

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Easter Sunday (A)

16th April 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings Sunday – Easter Sunday (A)
Weekdays – Easter Octave

Sunday **EASTER SUNDAY (A)**

Next Sunday **2nd Sunday of Easter (A)**
(Day of Divine Mercy)



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

The mystery of Jesus' empty tomb has continued to fascinate people throughout the centuries. Mary Magdalene is the first to discover that the tomb is empty. She naturally assumes that someone must have removed his body – this is what she tells Peter and the "other disciple", whom tradition names as John. When they get to the tomb, John hesitates. He stands on the threshold of the tomb. He sees the evidence but, almost like a good archaeologist, he is reluctant to enter and disturb the scene. Peter typically goes straight in and also sees the evidence, though we are not told what he makes of it. However, when John symbolically crosses the threshold of the tomb, something happens within him. Even without seeing the Risen Jesus, it suddenly makes sense for him. He sees and he believes. It isn't the Risen Lord that he sees, just the clues surrounding the resurrection. Mary had seen those same clues and naturally assumed that the body had been taken away. It's only when she actually meets the Risen Jesus that she comes to believe. But John believes in this awesome truth simply from seeing the empty tomb and the fragments of Jesus' burial cloths. Jesus' previous teaching about the resurrection suddenly makes sense.

"They have taken my lord and I don't know where they have put him." Mary is every woman and every man. There are inevitably times in our lives when we feel the desolation of loss – loss of loved ones, loss of hope, even loss of faith, when the Lord himself does indeed seem to have been taken away from us. But these early stories of the resurrection speak to us of the dynamics of how we come to faith. Peter sees the empty tomb, but says nothing. He needs more time to think. He needs more experience so that he can come to full faith in the Risen Jesus. He does not dare believe in the resurrection just yet, but he remains open to the possibility. John is able to cross the threshold of faith by holding his sense of loss and his experience of the emptiness of the tomb on the one hand, and bringing it into connection with the memory of the Lord on the other.

This is surely what happens to us in prayer, especially during times of pain and grief. Our experience of loss coupled with our "memory" of Jesus' words can lead us to a deeper faith in him. John sees nothing but signs and symbols, but this is enough to lead him to believe. Mary sees the emptiness of the tomb and continues searching. It is only when Jesus speaks her name that she believes that he is truly risen from the dead. An empty tomb is not proof of resurrection. The resurrection – our encounter with the Risen Lord – can actually happen in our hearts and in our lives when we come to him in prayer. This is where we meet him today – in our searching, in our prayer, in our pain and in our persevering love for God and for each other. As we celebrate the resurrection on this Easter Day, let us share the Good News that Jesus is risen and that he is alive in us today.

Psalm Response This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel Acclamation Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

live simply



Please note that there will be **no evening Mass** at St Richard's today or next Sunday, 23rd April. We will continue as usual after that, from the third Sunday of Easter.

Thank You

Thanks to all who have helped in any way make the Easter liturgies such a prayerful encounter with the Lord present among us here in our communities. Thanks also for greetings and cards received by Frs Paul and Deacon Bob.

Easter Sunday 'Son-rise' Service

If you got your Newsletter at the Easter Vigil Mass and if you meant to do something extra for Lent this year but didn't quite make it, there is still an opportunity to end the Season with one last special effort. On **Easter Sunday** there will be a short ecumenical service at sunrise (6.00 am) at St Stephen's Church in Astley to commemorate Jesus's rising from the dead at dawn on the third day. Refreshments will be served after the service. All welcome.

St. Mary's Head of R.E.

St. Mary's High School, Astley, are inviting applications for the post of Head of Department in Religious Education, to begin in September 2017. Informal visits to the school are actively encouraged. **Closing date for applications is Friday April 21st.** Date of Interview is April 26th. For more information please contact the school website, www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

200 Club Grand Draw

The £1000 draw will take place at a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall from 7.30pm **this Friday, 21st April.** Members wishing to attend the evening can obtain their tickets from Steve Cooper either at the back of church or by ringing Steve on 07952 152371.

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Hour of Grace devotions will take place in Holy Family **next Sunday, 23rd April** beginning at 3.00pm with Exposition and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Reconciliation will be available during the hour which will conclude with Sung Benediction at 4.00pm.

