

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

19th February 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday – 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 7

Sunday 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Wednesday Feast of the See of St. Peter the Apostle
Thursday St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
Next Sunday 8th 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

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus address himself to the question of how his disciples should conduct themselves when they are faced with hurt and hatred. Jesus develops the Law that he has received, "You have learnt how it was said...but I say to you..." Jesus quotes the ancient Law of retaliation which fixed the boundaries of vengeance. The Law stated, "Anyone who injures a neighbour shall receive the same in return, broken limb for broken limb, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As the injury inflicted, so will be the injury suffered." This might sound like a savage Law but it was introduced as a legal practice to limit blood feuds between communities. In traditional tribal life if a man of one tribe injured a man of another tribe there could be outright war in which all the members of both tribes were involved. There were no limitations on the revenge the offended tribe would take against the family and tribe of the offender.

The Law of "an eye for an eye" limited the retaliation to the penalty of the same injury. In its time, therefore, the law was merciful because it stopped whole families being wiped out. Jesus, however, revokes this law saying that his disciples must not be provoked into taking retaliation for the wrongs done against them. The disciples must not allow another person's hostility to be their cue for action. Their cue for response should be taken from the nature of their discipleship, not from the wrongs they have experienced. Jesus confirms the ancient Law that you should love your neighbour, but rejects any interpretation of the Law that permits people to hate their enemy. The Law called on the people of Israel to love their neighbour, but a neighbour was understood to be their fellow country men and women. Jesus rejects this limitation of love. In asking his disciples to love their enemies he is lifting all limitations to love. So no one is excluded from Christian love – not even the one who persecutes the disciple.

Jesus argues that the love his disciples give to people is not related to the love they received from others. It is not a social contract or a fair bargain. The disciple loves because love is the nature of being a disciple. A disciple is a son or daughter of the Father. The Father does not withhold the sun or the rain from those who oppose him. Likewise the disciple should not withhold their love from anyone who opposes them and shows themselves to be an enemy. The love is offered, not because Jesus thinks that it will change the enemy into something else. Certainly love may well confuse them or cause them to think about their lives and change their ways. Love is offered because this is what a disciple of the Kingdom of God should do. The disciple's script proceeds from who they are, not from what they receive from others. Jesus does not necessarily believe that love transforms enemies into instant friends. Love did not solve all of Jesus' problems with his enemies, and don't forget that during his life he had many. In the end he was the one who reached out to free others and was hurt in the process. The love he showed to others actually cost him his life. But he continued to love because he was the Son of the Father. Love IS his way and it stays his way no matter what appears on the agenda. May love be our way too.

Psalm Response The Lord is compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Lost Money

A sum of money was found in the car park at St. Richard's Church on Sunday morning, 5th February. If you think it might be yours then please contact Fr. Paul the Elder as soon as possible before he spends it!

Fr. Kevin Snape

Last week we shared the sad news of the death of Fr. Kevin Snape who spent 15 years as Parish Priest of Holy Family in Boothstown. He was also a Curate at Holy Name, Fazakerley, in the 1950s, the same Parish where the two Fr. Paul's have spent time in more recent years. Fr. Kevin's Funeral Mass will take place in St. Marie's Church, Standish, on Monday, February 20th at 11.00am. He will be buried with his parents at St. Chad's, South Hill. Please pray for him this week.

In Paradisum deducant eum angeli.

Justice & Peace Group

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

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.

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.

St. Richard's Church

We are just about there! At last!!! The heating system is up and running. We do, however, have problems with one of the boilers because the supply of gas to charge them both at the same time is inadequate. This problem is being looked at and resolved in the next few days. However it was designed so that we only need to use one of the new boilers – the second is a back-up to the main boiler. So hopefully, once the control panel has finally been set up, we should have a nice warm church. Thank-you everyone for your patience and understanding over the last few weeks. Everyone has been so very supportive.

A number of people have said that they have really enjoyed having midweek Mass in the side room so we will continue to use the side room in the Parish House for midweek Mass and also have a break from Wednesday morning Exposition between Christmas and Lent.

Trip to Oscott on Sunday, 19th March

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.

Many thanks. Fr Paul G.

Sacred Heart Parish Club

Congratulations to Ryan who completed 81.5 miles of the Mighty Merseyside Bike Ride. He raised £250 for Red Nose Day.



CAFOD Café

The **CAFOD Café** will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **next Sunday, February 26th**. Delicious home made cakes will be available, as well as tea, coffee, soft drinks, toast, tea cakes – and bacon butties!! Proceeds will go to our **CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia** project. The **Traidcraft** stall, with an array of fair trade produce, will also be available. Please come along if you can. You will be very welcome.

