

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

19th March 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 3
Readings	Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Lent (A) Weekdays – Lent, Wk 3
Sunday	3rd Sunday of Lent (A)
Monday	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday	Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
Next Sunday	4th Sunday of Lent (A) <i>(Laetare Sunday)</i>



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

We never hear her name, but the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel has the longest conversation recorded between Jesus and any other person. It was noon on a hot day. Jesus chose a rest stop – Jacob's well, outside the town of Sychar – while waiting for his disciples to bring some food. The woman who joined him at the well was an outcast, looked down upon by her own people. She came along to draw water from the community well when, during Biblical times, drawing water and chatting at the well were perhaps the highlight of many people's day. But this woman was ostracized and marked as immoral, an unmarried woman living openly with the sixth in a series of men. When this unnamed woman appeared with clay jar in hand, Jesus made a simple request: "Give me a drink." But Jews were not supposed to speak to Samaritans, especially women. Men were simply not allowed to speak to women unless their husbands were present. And Rabbis certainly had no business speaking to a woman like the one in today's Gospel. Jesus was willing to ignore the rules, but the woman reminded him, "You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" She focused on the laws of respectable society. Jesus focused on love, acceptance and grace. Jesus let her know that he was aware of the suffering in her life. And then, to this woman, Jesus revealed that he was the Messiah, offering her living water. She forgot about her own need to fetch water, and ran to tell the others about Jesus. She became a powerful evangelist.

Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche community throughout the world, which reaches out to vulnerable people, suggests that we can all learn a lot from the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel. In a sense she represents each and every one of us. Jean Vanier says, "We are all this Samaritan woman for we are all wounded in some way in love, and have a history of broken friendships." Whenever we feel left out, mistreated, passed over, not chosen, rejected, unsafe, whenever we feel judged, condemned, or bad about ourselves, then Jesus comes to us to give us hope and encouragement. Jesus' ministering to the outcasts of Jewish society reveals that all people are valuable to God and that Jesus desires that we demonstrate love to everyone in a similar way, including our so-called enemies. Jesus' mission to those who are lost is a radical commission – it means leaving our comfort zone and making ourselves vulnerable in order to love people who are different. And great insights can come from those on the margins of society, who receive God's message with humility, trust and joy. The story of the woman at the well teaches us that God loves every one of us, especially those of us who feel undervalued and even worthless. God values us all enough to actively seek us and engage with us. The Samaritan woman understood what this means – to be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything there of value. As we continue our journey through Lent let us pray that we may always value others and know that we are valuable to God, for we are his daughters and sons.

Psalm Response

O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts.'

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



HCPT Appeal

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

HCPT Help a Helper Family Ceilidh Night - Thank You

Thanks to everyone who came on Saturday. Hope you all had a great night. On the night we made £565, a fantastic amount. We also received some very generous donations. Thank you so much for your support. Eleanor



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.

A big 'thank you' to all the sponsors of the CAFOD Lenten Café.

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.

Parish Trip to Oscott, TODAY, 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**, arriving at Oscott at 15.40.
- Departing from Oscott at 19.15 and arriving in Boothstown at 21.25.

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.

Romero Centenary Mass

The 37th Romero Mass, which will celebrate the centenary of Blessed Oscar Romero's birth, takes place in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool **TODAY, Sunday 19th March at 11.00am**, followed by blessing of the new Romero statue. For more details see the posters at the back of church.

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, 7.30am
- Holy Family, Boothstown – Fridays, 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.

Why not do something extra during Lent this year?

Lenten Reconciliation Service

A Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place in St. Richard's Church **THIS Thursday, March 23rd at 7.00pm**.

This is an opportunity for prayer during which the priests of the deanery will be available to celebrate individual Reconciliation (Confession). All are welcome.

"With You Always" Preparation Sessions

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

- **Tuesday March 28th in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm**,
- **Thursday March 30th 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.

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

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 third Lenten Reflection session will take place **this Wednesday March 22nd**.

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.



Reflect:

Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well tells us of her recognition of her need for someone to forgive her, to understand her. Despite past sin, Jesus engages us, as he engaged the woman, in a conversation about our deepest need. At times we live restless lives, hardly knowing what will satisfy and quench our nameless longing - the longing for God who is waiting for us to recognise him each day, in all things, in all people we encounter on our journey through life.

Pray:

Father of love, you pour out your abundant love in the waters of Baptism. Help me to grow in your love as your child. May I be a witness for you to all I meet.

Act:

In the sacramental life of the Church, the water of Baptism is our entry into the family of God. Acknowledge this each time you enter the church by dipping your fingers in the holy water font and praying the Sign of the Cross.

Challenge:

How do we use water in this bountiful country we live in? Be aware of the amount of water you consume each day. Consider where you can cut back. Limit your shower to 2 minutes; make sure you have a full load before you put on the washer; buy a water butt for the garden - these are just a few ways of conserving water.

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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 19th, 26th & April 2nd. The talks will be followed by a Palm Sunday United Service on Sunday April 9th at 6.30pm in Atherton Salvation Army Chapel.

Atherton Foodbank

Atherton Foodbank, which regularly gives out food from the Parish Church, need donations of sugar, tinned meat and tinned fruit. At present there is no need for beans or soup as they have plenty in stock at the moment. If you could donate anything why not do so at one of the local supermarkets or at the Parish Church itself when it is open during the day.

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."

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 **this week, between March 20-25th**.

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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2009.92
CAFOD Lent Fast Day	£879.82

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

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

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 19th March	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Anthony Dermody 11.00 am Margaret Baybutt 12.30pm <i>Baptism</i> <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vera & Jack Dean 11.00 am Robert Henry	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Geraghty 9.30 am Les Corner 6.30 pm Joyce Hankinson
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Michael & Anne Donelan <i>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Kathleen Ryan <i>97th Birthday (16th March)</i>	7.30 am Special Intention	9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am Thanksgiving		9.15 am John & Alice Regan
FRIDAY	6.30 am Vocations 10.00 am Private Intention <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 Geraldine Baker
SATURDAY	10.00 am Mary Hall	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Brian Gerrity	6.00 pm Thomas Albert Proctor
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Veronica Walsh 11.00 am Mary Evans 12.30pm <i>Baptism</i> <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	11.00 am Brian Lloyd	9.30 am Rufino & Andrea Kinamot 6.30 pm Catherine O'Connor

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:
Thomas Albert Proctor
Joan Mullin

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

Reconciliation Service - this Thursday, 23rd March at 7.00pm in St Richard's church

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 6.00pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.

Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith

Edward Arthur Richard Neild

Florence Rose Judge

May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

First Reading *1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13*

Many of Jesse's sons would have looked the part of king to succeed the disgraced Saul. Yet David, the youngest and almost forgotten, is anointed by Samuel as God's choice of king.

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:8-14*

A people once in darkness are now light in the Lord. As such, we are called to live as children of the light, shunning sin and darkness.

Gospel Reading *John 9:1-41*

Jess cures a man born blind, but in the discourse that follows, it becomes apparent that those with physical sight can still be in total darkness in terms of awareness of God.