year so **Animals in Distress**, Irlam would welcome donations of cat and dog food and old towels.

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

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church through the celebration of Baptism

Miles Patrick Blackman
Benjamin Peter Turner
Jack Duncan Ashforth

May God bless them and their families.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection	£2097.81
Animate Youth	£ 480.85
British Legion	£ 40.74

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Advent Collections (see above)
Next Week	Christmas Card Campaign (see above) + Advent Collections (see above)

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 27th November	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Denis Sweeney 11.00 am Deceased Members of McNulty & McGee Families 12.30pm Baptisms	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ann Sharpe 11.00 am Anna Bartoszek & Bartoszek/Boardman Family	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ronnie O'Hara 9.30 am Teresa & Michael Cleary 6.30 pm Thomas Joyce
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	<i>Mass in St. Ambrose Barlow</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm <i>Service of Reconciliation for Pastoral Area</i>	9.00 am Mass with St Mary's Year 11 1.15 pm Funeral Mass for Joseph Rigby	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Vincent Murray		9.45 am Funeral Mass for Norman Terrell
FRIDAY	10.00 am Gladys Halladay <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Dennis Yates
SATURDAY	10.00 am Doris Eccleston	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Jean Jackson	6.00 pm Catherine, Albert & Kenneth Thompson
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Thanksgiving 11.00 am Kevin Higgins 12.30pm Baptisms	11.00 am Enid Kenwright	9.30 am Andrea, Rufino & Nicodemus Kinamot 6.30 pm Jim & Mary Burke

Please remember in your prayers
Fr. Arthur whose anniversary occurs TODAY, 27th November

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Joe Rigby Norman Terrell Patrick McCarrick	Jim Dawson Norah Devlin
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Those who are sick, especially:

Emma Oldham Kathy Kenyon Guy Ryan Shelagh Welsby Frank Bryan Joan Wilkinson Margaret Smith Agnes Pilkington Margaret Hurley Thomas McLoughlin Marjorie Price Jean Tchibukdjian Ann Lyons Margaret Dawson Fon O'Hara Margaret Brown Thomas Higgins	Pat O'Neill Rev Jim Melia Anne Broad Margaret Case Derek Maude Catherine Jones Michael Wright Irene McIntyre Neil Hurley Susan Phillips Margaret Ross Eugenie Cheetham Freda Peake Ann Mellin Leonard Beach Maureen Halliday Enid Kenwright
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Holy Family
St. Richard's

Confessions 10.30 am, after 10.00 am Mass on Saturday.
After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass.

Confession also available by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*
The Messianic rule of justice overflows into a vision of peace amidst the whole of God's creation.

Second Reading *Romans 15:4-9*
Paul gives us examples of tolerance and hope, which we are invited to follow.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 3:1-12*
John the Baptist preaches repentance and challenges those who are complacent with the coming judgement of God.