

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

6th Sunday of Easter (A)

21st May 2017



DEANERY TEAM

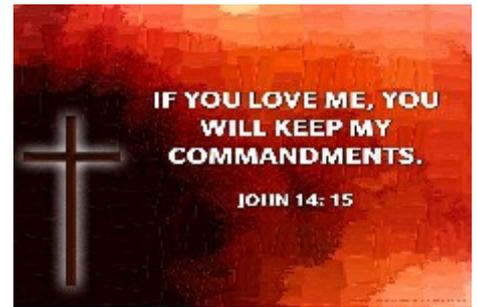
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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – 6th Sunday of Easter (A)
Weekdays – Easter, Wk 6

Sunday 6th Sunday of Easter (A)
Thursday St. Bede the Venerable
Friday St. Philip Neri
Saturday Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury
Next Sunday Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
(World Communications Day)



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 parting of friends is never easy. But some partings are harder than others. The most painful parting of all happens when someone dies. It is the finality which makes this parting so painful, and the fact that we can do nothing about it. On the night before he died Jesus talked openly to his disciples about his own death. Except that he didn't speak of death in the way we would usually do. He spoke of death as a kind of "going away", of "going to the Father". But all the disciples heard was that he was leaving them. He wasn't abandoning them, which is what they could well have thought. He was not rejecting them, as people sometimes do when they "leave" someone. There is a "leaving" which is necessary because it is for the good of the one leaving. For example, a person leaving to return home or leaving to take up a better job somewhere else. Jesus' leaving is, to some extent, for his own good for he is return to the Father in Heaven. However his leaving is also for the good of the disciples. He will leave them to their own gifts and talents and send them the gift of the Holy Spirit which will transform them. Perhaps this may not have happened had Jesus stayed with them. So his departure would not leave them unsupported and unguided, as they feared. He said to them, "I will not leave you orphans."

There is another promise that would bring the disciples great consolation as Jesus left them. Even as he spoke about leaving them, he spoke about coming back to them. He would come to them through the Spirit, and he would come to them himself. They did encounter him after the resurrection. And even though after the ascension they would see him no more, he assured them that he would still be with them, even to the very end of time. Jesus did not leave his disciples orphaned or desolate. By their faith they were able to "see" him, and through their obedience to his commandments, they were drawn into a loving communion with him. Jesus does not leave us orphaned. We too are called to his presence and to the gifts of the Holy Spirit just like the first disciples. Jesus is not meant to be present as a vague memory of a person who lived long ago, but as a real, life-giving presence who transforms our lives each day. Nowhere do we feel so close to him as when we receive him in the Eucharist. The food of the Eucharist gives us the strength to live out his Word, to live as his disciples each day and to recognize him in each other.

Psalms Response Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation Jesus said: "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

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 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.

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 this coming 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' Social Night

The next Parish Singalong social night will be at **Sacred Heart (Hindsford) Parish Centre**
Next Friday, 26th May
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 Classic Pop songs from the 50's to the present day, 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. Hot pasties will be on sale at the interval.

Support our Parish Centre and have a good night out.

Admission free!



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses next Sunday, May 28th. On sale there will be delicious home made cakes 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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).

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 if you can. New members always 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 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.

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



Reflect:

Today's Gospel message can be summed up in the sentence, "If you love me you will keep my commandments". What does this mean to me?

'Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others. There is an energy of love which is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. There are times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others. Many of us do not realise that in this way we have been Christ-bearers. In listening to another, in care of all sorts, in putting ourselves out for the other, in working for justice and for peace the Spirit of God is alive and people are touched by God's love through the co-operation of ordinary men and women. Lord, make our love cheerful and kind. Let us know always that human love reflects your love.'

Donal Neary SJ

St Teresa's prayer

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks, with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, you are his eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes through which he looks, with compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Act:

Acknowledge the presence of the people in your life. Show them you care by taking time to be with them, talk with them, listen to them; perform an act of kindness for them. Thank them for the things they do to make your life special that show you how much you are loved.

Challenge:

It's easy to show our love for those who surround us every day, our families, our friends and acquaintances. But what about those whom we do not know - those who are struggling to make ends meet; the sick and housebound; the mentally impaired; the friendless; those on the margins of society; the homeless person in the street; refugees seeking to escape the terrors of their own country?

What practical thing can I do this week to express my solidarity with those less fortunate than myself?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 next two weeks are:

Monday 29th May: Jubilee Organ Recital by James Luxton

Friday to Monday, 2nd - 5th June: Cathedral Flower Festival: Cathedral Life - A Floral Tribute, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Saturday 3rd June: Golden Jubilee Dinner

Sunday 4th June: Solemn Jubilee Mass, 11.00am - 12.00pm

FORTHCOMING ECUMENICAL EVENTS

Ecumenical Walk

All are welcome to take part in a walk of witness on **Thursday 1st June** led by two Anglican Bishops. This will begin at St Stephen's, Astley at 8.00am with a short service before walking to St Mary's, Leigh to arrive around 10.15am. This is part of a prayer initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

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.

St Stephen's presents its Summer Concert:

Spanish Connection



Salva Contreras Gila (Clarinet)

+

Javier Navascues (Cello)

10th June 2017

7.00 for 7.30pm

Admission £10.00

Wine Bar + Raffle

St Stephen's, Manchester Road, Astley

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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1932.47

Aid to the Church in Need £ 247.46

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Friends of the Holy Land

Next Week

Catholic Communications Network

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

World Communications Day is kept in the Catholic Church worldwide next Sunday, 28th May. The day is about highlighting the way the Church uses the media to proclaim the Gospel. The second collection will go to support the Catholic Communications Network, which is the Church's media office in the UK. Website: www.catholicnews.org.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 21st May	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Thank You 11.00 am Margaret Burke First Holy Communions 12.30 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Agnes Wilkinson 11.00 am Annie Murphy First Holy Communions	(Sat) 6.00 pm Malcolm McLoughlin 9.30 am Mary & Martin Furey First Holy Communions 6.30 pm Mary & Alan Charlton
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Fanning Family	9.15 am Joyce & Bill Hankinson
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Deceased Members of Maude & Taylor Families		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition Blessed Sacrament</i> 11.00 am Funeral Mass for Margaret Owen
THURSDAY	10.00 am Mrs J Lines Birthday		9.15 am Patrick McCafferty
FRIDAY	10.00 am Anastasia Giblin <i>(Mass in St Gabriel's School)</i>		9.15 am Our Lady Of Fatima
SATURDAY	10.00 am Anthony Walsh	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Kateryna Batrak	6.00 pm Ellen Minshull
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Patrick McCafferty 11.00 am Anastasia Giblin 12.30 pm Baptism	11.00 am Simon, B&N Atkinson's Grandson First Holy Communions	9.30 am A Special Intention First Holy Communions 6.30 pm Margaret Brown

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Caitlin Bradbury
Niall Dearnaley
Margaret Owen
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson

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 Ted & Harriet Langin James Pickering	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
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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.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Alexander Louis Clementson, Elizabeth Anne Clementson,
Oscar Tomlinson, Aurora King,
Rowan Ainscough & Louie James Littlewood
 May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Ascension of the Lord (A)

First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*
 Jesus ascends to the Father in Heaven. He promises to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Second Reading *Ephesians 1:17-23*
 Paul describes the meaning of the Ascension – God raised Jesus above all earthly powers, and made him Head of the Church and Lord of all creation.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 28:16-20*
 Jesus commissions the apostles to preach the Gospel to all nations, and promises to remain with them always.