

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

5th Sunday of Easter (A)

14th May 2017



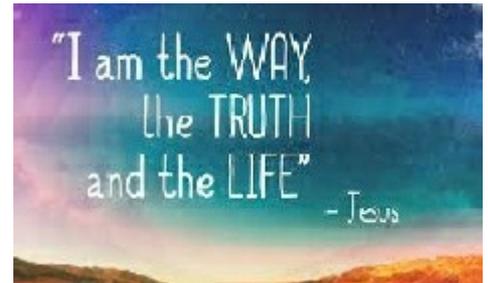
DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 1
Readings	Sunday – 5th Sunday of Easter (A) Weekdays – Easter, Wk 5
Sunday	5th Sunday of Easter (A)
Monday	Our Lady of Fatima
Next Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter (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

There can come a time in the life of all believers when everything gets dark. It's at such times that we really need strong faith, but it is precisely at such times when faith can fail us. So many people give up their faith when life goes badly. It's easy to convince ourselves that we have a strong faith when everything is going well. When a crisis arrives we discover what kind of faith we really have, or if we have any at all. There are those who think that if God was with them, and if he really loved them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life would be all plain sailing. So, when a storm does hit them, they experience a deep crisis of faith, thinking that God has abandoned them.

During the Last Supper the apostles were thrown into crisis when Jesus started to talk about his death. On hearing this, their hearts were troubled and filled with fear. Knowing that their faith would be severely tested, Jesus tried to prepare them for the ordeal. He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, and believe also in me." Since the apostles already believed, in effect what he was saying was, "You must go on believing in God and in me."

At a time of crisis people can sometimes feel that God has abandoned them. But Jesus assured the apostles that, even though he was leaving them, he was not abandoning them. Rather, he was going to prepare a home for them, and would later return to take them home. So, no matter what happened, no matter how difficult life might become, they must go on believing, go on trusting in him and in God the father. Trust is perhaps one of the greatest things we can give to another person. At that hour we must believe that somehow there is a purpose to it all, and that good will somehow come out of the bad things that are happening to us. Then the unbearable becomes bearable, and in the darkness a glimmer of light appears.

What real faith does is assure us that God is with us in the midst of the crisis. It is this feeling, this conviction, that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, which will help us through any crisis. When the English singer, Charlie Landsborough, became a Catholic, he said, "I believe in God completely. I can't imagine my life without my faith. But it took me a long time to get there."

Our life of faith can be a long journey. Like any other journey it will have its ups and downs, joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges. Faith reminds us that God will be there for us in the end, even when trouble strikes, both in this world and the next. It is not ourselves who keep the faith – it is the faith that keeps us. Gandhi once said, "A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope, because they believe in the ultimate triumph of truth." So when things seem to be going bad may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: "Believe in God, and believe also in me."

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

Gospel Acclamation Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

PARISH NEWS

This Week

First Holy Communion

Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of our Year Four children. This will mean that there will be more people attending than normal and is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate a Christian welcome to those visiting our parish. Please pray for all our children that they may come to know the Lord's love in their lives as they receive the Eucharist for the first time.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Very soon many of the children from the Parish will be making their First Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers. They will be celebrating on the following days:-

- **Sunday May 14th – Holy Family at 11.00am.**
- **Sunday May 21st – St. Richard's at 9.30 am, Holy Family & St. Ambrose Barlow at 11.00am.**
- **Sunday May 28th – St. Richard's at 9.30 am, St. Ambrose Barlow at 11.00am.**
- **Saturday June 3rd – St. Richard's at 6.00 pm.**
- **Sunday June 4th – St. Ambrose Barlow at 11.00am.**

The First Communion children from St. Gabriel's will join the parish at the 6.00pm Mass at St. Ambrose Barlow on 20th May in thanksgiving for their receiving the Lord for the first time.

