

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

12th March 2017



## DEANERY TEAM

<b>Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Paul Seddon</b>	<b>Priest:</b>	<b>Fr. Paul Grady</b>
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**Deacons:** Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 2  
**Readings** Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Lent (A)  
Weekdays – Lent, Wk 2

**Sunday** 2nd Sunday of Lent (A)

**Friday** Feast St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland

**Next Sunday** 3rd Sunday of Lent (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

In the story of Jesus' transfiguration, Peter, James and John have an experience of seeing Jesus as being truly amazing. They are able to recognize that he is amazing, for they see him as he really is. On the mountain, Jesus shines as the true source of light that he is, and the Father affirms his delight in him and the trust he has placed in him. Naturally, recognizing that they are in the presence of God, the disciples are frightened and they fall on their faces, but they want to stay in that presence. "Lord," Peter says, "it is wonderful for us to be here." Through Jesus' transfiguration, the disciples see the true face of Jesus, and there is nothing that they would want to change, for suddenly they see how truly amazing he is – that is to say, fully human and fully divine. The revelation of Jesus as the Son of God in the transfiguration is a major encouragement to the disciples, and no less so for Jesus himself. The revelation of Jesus as the fulfilment of the law and the prophets, as seen through the appearance of Moses and Elijah, and the confirmation of who he is as the beloved Son of God, puts fresh heart into Jesus' followers and encourages Jesus to go on just as the Cross will loom large as a threat in his life. In time, following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the disciples will be able to look back, with the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and recall the truth of this incredible encounter. What happened on Mount Tabor will be an inspiration for countless generations to come.

Reflecting on today's Gospel at this point in Lent is also an encouragement for us today to see who we really are as God's children. The manifestation of God's glory in Jesus is a gift to us to help us to see something that we very often find difficult to acknowledge – that through Jesus we too are beloved sons and daughters of God. After all, if we are honest with ourselves, few people see the real "us". We sometimes wear masks for different people and places, mainly to protect ourselves and hide our true feelings. Many of us are terrified of criticism and rejection. We want to be in control, to be loved, to gain approval and affirmation. However, when we venture deep inside ourselves, we catch a glimpse of the person we really are and we don't always like what we see. However God is our Father and he sees us in a very different way, just as the disciples saw Jesus at the transfiguration. We are God's children, beautifully made as God's unique creation, wonderfully designed to live a joyful life growing in the fullness of God's love. St. Paul writes in his letter to Timothy about the "appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ", in whom we have been given grace from the beginning of time. We have been chosen. Just as Abraham was singled out for great blessings, so too are we. Lent is the perfect time to look beyond the surface and get in touch with our uniquely fashioned selves. We too, like Jesus, need to hear those words of God the Father, "You are my son/daughter – my favour rests on you."

**Psalm Response** May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**Gospel Acclamation** From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:  
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!"

## PARISH NEWS

This Week



### CAFOD Lenten Café

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **today and every Sunday during Lent**. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, home-made cakes and delicious snacks - including bacon butties - will be available. Proceeds from these will go to the CAFOD Lent Appeal.

The Traidcraft Stall containing a selection of fairtrade products will also be available. Please come along if you can, meet other parishioners and support this venture. You will be very welcome.

### CAFOD Lenten Café Sponsors Wanted!!

During the 6 weeks in Lent we are again looking for sponsors to help cover the cost of the bacon and sausage sandwiches. If you are able to donate £35 please contact Justine on [justinesilcock@gmail.com](mailto:justinesilcock@gmail.com) Or pop in to the Café and speak to Justine. Thanks for all your support and prayers.

### CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Friday 10th March was CAFOD's Lent Fast Day, a day when we're asked to live more simply so that others may simply live. Please place your offerings in the collection at the back of church **today** and thank you very much for your support.



### HCPT Appeal

Many thanks to all of you who contributed towards the HCPT Appeal last weekend. The appeal raised a massive **£2094.01** towards the Lourdes Pilgrimage this year – who gave the 1p by the way?!! This means we have already raised enough money to send almost three children on Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter. Well done everyone. Thanks also for supporting the young people from St. Mary's who will be travelling to Lourdes at Easter helping the different groups. They have all promised to keep us in their prayers in Lourdes at Easter.

The HCPT Appeal will continue and conclude **next weekend** at the St Ambrose Barlow 6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday Masses at Holy Family.

### "Thank You"

Fr. Peter McGrail, Margery and Family would to thank Fr. Paul Grady, Fr. Paul Seddon and all who gave their prayerful support, sympathy cards and Mass cards at Fr. Kevin's Requiem.

May God bless you all.

Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

### Easter Cards to the Holy Land

This Lent we will again have the opportunity to show our love and solidarity for our fellow Christians living in the Holy Land by sending Easter cards. A list of the names and addresses of the churches, together with a selection of Easter cards, will be available over the next few weeks. As in previous years, you are asked to sign the cards and address the envelope – but not to put a stamp on. Instead, place the card in the box at the back of church, and we will send all the cards off together, at the beginning of April, to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for distribution to the churches in time for Easter.

### Good News after our Christmas Card Campaign!!

Good news received from ACAT (Association for Christians Against Torture): "We are pleased to report that Czech Christian aid worker **Petr Jašek**, who was featured on our Christmas Greetings Campaign in 2016, has been pardoned and released. He returned to Prague on 26 February." Many thanks to all who sent him a card at Christmas and wonderful to get this news.

### "With You Always" Preparation Sessions

Please note that the Year 4 children from St Richard's, Sacred Heart (Hindsford) & St. Ambrose Barlow are invited to come along to the "With You Always" preparation sessions which this week are on:-

- **Tuesday March 14th** in St.Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,
- **Thursday March 16th** in St.Ambrose Barlow Hall at 6.00pm.

Please note that you can go to either of the sessions. It doesn't matter which school the children go to. 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.

The next "With You Always" session for **St Gabriel's** is this **Tuesday, 14th March** at 3.15pm.

### 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.

**Early morning Masses** will take place in:-

- St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley – Wednesdays at 7.30am.
- Holy Family, Boothstown – Fridays at 6.30am.

**Stations of the Cross** will take place in:-

- Holy Family – Sundays at 3.00pm.
- St. Richard's – Tuesdays at 7.00pm.
- St. Ambrose Barlow – Fridays at 7.00pm.

**Holy Hour** with reflective music & Reconciliation (Confession) available at Holy Family each Friday of Lent, 3.00-4.00pm.

A **Lenten Reconciliation Service** will take place in St.Richard's Church and a **Taize Prayer Service** (dates and times to be confirmed very soon) along with all the usual services. Why not do something extra during Lent this year?

### Newsletter

Please ensure that items for the newsletter are sent in no later than 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](http://www.leighdeanery.co.uk)

### Catholic School Websites

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

[www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk](http://www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk)

[www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk](http://www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk)

[www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.sacredheartrchindsford.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartrchindsford.co.uk)

## Lenten Reflections

Throughout Lent there will be a number of Lenten Reflections focusing on the Sunday Gospel and the writings of Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si". The reflections have been prepared by CAFOD and will take place every Wednesday morning after Exposition in the Parish House at St. Richard's beginning at approximately 10.00am. The second Lenten Reflection session will take place **this Wednesday March 15th**.

Sessions will also take place on Friday lunch times, 12.30 - 1.30pm, following the midday Mass, at St Joseph's Presbytery (Green Room). All are welcome.

### Justice and Peace and St Vincent de Paul Groups

There will be a joint meeting of the above groups on **Wednesday, 15th March**, at Holy Family after the 7 o'clock Mass (aim to begin at 7.45pm). The purpose of this meeting is to share a Lenten Reflection based on the previous Sunday's Gospel reading and the writings of Pope Francis. The reflections have been prepared by CAFOD. There is overlap of the works carried out by the two groups, hence the coming together in this meeting, so please come along if you can.



### Reflect:

The Transfiguration on Mount Tabor evokes the moment when Jesus reveals his true identity, his Divinity and indescribable splendour. We should remind ourselves of God's beauty and his exhilarating presence.

Have you already gone up to Mount Tabor in your experience of faith? Here are some examples: an experience of prayer which has overwhelmed us; a well-prepared Mass during which we have been touched; a beautiful view that made us gasp; a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during which we experienced the presence of the Lord. All these events make us feel the immensity and transcendence of the creator, who is the same Loving God, living inside us.

Jesus went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became as white as the light. What part does prayer play in our lives?

### Pray:

Lord Jesus, I may behave as if action is more important than contemplation. Help my ignorance. Open my heart to the importance of praying every day. Make me understand that the time I lose in prayer is the time you fill me with tremendous energy and double my capacity for work. An hour lost in prayer makes me enjoy my work more and improves the quality of my relationship with others.

### Act:

We think of transfiguration as a form of miracle, something that could not happen to an ordinary person on an ordinary day. However, every sacred story is meant to reach us in our own lives, in its own way. How can you transform the lives of those you meet each day?

### Challenge:

Help nurture the world we live in by reducing the number of car journeys you make this week. Instead walk, cycle, car share or use public transport.

