

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

12th February 2017



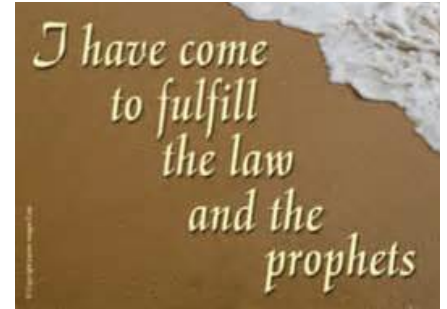
DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 2
Readings	Sunday – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 6
Sunday	6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) <i>(Racial Justice Day)</i>
Tuesday	Saints. Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop
Next Sunday	7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)



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

All of us are subject to the law. Jesus himself too was subject to the law in his day. As he grew up he obeyed Joseph and Mary. He obeyed the law of the land. And of course he obeyed the law of God. In today's Gospel passage it is Jesus attitude to the law that concerns us. He encounters the Scribes and Pharisees who, over the pages of the Gospels, throw many different questions at him in an attempt to catch him out and find out where his true colours lie. After seeing the Scribes and Pharisees he addresses his disciples and warns them not to be like these so-called "men of God". He warns them that, "if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven." Strong words indeed. Jesus found no fault with the law itself. His problem lay with the way it was interpreted and applied by the religious leaders of the day. For them it was the letter of the law that mattered. Once you fulfilled that you were OK. But for Jesus it was the spirit of the law that really mattered. The important thing was not how many commandments we obey, but the spirit in which we obey them.

The Pharisees looked only at the outward act. But God sees what is in the heart, which is much more important. So Jesus said that we have to look, not just at our actions, but at our thoughts and desires, even though they may never actually lead to any acts. We may have done certain evil deeds, but we may have thought of doing them. Again, Jesus saw that the commandments were interpreted in a very negative way by the Scribes and Pharisees. This often led to minimalism, in other words, doing the bare minimum. Jesus, however, interpreted them in a positive way. For example, the fifth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill". But Jesus said something more positive, "You must love your neighbour as yourself." The seventh commandment states, "Thou shalt not steal." But Jesus said, "You must share your goods with your neighbour when they are in need."

He also saw that obedience was often rooted in fear. He wanted obedience to God to be rooted in love. His whole relationship with his Heavenly Father was based on love. When you really love someone, you would avoid anything to hurt them, in fact, the love you have for them would inspire you to do anything for them. Where there is love, there is really no need for law. But the most significant thing of all that Jesus did was this – he brought in a new and more exacting law, the law of love. Far from contradicting or abolishing the old law, the new law goes beyond it, and so brings it to perfection. He said that all of God's laws could be reduced to two: love of God and love for others. In truth, there is only one law – the law of love.

Psalm Response They are happy who follow God's law!

Gospel Acclamation Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



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.

Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh

It has been quite a while since we last advertised the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh. It was great to meet up with other parishioners to watch a live performance and enjoy each other's company. There are two good looking performances coming up very soon. We could meet up in the foyer about 6.45pm so we can buy tickets and a drink and enjoy the performance together.

- National Theatre's "St.Joan" – Thursday February 16th
- RSC's "Julius Caesar" – Wednesday April 26th.
- RSC's "Anthony & Cleopatra" – Wednesday May 24th
- RSC's "Titus Andronicus" – Wednesday August 9th

Trip to Oscott - Please Note

Trip to Oscott - Could everyone who has already let Fr Paul the Younger know that they are intending to come on this trip please ring Holy Family office to confirm this, as the list has been misplaced. Many thanks. Fr Paul Grady

Fr Kevin Snape R.I.P.

We have just heard that Fr Kevin Snape, Parish Priest at Holy Family for 16 years, has passed away. Funeral details will be published as soon as we have them. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.



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.

Congratulations

Congratulations must go to St.Richards School who had a very successful Ofsted inspection a few weeks ago, and to Sacred Heart School in Hindsford, who also had a very good Ofsted inspection and an excellent RE inspection from the Archdiocese. It's great that we have some very good schools in the Parish. Please keep all the children and staff of all the schools in your prayers. They are doing a great job.

