

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

29th 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 4
Readings	Sunday – 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 4
Sunday	4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Tuesday	St. John Bosco, Priest & Doctor
Thursday	Feast of The Presentation of the Lord
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 Matthew's Gospel there is much mention of the Good News. Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and that people should repent and believe the Good News, but, at this stage, we are not really told what this Good News actually is. Jesus next challenges Simon and Andrew, James and John, to stop what they are doing and follow him. They are not told where they are going. So far there is a building sense of excitement, but no detail about the Good News. The Gospel then gives a summary of Jesus' activity. He preaches in synagogues, he heals sick people, he even raises the dead. This does begin to sound like Good News for those involved but there is still a sense that there is much more to come. This is the point we reach in today's Gospel. Now we begin to understand the scope of the Good News. It is outlined in full on the Sermon on the Mount – this is the first of five public sermons spread throughout Matthew's Gospel. Today's Gospel includes the famous Beatitudes. They are one of the most familiar Gospel passages. It is used in the Liturgy of the Church perhaps more than any other Gospel text. It is the first passage in the Gospel of Matthew to give a clear indication of what Jesus means by the Good News.

The scene is set in a very formal way. The one who proclaims the Good News is accepted by the crowds as preaching with authority. In New Testament times, teachers simply sat down in an open space and began to teach. Their ability as teachers was reflected in the size of their audience listening to them. Matthew says that Jesus saw a large crowd, who were presumably waiting for him, and he sat down and taught them at length. In the Beatitudes he makes it clear what the Good News consists of – it is a sharing in the Kingdom of Heaven. This is stressed, by Jesus, at both the beginning and the end of the list of Beatitudes, especially when Jesus focuses on those who are poor in spirit and those who are persecuted in the cause of right.

Jesus may well have been the person to declare clearly to whom the Kingdom of God belongs. He is certainly the first person who spelled out the qualifications for membership. Not only does the Kingdom belong to those who are poor in spirit and those who are persecuted for standing up for what is right, it is found among those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for what is right, those who are merciful, pure in heart, and so on. The Good News is that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus turned words into action when he cured the sick, cleansed lepers, forgave sinners, that is when he made the words of the Beatitudes a concrete reality for those whose lives were broken. It is Good News that the values of God are here for everyone to share. In Jesus' final sermon in Matthew's Gospel, in the Last Judgement parable, he tells his followers that however they behave towards the least of his brothers and sisters is the way they treat Christ Jesus himself. We may well listen to the Good News each day, but how well do we live it out and share this great message with others? This will be the true sign of the quality of our discipleship.

Psalm Response How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Gospel Acclamation Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

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.

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.



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.



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open TODAY **Sunday, January 29th**. in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses 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.



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

St. Margaret Clitherow 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.

Ladies Group Meal

This takes place at the Applewood on Tuesday 31st January. Could everyone who is coming please arrive at the pub before 12 noon

Towel Collection

Christine Bousfield is collecting old towels (any condition but clean) for homeless people in Manchester. Please bring them to St Ambrose Barlow Church next Sunday.

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

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.

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.

Red Mission Box Collections

The latest collection from the red mission boxes in Holy Family was **£579.19**. Many thanks to all contributors and collectors, Jackie Bryan will also be emptying boxes from St. Ambrose

"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.

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 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.

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.

Ladies Group Meeting

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 7th February at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Raffle: Maureen Craddock and Sylvia Bradley

George Galway & Friends

George Galway is the brother of the world-famous James Galway. George plays the most sensitive melodies you will ever hear on saxophone, clarinet and flute. He is accompanied by Bryan Pendleton on piano. Ken Marley on brass and Nigel Cretney on drums.

Also appearing are Swedish singer-songwriter Anna Pauline Andersson accompanied by her father Jack on trumpet.

The programme will include well known songs – e.g. La Vie en Rose, Autumn Leaves, A Foggy Day in London Town, Mack the Knife, Lady Be Good, Pennies from Heaven, All of Me and many more.

The show is to be held in St Stephen's Church, Manchester Road, Astley from 7.30 on Saturday 4th February. Entry fee is £10 for adults. FREE for children. Price includes refreshments. Pay on the door..

Free To Follow Jesus

A weekend for men, entitled "Free To Follow Jesus", has been arranged at Irenaeus, in Waterloo, Liverpool. The weekend retreat will be led by Fr.Chris Thomas, who led our Deanery Lenten Retreat a couple of years ago. The retreat takes place between February 10th-12th. For further information please contact Irenaeus on 0151-9491199 Or jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

200 Club Winners

The January winners of the 200 Club were: £100 – number 194 Maureen Marshall.,£50 – number 43 Bernard Tchibukdjian.



Valentines Dance

This red and white themed dance will be held on Saturday February 11th in St Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane and features artist Kezia Gill, a DJ and bar.. Tickets £5 or £6 on the door. Doors open 7.15. For further details contact 01942 792293

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Family of Faith

Natalie Maya Bulla

Benjamin Beau Michael Hurst

Darcey Elizabeth Emelie Hurst

Eleanor Francesca Williams

May God bless them and their families

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1385.73
(Sacred Heart/St. Richard's)	£ TBA
Survive Miva Appeal	£ 159.33
Burns Night (Many thanks to all attended)	£ 371.40
SVP	£

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Monthly SVP Collection
Next Week	HCPT

HCPT is a charity offering pilgrimage holidays, to Lourdes in the south of France, for disabled and disadvantaged people from around the UK and further afield.

Every Easter over 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children enjoy a week in Lourdes, staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 29th January	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Joseph Delaney 11.00 am Mike Power 12.30pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Julia Gallagher 11.00 am Terry Kearns	(Sat) 6.00 pm Tony McKiernan 9.30 am Paddy Furey 6.30 pm Gerry Burke
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Lilian Minister
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Marie Langin		<i>No Exposition until March</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am Roland Maxwell		9.15 am John Pearson
FRIDAY	10.00 am Private Intentions <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Ida Robinson
SATURDAY	10.00 am Tim Joslyn	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Frank Bryan	6.00 pm Jean Neary
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Hibbert 11.00 am Gladys Hallaway	11.00 am Special Intention	9.30 am Martin Neary 6.30 pm Gerry Burke

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Anne Braithwaite
Joan Kirkpatrick.

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

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading *Isaiah 58:7-10.*
 Genuine worship of God is shown forth in the practice of justice and in concern for the poor and the needy.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 2:1-5.*
 The success of the Gospel doesn't depend on human cleverness but on the power of God

Gospel Reading *Matthew 5:13-16.*
 Christ's disciples are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.