Hamper - Thank You

Many thanks to all who bought tickets for the Ladies Easter Hamper Draw. £171.00 was raised for the British Lung Foundation.

Winners: 1st Prize: Blue 139 – Jackie Bryan (claimed),
2nd Prize: Blue 41 – Kane (unclaimed),
3rd Prize: Blue 421 Bernard Dickinson (claimed).

Reflect:

We have come to the end of our Lenten Journey and our search to grow closer to God through the sacrifices, reflections and efforts to liveSimply that we have undertaken over the last weeks. Consider the ways in which we have tried to change the way we live over this time. Have we enabled others to improve their lives through our efforts? Can we continue to do this in the long term?

Pray:

God, whom we meet in bread and wine,
in body broken and blood outpoured,
fill us with your compassion,
that we may hear the cries of the hungry
and reach out to those in need.
Engender in us a thirst for justice,
that the hungry will be satisfied
and the rich sent empty away.
Roll away our apathy
that, with arms outstretched,
we may offer life in place of death
and hope in the face of despair.
Amen.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD

Act/Challenge:

Take up the liveSimply challenge in your own church community as we jointly make efforts to become a **liveSimply** deanery.

For more information or to become involved visit the deanery website and type **livesimply** in the search box for ways in which you can become involved.

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



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.

Holy Communion

At the recent training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion the issue was raised of receiving Communion by Intinction - in other words people taking the Consecrated Host to the chalice and dipping it in before receiving it. By direction of the Bishop's Council of England and Wales this is not allowed. It is never permitted for people to do this. Please may all parishioners follow the practice of receiving the Body of Christ in front of the distributing minister, then, if they wish to, receive separately the Blood of Christ from the chalice. Whether the communicant receives the Body only, or Communion under both kinds is by their own choice. as we receive the fullness of Communion even under one kind. Thank you from both Fr Pauls.

With you Always Preparation Sessions

A reminder to the Year 4 children from St. Richard's, Sacred Heart (Hindsford) & St. Ambrose Barlow that we will be having a break over Easter. Therefore the next "With You Always" preparation sessions will take place on the following dates:-

- **Tuesday May 2nd in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,**
- **Thursday May 4th 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.

CAFOD Lenten Café

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Lenten Café this year. Over the six Sundays of Lent, a magnificent total of £2396.15 was reached. The £356 raised on 26th March, the day of our parish collection for the CAFOD East African Crisis Appeal, will go to that appeal. The remainder, £2040.15, will go to the CAFOD Lenten Appeal.

The CAFOD Café and Traidcraft will now return to their usual slot on the last Sunday of the month. So the next one will be on Sunday 30th April in Holy Family Hall. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MacMillan Bike Ride

Daniel Seddon, one of the Fr. Paul's nephews, is doing a bike ride from Liverpool to Buckingham Palace next week to raise funds for MacMillan along with a few friends. This is in memory of one of the boy's fathers, Keith, who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. If you would like to donate anything to MacMillan in Keith's memory then you can give the donation to Fr. Paul at St. Richard's or online at www.justgiving.com/keithclowes

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.

- RSC's "Julius Caesar" – Wednesday April 26th.
- RSC's "Anthony & Cleopatra" – Wednesday May 24th
- RSC's "Titus Andronicus" – Wednesday August 9th

April 29th - Fete du Vin

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall, 7.30pm - - £10.00 pp
Come along to an evening of wine tasting. Bread and cheese included to help soak it up. Spare bottles of wine will be auctioned. Sponsored by the Catenian Association. Please contact Des (07973 114365) or Eamonn 01942 892967 for tickets.

"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.

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 1.00pm at Westhoughton Golf Club. If you would like to play please contact Richard (07900385494) or Joe (07402332955). Alternatively you can contact Fr. Paul the Elder. Please note that Fr. Paul cannot play this year since he has to attend a Dean's Meeting on the same day, so you can't be in his team! Good luck!

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

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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1998.52
THOMAS	£ 196.16
Easter Flowers: (St. Ambrose)	£ 59.00

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today 'EASTER GIFT' (White envelopes)

Next Week Friends of the Holy Land

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

