

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday (A)

23rd April 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Sunday 2nd Sunday of Easter (A)
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
Monday Solemnity of St George, Patron of England
Tuesday Feast of St Mark, Evangelist
Saturday Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe
Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of Easter (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

The first disciples of Jesus had the rare privilege of knowing him whilst he walked the roads of Palestine. They saw what he did; they heard what he said; they touched him and were touched by him. Travelling around with Jesus they saw him at work: preaching, healing, forgiving, challenging, praying, eating, struggling, suffering and dying. During his public ministry Jesus was gradually revealing himself through everything he did, not just by what he said. Sometimes we imagine that everything must have been very clear to the disciples, but the Gospels remind us that many of the things Jesus did and said actually confused them. During Jesus' public ministry the disciples could not see for themselves the whole truth about Jesus: they came to that truth only after the resurrection when they received from Jesus the Spirit of truth. Jesus informs the disciples in John's Gospel: "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything to remind you of all I have said to you." It is only when the disciples receive the Holy Spirit that they can fully answer the question, "Who do people say that I am?"

When the disciples receive the Spirit this new experience opens up the significance of their past with Jesus. They can now remember and understand the mighty deeds and words of Jesus. They become the first witnesses who could testify from their experience to the truth about Jesus. As long as the early Christian community had the first followers of Jesus among them, the community's understanding of Jesus was rooted in those who knew him personally. But what happens when there are no more witnesses who knew Jesus first hand? Does the memory of Jesus fade away? How can the people of God speak about Jesus in a compelling way when no one can see him? This is precisely the problem that the evangelist John faces in today's Gospel. The apostle Thomas is absent when Jesus appears to the others, and he cannot believe that Jesus is risen because he cannot see him. This is a story for everyone who was not present with the disciples on Easter evening – and this obviously includes ourselves. Today's Gospel builds a bridge between those who have seen the Risen Jesus and those who have not: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

We know from experience that it isn't easy to believe in someone we cannot see for ourselves. But we also know that many people who DID see Jesus still did not believe in him. Seeing does not necessarily lead to believing. The apostles have a unique position in the Church because they saw and they believed, and they were commissioned to share that belief with others. If they did not believe would we have our faith today? So the sentiments expressed in the First Letter of St. Peter are addressed to us: "You did not see him, yet you loved him." The fact that we gather at Mass is a sign of our belief and a declaration of our love. Future generations depend on us to hand on what we have received so that they too can have life through the name of Jesus. If we all do that, there will never be an end to Jesus' story.

Psalms Response Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Gospel Acclamation Jesus said, "You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

PARISH NEWS

This Week



Please note that there will be **no evening Mass** at St Richard's today, Sunday, 23rd April. We will continue as usual from next week.



Divine Mercy Sunday - Today

The Hour of Grace devotions will take place in Holy Family **today, Sunday, 23rd April** beginning at 3.00pm with Exposition and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Reconciliation will be available during the hour which will conclude with Sung Benediction at 4.00pm.

Thank You

Thanks to all who have helped in any way make the Easter liturgies such a prayerful encounter with the Lord present among us here in our communities. Thanks also for greetings and cards received by Frs Paul and Deacon Bob.

Lost Money!

Last weekend a sum of money was found in the car park at St. Richard's. If you think it may be yours then please contact Fr. Paul as soon as possible otherwise it will be donated to charity – Fr. Paul's Beerfund!

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

With the exception of Mass Intentions that have been given for specific dates, there is an urgent need for intentions for Masses at Holy Family. If not enough are in the book then we will accept intentions from other parts of the diocese who have too many to offer in a reasonable time. Many thanks, Fr Paul G.

St Ambrose Barlow 200 Club

April winners:

£100 winner - number 22, Adrienne Yarwood

£50 winner - number 194, Maureen Marshall

Note: The newsletter went to print before the £1000 draw on Friday, 21st April.



CAFOD Café



The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **next Sunday**, April 30th. 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.



'God, our Father, is continually drawing each of us to Himself in and through Christ. We experience his action in our feelings, moods, impulses and desires.' *Father George Aschenbrenner.*

This week we take time to consider the ways in which we respond to our place in creation by asking ourselves a series of questions and meditating on our response to them.

Ecological Examen by: Joseph Carver, SJ

All creation reflects the beauty and blessing of God's image. Where was I most aware of this today?

Can I identify and pin-point how I made a conscious effort to care for God's creation during this day?

