

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

10th December 2017

DEANERY TEAM

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Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)
Weekdays – Advent Time, Wk 2
Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)
(Bible Sunday)
Wednesday St. Lucy
Thursday St. John of the Cross
Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)
(Gaudete Sunday)



Second 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

Anyone who has ever lived in a large modern city knows the problems of transportation – the grind of the daily commute, when travelling even short distances can be a long and exasperating experience. Apart from the frustration caused by congestion, a poor infrastructure also damages the economy. London is reckoned to be the 5th most congested city in the world. To help improve travelling times, a new east-west railway – the “Elizabeth” line – is being constructed across and underneath the city. The 100 kilometre route includes 42 kilometres of tunnels and 10 new stations, all connecting up with existing rail and underground stations. The new line is Europe's largest infrastructure project, costing nearly £15 billion and expected to serve two hundred million passengers per year. As well as improving travelling times for Londoners, it is estimated that the new line will add £42 billion to the UK economy.

In today's First Reading, we hear of another plan to improve journey times – though here the prophet Isaiah is encouraging the people to construct a speedy route along which God's very self can travel. And this “building project” is intended not simply to take the frustration out of life or improve the economic situation, but to set God's people free after years of living in the misery of exile. Isaiah announces that the time of suffering and captivity is over – the Lord is coming and the people need to prepare a straight highway for God across the desert, a way for the Lord through the wilderness of their exile. So obstacles need to be removed, valleys filled in and hills flattened, to prepare for the Lord's coming.

It is with this vivid image that Mark chooses to begin his Gospel and to describe the coming of Jesus, God's Son and the anointed One. Isaiah's ancient prophecy is being fulfilled in a new way: one more powerful than John the Baptist is coming to lead God's people home, to set them free from the tyranny of sin, to live in the homeland of God's Kingdom, which, Jesus proclaims, is breaking into the world. Symbolically, John goes out into the wilderness to call the people together for his arrival. They are to build a highway in the desert of their lives – smoothing the way for the Lord to come and enter into their hearts. The building work is “repentance”, which involves a complete change of mind and heart so that they are to live in a very different way.

The new line in London was started in 2009 and is due for completion in 2018. The “building work” of repentance – of flattening out the hills and filling in the valleys of our own lives so that the Lord can come into our hearts – can take a whole lifetime, possibly the whole of eternity. But in case we feel daunted by the immensity of the task, it is comforting to remember the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero that “we are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs”. We are not expected to save ourselves. The very first words of Mark's Gospel spell it out for us – the Good News is that Jesus Christ IS the Messiah. He is the powerful one who is at work in us and for us. He blesses us with his Spirit. And, as Peter reminds us, God is in no hurry. God is patient because he does not want to lose anyone. The timeless message of Advent is that our patient God is the God who comes not just at Jesus' birth, and not just at the end of time. God comes to us in our time of need, our time of exile, whenever we are lost in the wilderness of sin, fear or suffering. Advent is our chance to turn back to him and allow him to set us free through the person of Jesus.

Psalms Response Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel Acclamation Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Services During Advent

Please try your very best to come along to some of the Advent services as we prepare for the great celebration of Christmas.

- **Advent Carol Service – Tuesday, December 12th** at 7.00pm in the grounds of Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford. (See p3)
- **Advent Taize Service – Wednesday, December 13th** at 7.00pm in St.Richard's.
- **Advent Coffersaphon – Saturday, December 16th** from 10.00am to 1.30pm in St.Joseph's, Leigh.

Advent Collections - Food & Toys Sundays 10th & 17th December

During Advent we will be collecting food and toys, as in previous years, but NOT clothes as The Barnabus Project Clothes Collection is now closed. If you still have donations, please could you take them direct to Barnabus in Manchester. Thank you so much for such a wonderful response.

We are now having three collections during Advent for the following:

1. **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. The children range from babies to 18 years old. Hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts but they do appreciate donations of wrapping paper etc to help with this. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark or the EU Standards CE Mark. *There will be large Christmas Gift bags in each church to receive your gifts.*
2. **The Windsor Drop-In Centre** (also called Loaves and Fishes) in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.
3. **Animals in Distress, Irlam** would welcome donations of cat and dog food and old towels.

