

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

2nd April 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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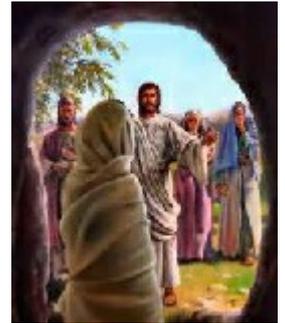
LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings Sunday – 5th Sunday of Lent (A)
Weekdays – Lent, Wk 5

Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent (A)

Friday St John Baptist de la Salle, Patron of Teachers

Next Sunday PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord (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 Gospel story presents us with a scene which, alas, is all too familiar to us – people weeping over the death of a loved one. Of all the causes of tears, death is perhaps the worst culprit. Death is like winter, only worse. In nature's winter, despite appearances to the contrary, life does not cease. It merely goes underground. The outward dies, but not the core. But in the winter of death, life seems to cease altogether. Death seems to rob us of everything.

When the winter of death came for Lazarus, his sisters, Martha and Mary, were plunged into grief. It is natural, right and healthy that people should grieve when death robs them of a friend or a family member. But Jesus didn't leave them alone in their grief. He came to them and shared their grief. He was so overcome with sorrow that he broke down. The very act of breaking down tells us more about his heartfelt sympathy than a thousand words could say. But he didn't leave it at that. He challenged them to have faith in him. He said to them, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, they will live....do you believe this?" And Martha said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world." It can't have been easy for them to believe as all the evidence was against them. Nevertheless, they believed. Faith isn't always easy for us either. Our faith is so often tested to the full by our health, the health and the loss of loved ones and by so much more besides.

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is one of the greatest statements in the whole of the Gospels. It means that Jesus holds the key to life and death. Though he himself experienced the winter of death, by rising from the dead in our mortal humanity, he broke the power of death forever. He entered the dark kingdom of death and emerged victorious. Thus he has become a pathfinder for us. He has caused a new and invincible spring to dawn on all those who believe in him. We can sometimes feel sad at the onset of winter. And it's hard to believe in spring when we see the snow on the hills and feel a bitter wind on our faces. However, we must never be too despondent because we know that spring will eventually renew everything again. In the same way, we are sad when the winter of death claims the life of a loved one, and when we think of our own death one day. What must sustain us is our faith in Christ Jesus. Eternal life is not something that begins when we die. It begins the moment we hear the voice of Jesus and believe in him. Thus, even in the midst of winter, we know that spring is already quietly at work, though its full blossoming is still in the future.

Psalm Response With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Planned Giving Envelopes

New GIFT AID and NON GIFT AID ENVELOPES for weekly contributions are now available for collection from the Narthex at St Richard's and from the back of church at Holy Family and St Ambrose Barlow.

CAFOD Lenten Café

Today we have a **Big Raffle!!** The first prize is £50 and then there are lots of other lovely prizes. Tickets will be on sale, 50p each or 5 for £2, in the church porch after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses at Holy Family and in the Café.

The Café will be open after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses and, as usual, tea, coffee, soft drinks, a wonderful array of home-made cakes and delicious snacks - including bacon butties - will be available. The **Big Raffle** will be drawn in the Café after the 11.00am Mass. Proceeds from all these will go to CAFOD. The Traidcraft Stall containing a selection of fairtrade products will also be available.

Please come along if you can, meet other parishioners and support this venture. You will be very welcome.

Lenten Services

Please come along to one of our Lenten services as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

Early morning Masses will take place in:-

- St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley & St. Richard's – Wednesday at 7.30 am
- Holy Family, Boothstown – Friday at 6.30 am.

Stations of the Cross will take place in:-

- Holy Family – Sunday at 3.00 pm.
- St. Richard's – Tuesday at 7.00 pm.
- St. Ambrose Barlow – Friday at 7.00 pm.

Holy Hour with reflective music & Reconciliation (Confession) available at Holy Family each Friday of Lent, 3.00-4.00pm.

"With You Always" Preparation Sessions

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

- **Tuesday April 4th in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30 pm,**
- **Thursday April 6th in St. Ambrose Barlow Hall at 6.00 pm.**

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.

Holy Week Liturgies - Easter Sign Up Sheets

Sign up sheets are at the back of all three churches - Holy Family, St Ambrose Barlow and St Richard's - for the ministries of reader and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion during these great days. As always, we are looking for a balance showing the unity of our communities in our celebrations by working together and sharing ministries where possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Can readers please sign up for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday? Readings can be obtained from Fr Paul G or Bernie in the parish office at Holy Family or from Fr Paul S at St Richard's.