What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?

How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation, in my unspoken sense of superiority?

As I imagine tomorrow, I ask for the grace to see the Incarnate Christ in the dynamic interconnections of all Creation.

Conclude with the Prayer of Jesus

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

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



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.

Holy Communion

At the recent training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion the issue was raised of receiving Communion by Intinction - in other words people taking the Consecrated Host to the chalice and dipping it in before receiving it. By direction of the Bishop's Council of England and Wales this is not allowed. It is never permitted for people to do this. Please may all parishioners follow the practice of receiving the Body of Christ in front of the distributing minister, then, if they wish to, receive separately the Blood of Christ from the chalice. Whether the communicant receives the Body only, or Communion under both kinds is by their own choice. as we receive the fullness of Communion even under one kind. Thank you from both Fr Pauls.

With you Always Preparation Sessions

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

- **Tuesday May 2nd in St.Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,**
- **Thursday May 4th 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MacMillan Bike Ride

Daniel Seddon, one of the Fr.Paul's nephews, is doing a bike ride from Liverpool to Buckingham Palace to raise funds for MacMillan along with a few friends. This is in memory of one of the boy's fathers, Keith, who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. If you would like to donate anything to MacMillan in Keith's memory then you can give the donation to Fr.Paul at St.Richard's or online at www.justgiving.com/keithclowes.

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 screening is **this week**.

- **RSC's "Julius Caesar" – Wednesday April 26th.**
- **RSC's "Anthony & Cleopatra" – Wednesday May 24th**
- **RSC's "Titus Andronicus" – Wednesday August 9th**

Saturday, April 29th - Fete du Vin

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall, 7.30pm - - £10.00 pp
Come along to an evening of wine tasting. Bread and cheese included to help soak it up. Spare bottles of wine will be auctioned. Sponsored by the Catenian Association. Please contact Des (07973 114365) or Eamonn 01942 892967 for tickets.

"HMS Pinafore"

The Three Towns Operatic Society are presenting a production of "HMS Pinafore" and "Trial By Jury" in St.Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh, from Tuesday May 16th to Saturday May 20th. Tickets are £11 & £13 (concessions available). Contact 01942-605369 or 01942-676594.

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 1.00pm at Westhoughton Golf Club. If you would like to play please contact Richard (07900385494) or Joe (07402332955). Alternatively you can contact Fr. Paul the Elder. Please note that Fr. Paul cannot play this year since he has to attend a Dean's Meeting on the same day, so you might have a better chance of winning!!! (N.B. This doesn't mean Fr.Paul is any good. It means that you have more chance of winning if you're not on his team!!!) Good luck!

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

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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2965.08
+ Easter Gifts (St Ambrose Barlow)	£ 242.60
Holy Places (Good Friday)	£ 358.88
Easter Flowers (Holy Family)	£ 260.00
THOMAS (Additional, St Richard's)	£ 50.22

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Friends of the Holy Land
Next Week	Monthly SVP Collection

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

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 23rd April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY <i>(Day of Divine Mercy)</i>	9.00 am Parishioners 11.00 am Roland Maxwell 3.00 pm <i>Hour of Grace devotions</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Burke 11.00 am Mary Burke	(Sat) 6.00 pm Maria Conneely 9.30 am Simon Ward NO EVENING MASS
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joseph & Mary Costello	9.15 am Shaun Pendlebury
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Betty Rostern		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	9.30 am <i>Mass in Holy Family School</i>		9.15 am Rex Baxter
FRIDAY	10.00 am Mass with St Gabriel's School <i>(In Holy Family Church)</i>		9.15 am Michael James Swanton
SATURDAY	10.00 am The Pastoral Area	6.00 pm Special Intention	6.00 pm Pat Shaw
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Fr Terry McCann 11.00 am Elizabeth Toole	11.00 am Joan Clegg	9.30 am Joan Mullin 6.30 pm John Sherrington

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Thomas Cunningham

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 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

Confessions during the Hour of Grace devotions
3.00 - 4.00pm today, Sunday 23rd April, at Holy Family.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Third Sunday of Easter (A)

First Reading *Acts 2:14, 22-23*
 God raised Jesus to life, and all his disciples are witnesses to this.

Second Reading *1 Peter 1:17-21*
 It is through Christ that we have faith in God, who raised him from the dead.

Gospel Reading *Luke 24:13-35*
 The Risen Lord walks with his disciples and talks to them on the road.