With You Always Preparation Sessions

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 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.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum takes in the Parish Hall at Ambrose Barlow, Astley, on Tuesday March 7th at 7.45pm. All welcome.

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.

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

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



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 – 7.30 am.**
- **St Richard's Church – 12 noon.**
- **Holy Family Church – 7.00 pm.**

Please note: No Mass in St Gabriel's as the schools will be celebrating a service of the Word with distribution of the Ashes during the day.

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.

Lent 2017 Reflections with Laudato Si' Care for our common home...

Living simply, sustainably and in solidarity

This booklet consists of five sessions and follows the format of previous resources "Mercy and our Common Home" (Lent 2016) and 'Reflections for Creation Time' (October 2016). Participating groups appreciated the combination of Sunday Gospel readings, excerpts from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical Laudato Si', case studies from home and overseas, questions to guide discussion, and opportunities to 'See – Judge – Act'. It contains the following endorsements:

"I want to encourage you to get involved with this new Lenten resource which the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have prepared to be used throughout England and Wales. It will help us in Lent on our spiritual journey to discover how we can take our place as prayerful Christians and active citizens locally and throughout the world." **The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.**

"Pope Francis frequently repeats his urgent invitation to us to be putting our faith into action in our decisions and choices. This Justice and Peace and CAFOD Lenten resource can help us to understand the challenges that face our world and lead us towards practical everyday ways in which we may take better care of our common home. The readings, prayers and suggestions will also help us during the Season of Lent to recognise God's plan for us and His presence in our lives." **The Right Reverend John Arnold, Bishop of Salford and Chairman of CAFOD.**

Details of times and venues of courses across the Deanery will be in the Newsletter next week.

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 in the Salvation Army Chapel on the following dates - March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th & April 2nd. The talks will be followed by a Palm Sunday United Service on Sunday April 9th at 6.30am in Atherton Salvation Army Chapel.

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 school time in Atherton Parish Church between March 20-25th.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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 8-30pm.

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 Singalong 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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1961.56
Racial Justice (+ St AB, tba)	£ 177.72
HCPT (St R's)	£ 49.16

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Church Action on Poverty
Next Week	Saint Vincent de Paul

The St Vincent de Paul Society (or as it is often known - the SVP) is an international Christian voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age or gender. The Society is a lay organisation initially formed in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his companions.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 19th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Lois & Francis O'Neill 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	(Sat) 6.00 pm Parishioners 11.00 am Mary Sharples	(Sat) 6.00 pm Georgina Roddy 9.30 am Hilda Woodward 6.30 pm Patrick Martin Page
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Alison Dand	<i>Mass at St. Ambrose Barlow</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Desmond O'Reilly		<i>No Exposition until March 8th</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Mass at St Richard's</i> 10.00 am Funeral Service for Neville Jones		9.15 am Christine Ann Johnson
FRIDAY	<i>Mass at St Richard's</i>		9.15 am Tom Watson
SATURDAY	<i>No Mass this morning</i>	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Vera & Jack Dean	6.00 pm Ken Gorse
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Bernie Bates 11.00 am Ann Moran 12.30pm Baptism	11.00 am George Stevenson	9.30 am Ted & Harriet Langin 6.30 pm John Haslam

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Brian Harrison	Mark O'Neil
Joyce Hankinson	Harold Lewis
Neville Jones	

Those who are sick, especially:

Emma Oldham	Pat O'Neill
Kathy Kenyon	Rev Jim Melia
Guy Ryan	Anne Broad
Shelagh Welsby	Margaret Case
Derek Maude	Joan Wilkinson
Catherine Jones	Margaret Smith
Michael Wright	Irene McIntyre
Agnes Pilkington	Susan Phillips
Margaret Hurley	Neil Hurley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Freda Peake
Ann Mellin	Leonard Beach
Margaret Dawson	Fon O'Hara
Maureen Halliday	Thomas Higgins
Enid Kenwright	Betty Rostern
Bernard O'Donnell	Nancy Heaton
Mary Tiernan	Eddie Leach
Wyn Wright	
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson	
Ted & Harriet Langin	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

No Mass or Confessions on Saturday morning at Holy Family.

Confession 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

Ellis Joseph Cootes

Aidan Scott Riley

May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading

Isaiah 49:14-15

Isaiah's words of consolation and hope, first spoken to the exiles in Babylon, are now spoken to us.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

God is the only one who can judge rightly, because he alone knows the secrets of the heart.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus urges us to place our lives in the hands of our Heavenly father, to whom we are important and precious.