"With You Always" Preparation Sessions

A reminder to the Year 4 children from St. Richard's, Sacred Heart (Hindsford) & St. Ambrose Barlow that the final "With You Always" preparation sessions will take place this week:-

- **Tuesday May 16th in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,**
- **Thursday May 18th in St. Ambrose Barlow Parish 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.

Friends of Holy Family Summer Fair

Friends of Holy Family are holding a Summer Fair on **Saturday 20th May**, 12.00pm-3.00pm in the school playground/field. Refreshments will be on sale, including a licensed bar, along with a variety of tombola, stalls and bouncy castle etc. Please come along to support us in raising funds for school.

If anybody wishes to hold a stall please contact Holy Family School on 0161 790 2123.

Ladies' Cocktail Evening

A Ladies' evening is being held on **Saturday 20th May** in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall from 7.30pm til 12.00. Tickets are £20 which includes your first two cocktails - Alcoholic or non will both be available. It also includes a buffet and a raffle ticket for some amazing prizes - beauty vouchers, a meal for two, wine, chocolates and many more prizes.

We will have entertainment by the very fabulous Steven Green and our very own not one but two cocktail waiters!

All proceeds go to Parkinsons. Please come along to support this very worthy charity. **Admission by ticket only.** Please contact Sarah Dootson on 07914 755990 or Delia Fletcher on 07753 929476. Delia will be selling tickets at St Ambrose Barlow after the 11.00am Mass.

Women of all ages 14+ are welcome - no men in disguise!

APF/MILL HILL MISSIONS

The latest collection from the red mission boxes in Holy Family amounted to £756.70.

Sincere thanks to all concerned for this magnificent total. As always all your efforts are very much appreciated.

St. Richard's 500 Club Draw for May

£100	437	M. Hodge
£50	298	E. Williams
£25	269	T. Jackson
£15	47	J. Proctor
£15	440	M. Barton

Thank you for your continued support

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Response to the Archbishop's Letter

Following on from the Archbishop's letter, as mentioned at all the Masses last weekend, we will be having a **Deanery Open Meeting in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Leigh on Wednesday May 24th at 7.45pm.** This is in response to the Archbishop's letter concerning the shortage of priests and the numbers of people attending Mass – if you did not get a letter then there should still be some available at the back of Church. The initial meeting on the 24th is to reflect on the Archbishop's letter and reflect together, sharing thoughts and ideas, on the way ahead. All welcome.

Parish 'Spring Sing'

The next Parish Singalong social night at Sacred Heart (Hindsford) Parish Centre will be on **Friday 26th May**, from 8.00pm till late. Come along and enjoy a drink or two from the bar whilst listening to and joining in with Folk, Country, Traditional, Comedy and other popular songs led by local musicians and singers - some of whom have contributed to previous Parish Singalong nights and some who are coming for the first time. Admission free!

Justice & Peace Meeting

The next meeting of the Deanery Justice & Peace Group will take place on **Wednesday May 31st** at 7.30pm in St. Richard's, Atherton. Please come along and join us.

Newsletter

Please ensure that 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

www.sacredheartrchindsford.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

"HMS Pinafore"

The Three Towns Operatic Society are presenting a production of "HMS Pinafore" and "Trial By Jury" in St. Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh, from Tuesday May 16th to Saturday May 20th. Tickets are £11 & £13 (concessions available). Contact 01942-605369 or 01942-676594.



Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool

Cathedral Celebrations

This year marks the Golden Anniversary of the opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. There will be a number of special events to mark this great occasion. For more details please see the notice at the back of Church or visit www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk for full details.

Events during the rest of May are:

- **18th May - 30th June:** Voices of the Metropolitan Cathedral - Hope Street Listening Trail
- **19th May:** LightNight: Rotation18269
- **20th May:** The Concerts Society presents Time and Tide
- **29th May:** Jubilee Organ Recital by James Luxton

Cineworld – Live Screenings

If anyone would like to join us for the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh, then please come along and join us. We usually try to meet up in the foyer about 6.45pm so we can buy tickets and a drink and enjoy the performance together. The next live screenings are:

- RSC's "Anthony & Cleopatra" – **Wednesday May 24th** (Please note that the Deanery Open Meeting in response to the Archbishop's letter will take place the same evening, when all the priests of the Deanery can attend.)
- RSC's "Titus Andronicus" – Wednesday August 9th

HCPT Charity Golf Day

Once again HCPT are holding a Charity Golf Day. This takes place on **Thursday May 25th** with a shotgun start at 1.00 pm at Westhoughton Golf Club. If you would like to play please contact Richard (07900385494) or Joe (07402332955).

