

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

20th August 2017



DEANERY TEAM

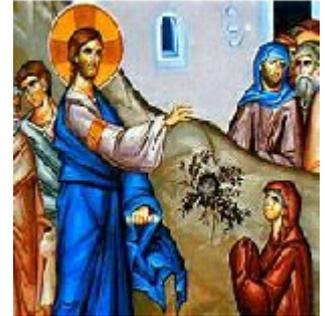
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Email:	paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk	Email:	frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com
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Tel:	01942 673517	Tel:	01942 673517 or 731280
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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday – 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 20

Sunday 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Monday St. Pius X, Pope
Tuesday The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Saturday Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Mother of God
Next Sunday 21st 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 the Gospel this weekend Jesus withdraws from Jewish territory and crosses into the region of Tyre and Sidon. He is escaping from his opponents who are exasperated at the way he allows his disciples to break with the tradition of the Jewish elders, ignoring the laws about being clean or unclean. If Jesus is trying to escape from this problem, he is heading for a big disappointment. He comes face to face with the same question in a much larger form. A pagan woman comes to him, hoping that he will have mercy on her and heal her daughter. Matthew refers to her as a Canaanite woman – the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed by the Hebrews. This woman symbolizes all those who are regarded as unclean by Jesus' own people. Will Jesus answer her plea or not? Jesus' silence suggests an unwillingness to answer the woman's needs. This, at least, is how the disciples interpret it at first, and they plead with Jesus to do them a favour by getting rid of the woman. Jesus explains his exclusive mission: he is sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. This woman, therefore, is not his problem. She is outside the territory of his pastoral concern. The woman, however, has no intention of bowing to these theological traditions which leave her out in the cold and abandon her daughter to a life of torment. She stops Jesus in his tracks and pleads with him. Jesus responds by using a harsh parable, one which voices his own people's traditional attitude to the likes of this woman: "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Only Jews have a right to be treated as "children" of God apparently. Yet the woman is not diverted by this and remembers the reason why she is there. She tells Jesus that even dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table. In her response she has outwitted Jesus in a way that none of his learned opponents ever managed. She recognized that people were rejecting Jesus. She, however, had great faith in him. Jesus recognized this and her daughter was cured.

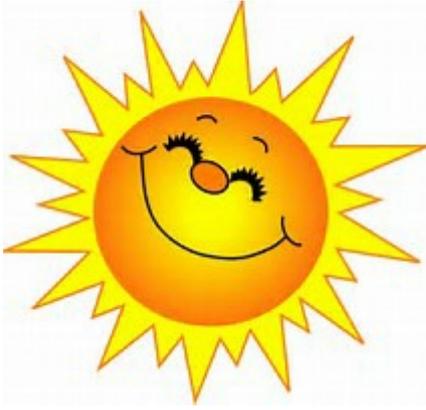
Only twice in the Gospels does Jesus leave Jewish territory. Although his attitude to the Gentile woman seems out of keeping with the way he usually treats people, it probably does reflect strict Jewish-Christian thinking in the early Church. All the first Christians were Jews. Many of them still regarded Gentiles as unclean. This included St. Peter at one stage. In the Acts of the Apostles he had to be converted to a new way of thinking and was forced to accept people into the early Church. St. Paul, although a strict Pharisee himself, comes on the scene as the one who spearheads the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. Paul sets an example for the whole Christian Church – if we believe that Christ died for EVERYONE, then no one should be excluded from the all-embracing reach of God's love. The story of the Canaanite woman reminds us that everyone is welcome in God's house. Do we welcome them too?

Psalm Response Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Acclamation The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



Sunday Mass Times - Summer Schedule

Please remember that during the month of August we will be continuing our **Summer Mass schedule**. So we are having a trial run with the following Sunday morning Mass times:-

- **Holy Family** 8.45 am
- **St. Richard's** 10.00 am
- **St. Ambrose Barlow** 11.15 am

The usual Mass times, including the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass, will resume once again on the first weekend of September, 2nd & 3rd.

Midweek Mass Times

Please check the Newsletter each week for the times of Masses during the week in each Church. If one of the priests is away then the other will cover and say Masses in the other churches too. So the usual weekday Mass time schedule would be as follows:-

- **Tuesday** 9.15 am **St. Ambrose Barlow**
- **Wednesday** 7.00 pm **Holy Family**
- **Thursday** 9.15 am **St. Richard's**
- **Friday** 9.15 am **St. Richard's OR**
10.00 am **St. Gabriel's School**
(during term time)

Please note that this ONLY applies when there is only ONE priest in the Parish. These times can change if a Funeral comes in. So please check the Newsletter for up to date details.

