

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

26th February 2017



DEANERY TEAM

Priest:	Fr. Paul Seddon	Priest:	Fr. Paul Grady
Tel:	01942 883395	Tel:	0161 790 2390
Email:	paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk	Email:	frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com
Priest:	Fr. Kieran O'Grady	Priest:	Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel:	01942 673517	Tel:	01942 673517 or 731280
Email:	kjmogrady@hotmail.com	Email:	stjosephs@live.com

Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 8, then Lent

Sunday 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
(Day for the Unemployed)
Tuesday St. David, Patron of Wales
Wednesday Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast & Abstinence)
Next Sunday 1st Sunday of Lent (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

"Does a mother forget her about her baby, or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget." When the prophet Isaiah wrote these wonderful words, the people of God had reached a very low ebb. The Temple had been destroyed, Jerusalem invaded, and the people taken into exile in Babylon. They felt that God had abandoned them. But Isaiah assured them that God had not abandoned them, no more than a mother could abandon her child. A poor woman in a Dublin parish had a son who was ruining her life. He wouldn't work. He spent his time drinking and hanging around with trouble-makers. He robbed everything of value she had in the house. Again and again she pleaded with him to change his life, but he refused to do so. He broke her heart and made her life a misery. Eventually he ended up in prison. Surely now she would leave him to his fate? Not at all. She visited without fail every week, carrying cigarettes and other things for him in a little carrier bag – you would not be allowed to do this today! One day, one of the priests from the parish met her as she was on her way to prison. "This son has ruined your life," the priest said. "He'll never change. Why don't you just forget about him?" "How can I?" she replied. "I don't like what he's done, but he's still my son and I still love him."

You could say that the mother was foolish. Yet she was only doing what any mother worthy of the name cannot help doing, that is, loving her child through thick and thin. A mother – or any good father for that matter – never gives up. For most of us, this kind of love is the most reliable kind of human love we will ever experience. It's no wonder that the Bible uses a mother's love as an image of God's love for us on so many occasions. If a mother, who after all is a human being, is capable of such steadfast love, then how much greater is God's love for us who are his children. Even if we have sinned or make many mistakes, God does not stop loving us.

People accumulate money and possessions, because they give the illusion of security and good living. Then when they start to lose them they get anxious and worried. People of faith are challenged not to rely on such things but upon their faith in God. God is our security and our chief concern should be to do his will. So when Jesus says, "Do not worry about tomorrow", he is not condemning human resourcefulness. We do have to plan for tomorrow because we live in the real world. What he is condemning is the fretting and worrying that keep us from lifting up our gaze beyond the material values and cares of this world. We are in constant danger of becoming immersed in the cares of the world and of becoming enslaved to material things. Jesus reminds us that we are God's precious children, and that only in God can we find rest. We must put our future in the hands of God and pray only for his will to be done in our lives and everything else we need will come to us through his loving grace.

Psalms Response In God alone is my soul at rest.

Gospel Acclamation The word of God is something alive and active; it can judge secret emotions and thoughts.

PARISH NEWS

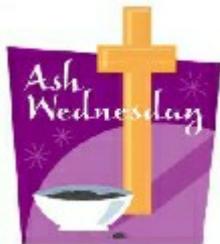
This Week

CAFOD Café



The **CAFOD Café** will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses TODAY **Sunday, February 26th**. Delicious home made cakes will be available, 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.



Ash Wednesday Mass Times

We begin the season of Lent this week. We celebrate **Ash Wednesday on March 1st**. Mass times for Ash Wednesday are:-

- **St. Ambrose Barlow Church – 7.30am.**
- **St. Richard's Church – 12noon.**
- **Holy Family Church – 7.00pm.**

Please note: No Mass in St Gabriel's as the schools will be celebrating a service of the Word with distribution of the Ashes during the day.

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.

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.

Trip to Oscott on Sunday, 19th March

Could everyone who has already let Fr Paul the Younger know that they are intending to come on this trip please ring Holy Family office to confirm this if they have not already done so. More details available soon. Many thanks. Fr Paul G.

CAFOD Fast Day

This year's CAFOD Fast Day will take place on Friday 10th March. The special envelopes are now available at the back of all the churches.

God knows better than we do about what we need. We must have faith, because his ways are different from ours.
(Pope Francis tweet, 21st February 2017)

World Day of Prayer Service

The gift of the Philippines.

St. Paul's Church, Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NW will host this Service for all our Leigh area on Friday, 3rd. March, 7.30pm. All most welcome.