Lost Money

A sum of money was found in the car park at St. Richard's Church last Sunday morning. If you think it might be yours then please contact Fr. Paul the Elder as soon as possible before he spends it!

HCPT Coffee Morning and Raffle Holy Family

The Annual coffee morning and raffle for HCPT will take place TODAY Sunday 12th Feb. Raffle Tickets will be on sale outside church at both the 9.00 and 11.00 masses. Refreshments will be on sale in the parish hall and the draw for prizes will take place in the hall at about 12.15.

Quiz @ St. Stephen's

There will be a Quiz Night at St Stephen's School, Astley on Friday 17th February at 7.30pm. Tickets £4.00, this includes refreshments. There is no bar, so please bring your own alcoholic/soft drinks. More information from Steve Cooper.

St. Richard's 500 Club Draw Drawn 5th February

£100	127	J. Nestor
£ 50	210	B. Hurley
£ 25	205	J. Nestor
£ 15	007	B. Eckersley
£ 15	262	T.McLoughlin

Thank you for your continued support

St. Richard's Church

Apologies for the coldness in St. Richard's Church at the moment. We were hoping that the new radiators would be in full use at the moment. However the workmen have hit one or two snags along the way, most notably the laying of pipes under the floor of the Church has taken much longer than anticipated. The work on the new heating system should be completed very soon. We were hoping that it would be ready this weekend but sadly not. We are hoping to get temporary heating this week, otherwise we have another cold Church and a short sermon again! It will be finished very soon – then we start looking at working on the roof!

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for the newsletter are sent in no later than Wednesday evening.

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

Justice & Peace Group

The next meeting of the Deanery Justice & Peace Group will take place in St. Richard's Parish House on Thursday February 23rd at 7.30pm. All welcome.

With You Always Preparation Sessions

An early notice that for the Year 4 children from **St. Richard's, Sacred Heart (Hindsford) & St. Ambrose Barlow**, the "With You Always" preparation sessions begin on March 7th, in St. Richard's Church at 5.30pm, and on March 9th, in St. Ambrose Barlow Church at 6.00pm. During each of the seven preparation sessions the children and their parents will work together exploring the different themes each week as the children prepare to receive their First Holy Communion in May and June. More details nearer the time.

The next sessions for Holy Family and St Gabriel's

Tuesday 14th Feb with St Gabriel's in the school 3.15pm.
Thursday 16th Feb with Holy Family in church either 3.45pm or 6.30pm

St. Margaret Clitherow Parish Forum

The minutes from the last meeting will be circulated before the next meeting which takes in the Church Hall at Ambrose Barlow, Astley, on Tuesday March 7th at 7.45pm. All welcome

Ash Wednesday Mass Times

We begin the season of Lent in just a few weeks. We celebrate Ash Wednesday on March 1st. Mass times for Ash Wednesday are:-

- **St.Ambrose Barlow Church – 7.30am.**
- **St.Gabriel's School – 10.00am.**
- **St.Richard's Church – 12noon.**
- **Holy Family Church – 7.00pm.**

HCPT Help a Helper – Family Ceilidh Night

Sat 11th March – 7.00pm

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall

Eleanor Callaghan is a young parishioner from St Ambrose who will be traveling to Lourdes at Easter as a volunteer helper with HCPT group 81. Please support her fundraising towards her costs by coming along for a great social night with great music, Irish Dancing, bingo. Refreshments incl Hot Pot, cakes will also be on sale. Tickets £3.

Please contact Andrea 07765 272070 for tickets

St Patrick's Night at Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford

There will be an evening of Irish and Country songs at Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford to help the Parish celebrate St Patrick's Day on **Friday 17th March**, from 8.00 pm till closing time. Live music from *The Cambridge Crew* plus guest singers/guitarists from the local *Streetlifers* group. Admission free.