Donations for the latter two collections can be left in labelled bags at any of the churches.

St Ambrose Barlow Guides

Guides are collecting items for Women and Children's Wellbeing Bags to go out to Uganda in early December. Please donate any of the following in the box at the back of church or please contact Delia on 07753929476 to collect. Any item will be much appreciated: toothpaste and toothbrush; wrapped soap; flannel; writing paper and pens/pencils and sharpener; hairbrush; socks; crayons.

Thank you so much for your support with this.

Delia, Bernadette and all the leaders and guides.

Advent Hamper

There will be a hamper in St Ambrose Barlow church into which you are asked to place items throughout Advent. On Christmas Eve these items will be taken to a local food bank for distribution amongst those in the community whose needs are greater than our own.

Alternative Christmas Card Giving

Pick up a Star.

Write a Christmas Greeting to your Friends/Parishioners on the Star (instead of sending individual cards), place a donation and the Star into an envelope and place in the basket (St Ambrose Church Porch). All funds raised will go to CAFOD.

Stars will be displayed from weekend 2nd/3rd December.

Christmas Flowers for St Ambrose Barlow and Holy Family

Please fill in the forms at the back of church with names of loved ones who we will remember during the Christmas season. Donations welcome.

Christmas Flowers at St Ambrose Barlow

Volunteers are invited to help with flowers in church for Christmas. Details to follow.

Collections - Used Stamps & Spectacles

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas Card envelopes! If you've had your eyes tested this year and have some old spectacles you no longer need please bring them along to St Ambrose Church. Stamps and glasses can be handed to Mary Barton or left in the red box in the church porch. Thank you!

Last Weekend's Christmas Events - Thank You

The total raised for the Grand Draw was £795.31 (see note below about claiming prizes). The Cabaret Evening, Father Christmas visit, Sunday kitchen, hamper raffle and Christmas goods stalls raised a total of £711.86. Many thanks to all who were involved in this weekend's fundraising activities in whatever way, shape or form.

Christmas Winners

A list of all the lucky winners in the Grand Christmas Draw is available to view on the noticeboards at St Ambrose Barlow, Holy Family and St Richards. Where an address or phone number was provided the winners will be contacted. For those tickets where no name was given you can claim your prize by contacting Steve on 07952 152371 (and providing the winning ticket to match the stub).

The winner of the Christmas Hamper was strip number 851 to 855, Mrs B Harris.

HCPT Coffee Morning

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Coffee Morning in aid of HCPT last weekend. Together we made a wonderful £212 which will go towards sending children to Lourdes at Easter.

St. Richard's Parish Centre 500 Club Draw for December

£150.00	208	L. Kopyczic
£75.00	246	B.M. Charlson
£50.00	56	J. Baxter
£25.00	448	K. Cooper
£25.00	226	D. Hulmes
£15.00	228	N. Croughan
£15.00	62	K. Lyth
£15.00	17	M. Hodge

Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Party Invite from Students at St. Mary's Sixth Form, Tuesday, 12th December 2017

A reminder that St. Mary's Sixth Form students have invited the senior members of our parishes to their annual Christmas party, which will be held at St. Mary's on Tuesday, 12th December 2017 between 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm in the school's Conference Centre. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo.

Attendees should have given their names in advance.

Christmas Mass Times

An early notice of the Christmas Mass times this year. Many people like to plan ahead so here are the Mass times for St.Margaret Clitherow Parish and St.Edmund Arrowsmith:-

Christmas Eve:

- XII Apostles, Leigh at 5.30pm.
- St.Joseph's, Leigh, Holy Family, Boothstown & St.Richard's, Atherton at 6.00pm.
- St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley at 8.00pm.
- Sacred Heart, Leigh & Holy Family, Boothstown at 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

- St.Joseph's, Leigh at 8.30am.
- Holy Family, Boothstown at 9.00am.
- Sacred Heart, Leigh & St.Richard's, Atherton at 9.30am.
- St.Joseph's, Leigh at 10.30am.
- Holy Family, Boothstown & St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley at 11.00am.
- Our Lady of the Rosary, Leigh at 11.15am.