### Easter Flowers at St. Richard's

Team JCB, the Flower Ladies at St. Richard's, invite you to help once again with the Easter Flowers this year. If you would like to make a donation and have the names of your loved ones displayed in Church during Easter then please give the names into Church before Palm Sunday, the weekend of 8th/9th April. Please write their names on an envelope and pass it into the Parish House as soon as possible.

## Children's Liturgy - Archdiocesan Statement

Recently we received a statement from the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Department concerning Children's Liturgy. It is part of a wider statement but it concerns parents accompanying their children into the Children's Liturgy during Sunday Mass. "The Safe Recruitment Policy of the Church is fundamental to maintaining good safeguarding practice. Sometimes the requirement to meet safeguarding best practice causes unnecessary friction, for example, within Children's Liturgy. Children's Liturgy of the Word is when children gather in a more appropriate way to their level of understanding. Parents are encouraged to let their children attend and may stay for a short period, whilst their child settles. However, parents are not encouraged to consistently attend each week. They should have confidence in the group leader and authorized volunteers to look after their child, whilst they stay in Church. Parents, who want to FULLY participate within Children's Liturgy, must go through the Safe Recruitment Process."

### St. Richard's 500 Club Draw, 5th March

£100	272	M.Monks
£50	332	S Hodgkiss
£25	374	P. Lloyd
£15	356	B. Hindley
£15	224	A.M. Dillon

Thank you for your continued support

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### St Patrick's Night 'Irish' Singalong Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford

Next Friday, 17th March, 8.00pm till 11.00pm.

Live music from *The Cambridge Crew* and guest singers.

Admission free!

### Parish Trip to Oscott, Next Sunday, 19th March

This is now fully booked. A suggested donation of £10 towards the transport cost would be greatly appreciated.

- Coach departing from outside Holy Family at 13.30 pm arriving at Oscott at 15.40 pm.
- Departing from Oscott at 19.15 pm and arriving in Boothstown at 21.25 pm.

### Romero Centenary Mass

The 37th Romero Mass will take place in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool **next Sunday, 19th March at 11.00am**. See posters at back of church.

## LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1963.82
HCPT	£2094.01
Lenten Alms:	£158.70
Pantomime: (St. Ambrose)	£1493.35

Thank you so much for your generosity.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	CAFOD Lent Fast Day (see page 2) + Cards for the Holy Land (see page 2)
Next Week	Lenten Alms or HCPT HCPT at St Ambrose Barlow (6.00pm) and Holy Family

**Lenten Alms** - Each year, during Lent, the second collection goes to a charity of the Archbishop's choice.

**HCPT - The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust** is a UK based charity which takes children with special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. Website: [www.hcpt.org.uk](http://www.hcpt.org.uk)

# PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 12th March	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Ann Freeman 11.00 am Dorothea McGuire 12.30pm <i>Baptism</i>  <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Bernadette Kelly  11.00 am Frank Bryan	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Healy  9.30 am John Pearson 6.30 pm Brian Cotterill
<b>MONDAY</b>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.15 am Warwick Lewthwaite	9.15 am Jean Royale  <i>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.00 pm Bernie Walsh	7.30 am Ellen Hounslea	9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10.00 am Alice & Frank Giron-Conland		9.15 am Nicholas Smith
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6.30 am Fr Kevin Snape 10.00 am Alice & John Regan & Family  <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i> <i>3.00 - 4.00 pm Holy Hour</i>	  <i>7.00 pm</i> <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	9.15 am Martin & Mary Furey
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am John Pearson	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Vera & Jack Dean	6.00 pm John Geraghty
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Anthony Dermody 11.00 am Margaret Baybutt 12.30pm <i>Baptism</i>  <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	11.00 am Robert Henry	9.30 am Les Corner  6.30 pm Joyce Hankinson

## LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

*Those who have died, especially:*

Joan Mullin                      Ellen Hounslea  
Thomas Albert Proctor

*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 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 Wyn Wright Bridie Molyneux
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## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions 10.30am after Saturday morning Mass and during Holy Hour, Friday 3.00 - 4.00pm 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.*

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith  
Gabriel Thomas Cyril Hughes  
Orla Niamh Ryan  
 May God bless them and their families.

## READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

### Third Sunday of Lent (A)

<b>First Reading</b> Despite their ingratitude, God shows his care for his people by providing water for them in the desert.	<i>Exodus 17:3-7</i>
<b>Second Reading</b> God has proved his extraordinary love for us by the fact that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.	<i>Romans 5:1-2,5-8</i>
<b>Gospel Reading</b> Jesus meets the woman from Samaria.	<i>John 4:5-42</i>