Fatima, 19th - 23rd June 2017

We have a good sized group travelling but still have places available on this Pilgrimage. The price is £377.00 PLUS the airfare (approx £100). If you want to book please contact Des or Cath during the week on 01942 888844 or complete a booking form (at the back of church) and send it with your deposit to the address shown on the booking form.



Lenten Services

Throughout the season of Lent there will be a number of special services, helping us to think about our lives and prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter. There will be early morning Masses, Taize Prayer Services, Reconciliation Services along with all the usual services. Why not do something extra during Lent this year? More details of times and dates very soon.

Churches Together Lenten Talks

Once again Churches Together In Atherton are holding a series of talks during Lent. This year they will take place on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm, beginning on March 5th. More details very soon.

Experiencing Easter

Churches Together In Atherton are also organizing an initiative entitled "Experiencing Easter". This is mainly for children from the different schools who will be invited to Atherton Parish Church and go round the different displays which focus on the Easter Story. But we do need volunteers for the week to help with the different stations and prayers. Everything you need will be provided. If you would like to help then please sign your name on the list at the back of St.Richard's Church or contact Rev.Reg Sinclair on 892996 or revreg@btinternet.com "Experiencing Easter" takes place during schooltime in Atherton Parish Church between March 20-25th.



St Richard's Parish Centre

The high quality refurbishment of the Parish Centre Function Room is now complete. We have **BINGO** every Monday evening but unfortunately it is not well supported by the Parishioners. Why not come in to see the refurbishment and have a game. Starts at approx 8-30.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1947.81
HCPT	£ 340.91

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Racial Justice
Next Week	Church Action on Poverty

Church Action on Poverty

It's time to close the gap between rich and poor.

Growing numbers are going hungry, or trapped in poverty despite their best efforts. But people in poverty are usually blamed for their situation, or treated as powerless victims. Together, we can change that.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 12th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Karen Conlan 11.00 am Kathleen Roddy 12.30pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Margaret Baybutt 11.00 am Evelyn Green	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jeffrey Hinds 9.30 am Mona Pugh 6.30 pm Jim & Mary Burke
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Ellen Hounslea	9.15 am Maurice Gallagher
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Desmond O'Reilly	1:00 pm Funeral Martin O'Neil	<i>No Exposition until March 8th</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am Phil & Christine Costello's Wedding Anniversary		9.15 am Nicholas Smith
FRIDAY	10.00 am Private Intention <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Eileen Shiels
SATURDAY	10.00am Vocations	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Parishioners	6.00 pm Georgina Roddy
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Lois & Francis O'Neill 11.00 am Seamus McNulty 12.30pm Baptism	11.00 am Mary Sharples	9.30 am Hilda Woodward 6.30 pm Patrick Martin Page

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Brian Harrison

Martin O'Neil

Those who are sick, especially:

Emma Oldham

Kathy Kenyon

Guy Ryan

Shelagh Welsby

Derek Maude

Catherine Jones

Michael Wright

Agnes Pilkington

Margaret Hurley

Thomas McLoughlin

Marjorie Price

Jean Tchibukdjian

Ann Mellin

Margaret Dawson

Maureen Halliday

Enid Kenwright

Bernard O'Donnell

Mary Tiernan

Wyn Wright

Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson

Ted & Harriet Langin

Pat O'Neill

Rev Jim Melia

Anne Broad

Margaret Case

Joan Wilkinson

Margaret Smith

Irene McIntyre

Susan Phillips

Neil Hurley

Margaret Ross

Eugenie Cheetham

Freda Peake

Leonard Beach

Fon O'Hara

Thomas Higgins

Betty Rostern

Nancy Heaton

Eddie Leach

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

10.30 am after Saturday morning Mass at Holy Family.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.

After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Family of Faith

Amelia Rose Morris

May God bless her and her family

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18.

We imitate the holiness of God when we refuse to exact vengeance or bear a grudge against another.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:16-23.

Paul gives us a profound reason why we should respect one another – we are the Temple of God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38-48.

What makes the disciples of Christ different to others is their willingness to love as God loves.