

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

22nd January 2017



DEANERY TEAM

Priest:	Fr. Paul Seddon	Priest:	Fr. Paul Grady
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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 3
Readings	Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 3
Sunday	3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) <i>(Unity of Christians)</i>
Tuesday	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor
Wednesday	Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
Thursday	Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops
Saturday	St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor
Next Sunday	3rd 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

Throughout his Gospel Matthew compares the arrival of Jesus to the coming of a great light to people who had been living in darkness. He saw Jesus as fulfilling the great prophecy of Isaiah: "The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned." Mother Theresa once shared a story about a man who was brought out of the darkness. One day in Melbourne, Australia, she visited a poor man whom nobody knew existed. The room in which he was living was in a terrible state of untidiness and neglect. There was no light in the room. The man hardly ever opened the blinds. He hadn't a friend in the world. She started to clean and tidy the room. At first he protested, saying, "Leave it alone. It's all right as it is." But she went ahead and continued cleaning anyway. Under a pile of rubbish she found a beautiful oil lamp covered with dust. She cleaned and polished it. Then she asked him, "Why do you never light the lamp?" "Why should I light it?" he replied. "No one ever comes to see me."

"Will you light it if one of my sisters comes to see you?"

"Yes", he replied. "If I hear a human voice I'll light the lamp."

Two of Mother Theresa's nuns began to visit him on a regular basis. Life gradually improved for him. Then one day he said to the nuns, "Sisters, I'll be able to manage on my own from now on. But do me a favour. Tell that first sisters who came to see me that the light she lit in my life is still burning." At first he didn't like the light. He felt threatened by it. It made him uncomfortable. Why? Because it showed up the misery in which he was living – first of all, the physical misery, then the misery of spirit. But gradually he came to see the light as a friend, which comforted him and brought hope into his dark existence. Thus he slowly turned his life around. The light saved him. Of course, it wasn't the lamp that did this, but the kindness and goodness it symbolized, first in Mother Theresa herself then in the two sisters who continued visiting him.

In order to appreciate the light we must be conscious of the darkness. We have to realise our need to change from the darkness to the light. To repent is to admit the darkness in which we are living, and to open ourselves up to the light. We show our repentance by a new way of living. To be saved is to come out of the darkness into the light. Each of us perhaps have areas of darkness in our lives – fear, illness, pain, sin, guilt, loneliness, and so on. Society as a whole has darkness too. This is why we need Christ's light in our lives. Though the light comes as a friend, it also disturbs because it shows up what is wrong. There are still many people who live in darkness and in the shadow of death. We need the light of Christ now more than ever. Fortunately the lamp Jesus lit continues to burn, a glowing goodness that illuminates the world. It burns in the lives of his followers today. The light of Jesus did not come to judge us, but to save us, to show us how to live, to show us the way to the Father's Kingdom. Each of us can be sources of light in this darkened world. Indeed we are all called to this task. But unless we choose the light ourselves, we won't be able to enlighten anyone else. There is great joy in being in the light. And there is an even greater joy in being a source of light to others.

Psalm Response The Lord is my help and my light.

Gospel Acclamation Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Christian Unity Service - Sunday 22nd January, 4.00pm at Boothstown Methodist Church (Fr Paul the Younger is preaching)
Ecumenical Compline (Night Prayer) - Tuesday 24th January 7.00pm at St John's, Mosley Common.

St. Richard's 500 Club

Please note that from January 2017 the **500 club** will be run by **Mr Michael Farrimond and Mr James Duffy**, and the Monthly Draw will take place during the Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass at St. Richard's on the first Sunday of every month. **New members welcome.**

Save Stamps for Charity

If you would like to save stamps for charity they can be placed in the red box at the back of St Ambrose Church.

Bags2School – Guides

Please note that St Ambrose Barlow Guides are holding a clothes collection on Friday 27th January.

Bags can be brought in and dropped off after Sunday Mass or alternatively on Thursday 19th and 26th January between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. You can also leave your bag at the church hall between 8.30am and 9.00am on Friday 27th.

You can collect a bag from the back of church or you can just use a bin liner, that's fine too! Items that we are collecting are clothing, footwear, towels, linen, bags, belts and soft toys.

Thank you so much for your support as this funding helps us with our annual subscriptions fee which was over £700 last year.

If you would like us to collect any items for you, please contact Delia on 01942 884576 or text 07753 929476.

Regards, Delia, Bernadette and the team.

St Ambrose Barlow 200 Club:

Numbers have been drawn for those people who have already joined the 200 Club and are available from Steve at the back of church this weekend. If you have been intending to join but haven't yet got around to it – don't worry, there's still time. The first draw will take place **after the 11.00am Mass TODAY Sunday, 22nd January**. You have until then to get yourselves signed up. To make sure you are entered into the first draw see Steve at the back of church or call him on 07952 152371.

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.



HCPT *The Pilgrimage Trust*

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

Quiz @ St. Stephen's

There will be a Quiz Night at St Stephen's School, Astley on Friday 17th February at 7.30pm. Tickets £4.00, this includes refreshments. There is no bar, so please bring your own alcoholic/soft drinks. More information from Steve Cooper.