There will also be a special Mass to celebrate the arrival of 2018 in **Our Lady of the Rosary Church** in Leigh. This will take place at **12noon on New Year's Day**. All welcome.

Editor's note

In order to accommodate the items for inclusion this week I have again had to reduce the text size. I apologise for any inconvenience.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Astley Churches Together - Carol Singing

The annual open air Carol Singing will take place at Astley Christian Fellowship chapel on Manchester Road at 7.00pm on **Monday 11th December**. There will be refreshments in the chapel straight afterwards.

Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 12th December 7.00pm

To be held in the grounds of
Sacred Heart Church Hindsford
Music by Tyldesley Brass Band

This will be followed by a Raffle and mince pies in the Parish Club where the fully stocked bar will be open.

NB: IF THE WEATHER IS BAD THE CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH CLUB

Festival Carol Service

This will be at 4.00pm on **Sunday 17th December** in Holy Family church, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. All welcome.

St. Mary's Advent Service

St. Mary's High School would like to invite you to an Advent Service on **Thursday December 21st** at 7.30pm in the school hall. Pupils in Years 7 to 13 are all invited to attend from 6.15pm for social time and refreshments before the service. Parents and any siblings who attend our local primary schools are very welcome to attend the 30 minute service at 7.00pm. If you need any further information please contact the school.

St Richard's Parish Centre - New Year's Eve

Rock & Roll Band

REUNION

plus **DJ CARL**

Tickets £10, including Buffet. Phone 882125

Parish trip to Stratford

Many thanks to those who have booked places on the Parish trip to Stratford in June. We are going to see the RSC's production of "Macbeth" starring Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack in Stratford on Thursday June 28th. Tickets are priced at £16 and £22 and are available on a strictly first come first served basis. If you have phoned and left a message for Fr. Paul S, then he will begin phoning everyone in the New Year to confirm the booking. There are still a few seats available. If you would like to go then please leave a message for Fr. Paul on 01942-883395 saying how many seats you would like for the coach and how many and what priced theatre tickets you would like. **Please also leave your contact number.**

Parish Visit to Rome - June 2018

We are sounding out the possibility of a group travelling to Rome mid-June next year. Hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. 4 nights - bed and breakfast in a Religious House close to Vatican City. If you are interested and want more information please contact Des - 07973 114365.

6.30 pm Sunday Mass (St. Richard's)

A reminder that we have made the difficult decision to end our celebration of the 6.30pm Mass at St. Richard's on Sunday evenings. It was difficult but necessary since it is proving more and more difficult to find supply priests who can cover Sunday evenings. Also the numbers of people attending the Mass have decreased quite a lot over the years. We will lose more Masses in the future as we prepare ourselves for a time when there will be only three priests in the Deanery. This is the first step. It has been on the cards for many years but still it is sad. We do, however, have more than enough Masses in the Deanery at present – perhaps still too many for the numbers of those attending. The last 6.30pm Mass will take place on Sunday December 17th, since the following two Sundays are Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Reflect:

'Prepare a way for the Lord!' How can we prepare a way for the Lord this Advent, in our hearts and in our communities? How can we help to sow signs of hope which reflect the kingdom of God in the way we live our lives and act towards others and towards God's creation?

Pray:

We long for your coming

The prophets of old longed for the coming of Jesus into the world. We, too, long for your special coming at this time in the hope that it may bring joy to all who are suffering and the light of faith to all who do not know you. Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney / CAFOD

Act:

Have a look in the parish newsletter for various simple opportunities to support different charities during Advent.

Challenge:

Have a Green Christmas this year by being less wasteful and as a show of respect for our environment and the occasion.

Visit <https://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Green-Christmas> or

http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm

for some simple ideas enabling you to do this.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St Mary's Catholic High School currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor.