Mass Intentions

Recently a number of people have made requests for Masses to be said on specific dates but allowed very little time for the requests to be met. If you wish to have a Mass said on a specific date then you must give at least one month's notice. Even then we cannot guarantee that the Mass will be said on the date requested. This depends on whether the date has gone already, whether there is actually a Mass on that date (don't forget that all four priests are involved in other groups on an Archdiocesan level now and could be called away to meetings which can affect the Mass schedule) and of course a funeral may be arranged for the date you had requested. Obviously the funeral must have priority. Also there are fewer Masses at the moment so it takes a while to get round to saying all the Masses that have been requested.

So, in short, if you wish to have a Mass intention said on a particular date please write it down and hand it in to Church at least one month before the date itself to give us the optimum chance of saying the Mass on the date requested. And thank you for your patience.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to **Angela & Stephen** who were married at St. Ambrose Barlow Church last weekend, and to **Gemma & Jamie** who are getting married in Holy Family Church this week. We wish them every blessing and happiness in their future lives together.

Sacred Heart Parish Club

Sacred Heart Parish Club is due to reopen on **1st September**. Further details of the weekly programme of events will follow as more emphasis will be on organised functions especially over the weekend.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum takes place on **Tuesday 5th September** at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall at St. Ambrose Barlow. All welcome.

Annual Feastday Mass

The annual Feastday to celebrate the lives of our patron saints, **Edmund Arrowsmith & Margaret Clitherow**, will take place on **Wednesday September 6th** at 7.00 pm in **Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Leigh**.

The Craft Class

The Craft Class will resume on **Thursday 7th September** at 10.00 am in St. Richard's Church Hall.

Tweets from Pope Francis during August

- When something makes us suffer, let us listen to the voice of Jesus in our hearts: "Do not fear! Go ahead! I am with you!"
- Forgiveness sets our hearts free and allows us to start anew. Forgiveness gives hope. Without forgiveness, the Church is not built up.
- Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, but is able to see a tomorrow.

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



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

“Fatima At Home” Day

A reminder that, after our recent Pilgrimage to Fatima, we have decided to have a “**Fatima At Home**” Day in October, to celebrate the centenary of the last Apparition of Our Lady to the children. So an early warning, a note for your diaries, that we will have a “**Fatima At Home**” event during October on the following dates:-

- **Friday October 13th**
Holy Hour in St. Richard’s Church at 7.00pm.
- **Saturday October 14th**
Mass of Anointing, St. Richard’s Church at 12noon.

In September we will start having planning meetings to prepare for the occasion so please watch this space for further details.

Living Fully

“Living Fully” is a new initiative introduced by the Nugent Care Society to enable every child and adult with a disability to encounter Jesus in the life of the Church today. A day of study, worship and workshops will take place soon exploring how all life is a gift from God and how every person has a valuable and dignified place within the Body of Christ, the Church. The day will take place at LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, on **Saturday 23rd September** from 10.00am-4.00pm. Cost is £10 which includes lunch.

“Come & See” Conference

The next Archdiocesan “Come & See” Conference will take place at Christ The King High School, Stamford Road, Southport, over the weekend of **October 14/15th**. The keynote speaker this year will be Fr. Timothy Radcliffe. There are many other workshops and prayer sessions taking place over the weekend. For more information please contact Jenny at Irenaeus on 01519491199 or by email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or www.irenaeus.co.uk.

Reflect:

Today’s readings remind us that Jesus came to redeem all humankind and that God is Lord of the whole world and not exclusive to just ourselves.

It’s easy to put people into boxes and maybe we sometimes differentiate between others whom we deem to be ‘worthy’ or ‘unworthy’ of our support. Yet we are all in need of the gift of other people at times and need to accept that in God’s eyes we are all equally precious.

Pray:

O Lord, God of life

Who cares for all creation, give us your peace.

May our security come not from arms, but from respect.

May our force not be of violence, but of love.

May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.

May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.

May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness...