All (male, female, any age) who enjoy singing are invited to a singers' practice on Monday 27th. February, 7.30 to 8.30pm, St. Paul's Church.

If items from the Philippines could be loaned for a display in the Church, they would be cared for and returned to you promptly after the Service.

A Scales of Justice, wood / brass, is required. Please ask your friends. Please ring (01942) 676962.

With You Always Preparation Sessions

The Year 4 children from **St. Richard's, Sacred Heart (Hindsford) & St. Ambrose Barlow** are invited to come along to the "With You Always" preparation sessions which begin on **March 7th, in St. Richard's Church at 5.30pm**, and on **March 9th, in St. Ambrose Barlow Church at 6.00pm**.

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. More details nearer the time.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on Tuesday 7th March at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Raffle: Stella Brown and Theresa Hayman.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum takes in the Parish Hall at St Ambrose Barlow, Astley, on Tuesday 7th March at 7.45pm. All welcome.

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 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. There will be early morning Masses, Taize Prayer Services, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation Services along with all the usual services. Why not do something extra during Lent this year? More details of times and dates in next week's Newsletter.

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 first Lenten Reflection session will take place on March 8th.

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 5th, 12th, 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.

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 between March 20-25th.

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.

Romero Centenary Mass

The 37th Romero Mass, which will celebrate the centenary of Blessed Oscar Romero's birth, will take place in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool on Sunday 19th March 2017 at 11.00am, followed by blessing of the new Romero statue. For more details see the posters at the back of church.

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.

St Patrick's Night Singalong 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.

Cineworld – Live Screenings

It has been great to meet up with other parishioners at the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh to watch a live performance and enjoy each other's company. There are three more good looking performances coming up. We could meet up in the foyer about 6.45pm so we can buy tickets and a drink and enjoy the performance together.

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

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.

Centenary Celebrations of Fatima

Last weekend (Saturday 18th February 2017) the newly consecrated statue of the Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima started its visitation to several Cathedrals in England with a visitation to Westminster Cathedral where Cardinal Vincent Nichols consecrated England and Wales to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This programme will continue from May to October with visits to 18 of the cathedrals of England and Wales.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1952.19
Church Action on Poverty	£ 259.46
Racial Justice (St. Ambrose 13/2)	£ 35.28

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Saint Vincent de Paul
Next Week	Lenten Alms or HCPT
HCPT at St Richard's and St Ambrose Barlow (11.00am)	

HCPT – The Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust is a UK based charity which takes children with special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. Website: www.hcpt.org.uk

Lenten Alms - Each year, during Lent, the second collection goes to a charity of the Archbishop's choice.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 26th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Bernie Bates 11.00 am Ann Moran 12.30pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vera & Jack Dean 11.00 am George Stevenson	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ken Gorse 9.30 am Ted & Harriet Langin 6.30 pm John Haslam
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Deceased members of the Jennings Family	9.15 am Florence Eglin
ASH WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Fr Kevin Snape	7.30am Mary Sharples	12noon Peter Topping
THURSDAY	10.00 am Ron & Sylvia Sparrow <i>Diamond Wedding Anniversary</i>		9.15 am Sr. Louis Maine
FRIDAY	6.30 am Frank Ryan 10.00 am Thanksgiving <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Evelyn & George Smallshaw
SATURDAY	10.00 am Paul Abbs	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm John Burke	6.00 pm Kevan, Sam & Greg
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Hobson 11.00 am Dawn Royle	11.00 am Joan Clegg	9.30 am Brian Harrison 6.30 pm Michael Page

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Brian Harrison	Martin O'Neill
Joyce Hankinson	Harold Lewis
Neville Jones	

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	Susan Phillips
Margaret Hurley	Neil Hurley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Freda Peake
Ann Mellin	Leonard Beach
Margaret Dawson	Fon O'Hara
Maureen Halliday	Thomas Higgins
Enid Kenwright	Betty Rostern
Bernard O'Donnell	Nancy Heaton
Mary Tiernan	Eddie Leach
Wyn Wright	
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson	
Ted & Harriet Langin	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions 10.30am after Saturday 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

First Sunday of Lent (A)

First Reading

Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7

Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

By his obedience to God, Christ won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was tempted by the devil, but unlike Adam and Eve, he remained faithful to God.

Do not underestimate the value of example, for it is more powerful than a thousand words, a thousand "likes", retweets or YouTube videos. (*Pope Francis tweet, 23rd February 2017*)