To apply to become a foundation governor you need to:-

- Be a Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly and gives true witness to the teachings of the Church
- Be prepared to work with discretion as a member of the full governing body and attend training events to help build up a body of knowledge and expertise
- Bring a wider skill set to enhance the wider Governing Body in undertaking its collective duties to lead the school and meet the contemporary requirements of the Department for Education and Ofsted

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation governor please can you send a short resume of your particular skills and how you would contribute to our school Governing Body (250 words max).

Please send your expressions of interest into school for the attention of the Chair of the Governing Body **no later than Friday 15th December 2017.**

For further information on the role of a Foundation Governor please check out the Archdiocese website www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools or contact the Clerk to Governors (Mrs Pat Lloyd) by telephone on 01942 766906

or email p.lloyd@admin.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

In the event of multiple applicants the Chair alongside a member of the clergy will shortlist and assess the skills offered.

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for next week's 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

All monies should be paid into the Parish account of St Margaret Clitherow. Please note spelling 'Clitherow'. Thank you.

Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford Community Website

www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



Agnes Pilkington
 All Cancer Patients
 Ann Mellin
 Anne Broad
 Baby George
 Bernard O'Donnell
 Bridie Molyneux
 Catherine Jones
 Christopher Browne
 Clifford Browne
 Derek Maude
 Edward Leach
 Emma Oldham
 Enid Kenwright
 Eugenie Cheetham
 Fon O'Hara
 Freda Peake
 Gerald Hackett
 Guy Ryan
 Irene Burke
 Irene McIntyre
 Jean Tchibukdjian
 Jess Garrett
 Joan Wilkinson
 John Wall
 Kathy Kenyon
 Maisie Sweeney (age 9)
 Margaret Case
 Margaret Dawson
 Margaret Hurley
 Margaret Ross
 Margaret Smith
 Margaret Wall
 Marjorie Price
 Mary Tiernan
 Maureen Halliday
 Michael Skiffington
 Michael Wright
 Pat O'Neill
 Patricia Wilson
 Rev Jim Melia
 Sandra Jones
 Shelagh Welsby
 Sr Megan Haisley
 Ted & Harriet Langin
 Thomas Higgins
 Thomas McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright

Those who have died, especially

Fred Croft
 Ellen Heaton
 Betty Rostern
 Ronald Hailwood

Week Beginning 10th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Eileen West 11.00 am Joan Higgins	(Sat) 6.00 pm Madge Farrell 11.00 am Mary Agnes Kearns & Anastasia Marie Kearns	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mary Furey 9.30 am Leonard Beach. 6.30 pm Peter Yates
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Kathleen Kelly R.I.P.	9.15 am Marlene Hunt 12 noon Funeral Service for Ellen Heaton
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Mary Furey	9.00 am St Mary's Mass Ray Hilton	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Unsworth Family		9.15 am A Special Intention
FRIDAY	10.00 am Frank Bryan <i>Mass with St Gabriel's School in Holy Family Church</i>		<i>Mass at Holy Family</i>
SATURDAY	10.00 am Pat Holland	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm George Alexander Stevenson	6.00 pm Jean Neary
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Gladys Waring 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	11.00 am Bernard Hughes	9.30 am Albert Sawyer 6.30 pm John McLoughlin

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £2243.80
 Animate (addtl.) £ 67.05
 CAFOD £ 33.96

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today
&
Next Week

Advent Collections - Food & Toys: See page 2.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family & after both 6.00 pm Masses in St Ambrose and St Richard's. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Third Sunday of Advent (B)

First Reading *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*
 The prophet Isaiah speaks in the person of Christ, the anointed one of the Spirit. Later, in the Gospels, Jesus applies this verse to himself.
Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*
 Paul prays that the whole of our being, spirit, soul and body, may be healed and saved.
Gospel Reading *John 1:6-8, 19-28*
 John the Baptist testifies to the divinity of Christ, describing himself as the one who makes way for the Lord.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our family of Faith
 Eleanor McMeekin
 Daniel Thomas McDonald
 Tom Barry McDonald
 Ethan Li
 Johnny Li

May God bless them & their families

GAUDETE
 MEANS
 REJOICE
 DON'T LOSE HEART