Atherton Pentecost Service

Churches Together In Atherton are organizing a Pentecost Service outside Atherton Parish Church on **Sunday 4th June** in the afternoon. At the service Tyldesley Brass Band will provide the music and will play for us afterwards as we have refreshments in Atherton Baptist Church. More details soon.

Atherton Carnival

The Atherton Carnival takes place on **Sunday 25th June**. At the Carnival we want to have a real Christian presence by having a Churches Together stall. We will need volunteers from all of our churches to put up a gazebo, to look after the stall by talking to people and giving out leaflets. If you can help in any way then please sign up at the back of St. Richard's Church as soon as possible.

Parish Forum

Thank you to everybody who attended the Parish Forum meeting at Holy Family on 10th May. The next meeting of the Parish Forum is on **Thursday, 6th July** at 7.30pm at St Richard's.

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 or priests 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.



Reflect & Act:

It is easy to blame governments for the problems affecting millions of people in the world today, but we each have a collective responsibility to make a difference. 'Whatever we do, whatever choices we make, other people and the earth itself are affected.' ('The Call of Creation: God's Invitation and the Human Response', Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales, 2002.) This week consider what is *your* personal impact on poverty and the environment.

Challenge:

Having identified the areas in which your life impacts negatively on others and the environment, take steps to change this. (See the deanery website for ideas.)

Pray:

- Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.
- Creator God, you gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches and delight. Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.
- God of peace and justice, you give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

Amen (Linda Jones, CAFOD)

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2138.72
Priests' Training Fund	£ 677.86
Thank you so much for your generosity.	

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Aid to the Church in Need
Next Week	Friends of the Holy Land

Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need helps Christians who suffer persecution or oppression for their faith in more than 130 countries around the world. You can find out more at: www.acnuk.org

Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) is a charitable organisation supporting the Christians of the Holy Land, who are suffering greatly. The work of FHL is entirely non-political and is carried out with the backing and blessing of Anglican and Catholic Bishops in England and Wales. Have a look at the website: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 14th May	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Watts 11.00 am John Robinson 12.30pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Celia, Maria & John Neary 11.00 am Laura Ryal	(Sat) 6.00 pm A Special Intention 9.30 am Jean Herron 6.30 pm Betty Kemp
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Martin Higgins
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Niall Dearnaley		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Mass in St Richard's</i>		9.15 am Albert Hewson
FRIDAY	10.00 am John Neary <i>(In St Gabriel's School)</i>		9.15 am Robert Carter
SATURDAY	10.00 am Williams Family	11.00 am First Communions 6.00 pm Agnes Wilkinson	6.00 pm Malcolm McLoughlin
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Thank You 11.00 am Margaret Burke 12.30pm Baptism	11.00 am Annie Murphy	9.30 am Mary & Martin Furey 6.30 pm Mary & Alan Charlton

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Caitlin Bradbury Paul Thompson
Niall Dearnaley

Those who are sick, especially:

<p style="color: blue;">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 James Pickering</p>	<p style="color: blue;">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 Marjorie Hesketh</p>
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After 10.00am Mass on Saturday morning at Holy Family.
 After 6.00pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
 Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Billy Terrence Buck
 May God bless him and his family.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

First Reading

Acts 8:5-8

We learn about the joy and enthusiasm with which the Samaritans received the Gospel.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:15-18

Peter encourages Christians to remain steadfast under pressure in their attachment to Christ.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

To love Christ is to listen to his Word and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to put his message into practice.