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.

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.

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for the newsletter are sent in no later than Wednesday evening. **For Sundays 22nd, 29th January and 5th, 12th February please send new items to one of the priests as the regular newsletter editor will be unavailable.** 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.boothstownholysacredheart.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk

www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk

www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Joseph's Players Pantomime

St Joseph's Players will present their pantomime, "**Robinson Crusoe**" in St Joseph's Hall, Leigh from **18th January to 28th January 2017**. Evenings at 7.15pm. Matinees, 21st, 22nd, 23rd from 2.00pm. Special Offer, 18th and 19th, all tickets £4. Tickets available from Stones Carpets, Chapel Street, Leigh (opposite Church).



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses on **Sunday, January 29th**. Delicious home made cakes will be available, as well as tea, coffee, soft drinks, toast, tea cakes – and bacon butties!! And, as a special extra to this post-Christmas Café, there will be a **Tombola**. If you have any donations, superfluous Christmas gifts etc you would like to donate to this, they would be very gratefully received. 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.

Live Screenings at Cineworld

We have in the past advertised the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh. It was great to meet up with other parishioners to watch a live performance and enjoy each other's company. There are two more good looking performances coming up soon:

- National Theatre's "Amadeus" – Thursday, February 2nd at 7.00pm.
- National Theatre's "St. Joan" – Thursday, February 16th.



"With You Always" Catechists Meeting

As we prepare for the up-coming "With You Always" preparation course, there will be a meeting of catechists for St. Ambrose Barlow and St. Richard's on **Tuesday February 7th at 7.00 pm**. The meeting will be held at St. Richard's Parish House.

St Patrick's Night at 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.

Parish Visit to Oscott

A reminder about the parish trip to **St. Mary's College, Oscott**, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Birmingham serving the Catholic Church in England, Wales & Scotland. The visit will take place on **Sunday 19th March 2017** and will follow the pattern: arrival about 4.00pm, afternoon tea, tour of the college, evening prayer 6.30pm, departure about 7.00pm. Please let Fr Paul G know if you would like to go on the visit.

Over 60's Afternoon – 18th March 2017

Every year, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community welcomes persons over 60 years of age to an afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.00 pm followed by a meal and entertainment. We can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities. We will, of course extend our invitation to those who were invited last year. We do have a number of places available free this year. If you have not attended in the past please contact us to arrange invitations.

As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend any Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, plus those who help at our community events on a regular basis.

If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Delia (07753 929476), Jackie B. (01942 516619) or Steve (01942 876487) **before January 31st** who will pass your request on to the organisers. Invitations then will be issued, according to the above criteria and subject to numbers.

Parish Forum

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the Parish Forum last Tuesday. Many different items were discussed. The minutes will be circulated before the next meeting which takes in the Parish Hall at Ambrose Barlow, Astley, on Tuesday March 7th at 7.45pm. All welcome.

Justice & Peace Group

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

The Craft Class

The Craft Class, which usually meets in St. Richard's Parish Centre, will resume their meetings on Thursday February 9th from 10am-12noon. All welcome.

St Margaret Clitherow SVP Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1st February, 2017 after the 7.00 p.m. Mass at Holy Family Church. This is for all members so please come along if you can.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Teddy Joshua Carter **Barney Nolan**
May God bless them and their families

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 2009.22
Pax Christi	£ 283.48
SVP	£ 36.46
Quiz Night	£ 197.00

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Survive Miva Appeal
Next Week	Monthly SVP Collection

Survive-Miva is a Catholic lay association based in Liverpool which exists to provide one vital element for the success of the Church's health and pastoral work in areas of great need - a means of transport. www.survive-miva.org

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 22nd January	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Kelly & Daniel and Nellie Conneely 11.00 am Rev Jim Melia 12.30 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Brian Gerrity 11.00 am Thomas Unsworth	(Sat) 6.00 pm Theresa Cunningham 9.30 am Mary Charlton 6.30 pm Theresa Kelly
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joseph Rigby 11.00am Funeral Mass Bernadette Kelly	9.15 am <i>Mass in Ambrose Barlow Church</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Ernest & Ena Thompson		<i>No Exposition until March</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am Frank Bryan		9.15 am Colin Brett
FRIDAY	10.00 am Sheila Ruddy <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Margaret Brown
SATURDAY	10.00 am Anthony Dermody	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Julia Gallagher	6.00 pm Tony McKiernan
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Joseph Delaney 11.00 am Mike Power 12.30pm Baptism	11.00 am Terry Kearns	9.30 am Paddy Furey 6.30 pm Gerry Burke

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Anne Braithwaite

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 Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson	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
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions 10.30 am on Saturday
after morning Mass at Holy Family.
Confession also available by request or by appointment

After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading *Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13.*
The prophet Zephaniah holds out hope of salvation for those who seek God, and for those who practice integrity and humility in their lives.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:26-31.*
God chooses the poor, the weak, and the lowly, people who are conscious of their limitations, and who therefore rely on God rather than on themselves.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5:1-12.*
We see the values of Christ preached and lived – values he wishes to see in his followers.