(Prayer extract from the Ecumenical conference, Brazil in ‘Livesimply a CAFOD resource for living’)

Act:

The news this week tells us of devastation caused by floods in Sierra Leone; famine in Yemen; the deaths of young children due to inadequate medical resources in India; conflict within and between countries in Latin America, in Saudi, in Africa and more reports of the suffering of people throughout the world due to events or situations over which they have no control.

Take time to consider your own life. Where do you stand in the overall global picture? How does your poverty compare with those who have had everything washed away in floodwater; whose families have been torn apart or destroyed in areas of conflict; who have no fresh water to drink; who only have a handful of rice to feed themselves with; who have no shelter.

Challenge:

What can we do in the face of such challenges? It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the suffering of others. And yet we are all God’s people. Can we give something tangible such as a donation of goods or food? Can we give of our time in prayer or action? Can we physically do something such as sharing a meal with others, or using the resources we have for the benefit of others. Let us ask the Lord to guide us along his path, to open our eyes to his presence in others.

Creation Time: 1st September – 4th October 2017

Pope Francis has asked us to mark this period with prayer, reflection and action in relation to the Earth and our place upon it and so the Liverpool Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have produced a resource for parishes called *Reflections During Creation Time: Praying with the Gospels, stories from our time and Laudato Si’*. Like the resource we used last year, this one can be used as a course or as a series of one-off sessions following each of the five Sundays and comprises the Sunday’s Gospel, case studies, quotations from Laudato Si’ as well as opportunities for reflection, prayers and an invitation to action.

This year there will be sessions running at St Ambrose Barlow, St Richard’s and St Joseph’s. Further details of the times etc will be in next week’s Newsletter.

LAST WEEK’S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1802.07
Housing Justice	£ 243.59

Previous Week, 6th August, including St. Ambrose Barlow

Offertory total £1712.57

Catholic Deaf Association total £ 265.62

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Samaritans
Next Week	Monthly SVP Collection

The Samaritans are available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts.

Website: www.samaritans.org

‘SVP’ stands for ‘St Vincent de Paul’. There is an SVP Group in most Catholic parishes whose sole purpose is to reach out to those who are struggling and in need in the community in which we live. The monthly SVP collection assists us in this ministry. Thank you for the support you give consistently throughout the year. It really does help to change lives.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 20th August	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	8.45 am 40th Wedding Anniversary	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Burke 11.15 am Anthony Dermody	(Sat) 6.00 pm Marie Langin 10.00 am John Pearson NO 6.30 pm Mass
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		11.15 am Funeral Mass for Leslie Almond	Sorry, No Mass today
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Dorothea McGuire		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	Mass at St. Richard's		9.15 am James Moran
FRIDAY		Mass at St. Richard's	9.15 am Gertrude Sandelands
SATURDAY	No Morning Mass or Confessions	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Bridget Walsh	6.00 pm Dorothy Hunt
NEXT SUNDAY	8.45 am Alice & Frank Giron Conland	11.15 am Alice Wilde	10.00 am Nancy Heaton NO 6.30 pm Mass

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Kevin Hayes	Dorothy Joan Angel
Baby Clara May Travers	Leslie Almond
Margaret Ann Weir	Geoff Molyneux
Peter Hampson	Joan Knight

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	Freda Peake
Margaret Hurley	Sr Megan Haisley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Leonard Beach
Ann Mellin	Fon O'Hara
Margaret Dawson	Thomas Higgins
Maureen Halliday	Betty Rostern
Enid Kenwright	Wyn Wright
Bernard O'Donnell	James Pickering
Mary Tiernan	Bridie Molyneux
Ted & Harriet Langin	Gwenda Byers
Baby George	Edward Leach
Margaret Aspden	Patricia Wilson
Irene Burke	Gerald Hackett
Margaret Wall	John Wall

N.B. If you are better and want your name to be taken off the sick list please tell one of the priests. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After 6.00pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
 Confession also available by request or by appointment.
*No Mass or Confessions on Saturdays at Holy Family until
 9th September.*

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith
William Ray McGee
Harriet Patricia Teresa Gray
Alice Olivia Fish
James Paul Nuttall
 May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading *Isaiah 22:19-23*
 Isaiah writes of one man being dismissed from high office, and the keys of authority are passed to another. The New Testament applies this text to Jesus.

Second Reading *Romans 11:33-36*
 St. Paul shares a hymn of praise to the wisdom of God, which is far too deep for us to fathom.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 16:13-20*
 Peter declares his faith in Jesus, and Jesus promises to make him the "rock" on which he will build his Church.