Ladies Group

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 4th April at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Raffle: Jo Hampson and Betty Copping.

Easter Triduum Services

Please note the times for the services for the Easter Triduum.

Mass of the Lord's Supper:-

- St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley & St. Richard's, Atherton Thursday April 13th at 7.30 pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion:-

- Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton Friday April 14th at 3.00 pm.

The Easter Vigil:-

- Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton Saturday April 15th at 8.00pm.

Please note that there will be NO 6.30pm Mass on Easter Sunday or Sunday April 23rd.

Easter Flowers

Team JCB, the Flower Ladies at St. Richard's, invite you to help once again with the Easter Flowers this year. If you would like to make a donation and have the names of your loved ones displayed in Church during Easter then please give the names into Church before Palm Sunday, the weekend of 8th/9th April. Please write their names on an envelope and pass it into the Parish House as soon as possible.

Likewise at St Ambrose & Holy Family - If you would like to make an offering towards the flowers for Easter in memory of loved ones who have died, please fill in one of the forms at the back of either church and hand it in to the sacristy or to Fr Paul G so that the list can be compiled before Easter. Please hand these in by Palm Sunday. Names will be displayed throughout the Easter Season.

Ladies Group Easter Hamper Draw

Tickets will be on sale on 1st and 2nd April after each Mass and will be drawn on Sunday 9th April after the 11.00 am Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church. All monies raised will be going to the British Lung Foundation.

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 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 include case studies from home and overseas, questions to guide discussion, and opportunities to 'See – Judge – Act'. Sessions will take place every Wednesday morning after Exposition in the Parish House at St. Richard's beginning at approximately 10.00am. The fifth, and final, Lenten Reflection session will take place **this Wednesday, 5th April**.

Sessions will also take place on Friday lunch times, 12.30 - 1.30pm, following the midday Mass, at St Joseph's Presbytery (Green Room). All are welcome.



Reflect:

In the reading of the raising of Lazarus we are told that, 'Jesus wept'. It is important that we recognise not only the Divinity of Jesus, but also his humanity. He was a man who was born as we are, suffered as we do, had the same emotions as we do. What would you do if you met him today, crying for someone whom he loved? What would you say to Jesus?

Pray:

Lord, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Help us to have the faith and courage to walk your ways, speak your truths and live the life you have given us to the full.

Act:

Each day on the news we see images of war torn countries, lands ravaged by hunger, camps for displaced persons, children suffering, parents in tears of frustration unable to make any difference to the horror that is the life forced on them by external forces. This week make a difference, even if it's only in a small way – donate to the CAFOD Emergency Appeal; buy fairtrade goods; support local producers of food, thereby reducing the food miles; reduce fuel consumption by turning your thermostat down, etc. Just a few simple actions which, when performed by many, can make a difference.....

Challenge:

What sort of person would I be if I reached the full human potential God wants for me? Would I like to become that person? If so, what changes do I need to make in my life to become that person?

Easter Cards to the Holy Land

Thank you to all who have signed and returned their Easter cards for the Holy Land. These will be packaged and sent together, on Tuesday April 4th, to the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem for distribution to the churches in time for Easter. If you have forgotten to return your card to church and would like it to be included, please could you drop it off at Holy Family Presbytery before Tuesday? Thank you.

Thank you for supporting this venture again this year. It is such a simple but effective way of showing our love and solidarity for our fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Churches Together Lenten Talks

The last of the Churches Together In Atherton series of talks during Lent will take place at **6.30pm this Sunday evening**, April 2nd in the Salvation Army Chapel. The talks will be followed by a Palm Sunday United Service on **Sunday April 9th at 6.30 pm** in Atherton Salvation Army Chapel.

Ecumenical Musical Event

Rev Darren Garfield the Methodist minister in Boothstown has prepared a musical version of the Passion called 'Crown of Thorns' which will be performed in Holy Family church at **7.00pm this Friday, 7th April**. All are welcome to attend. Entrance is free but there will be a basket at the back which will be put towards the next trip out with Churches Together in Boothstown.

Chrism Mass

We will be taking a coach to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass on Wednesday 12th April. The Mass begins at 7.30pm so the two pick ups will be: 5.45pm at St Joseph's and 6.00pm from Holy Family. If you would like a place on the coach please sign the list at the back of church.

Churches Together Good Friday Service

Churches Together In Atherton are having their annual Stations of the Cross in St. Richard's church on Good Friday at 10.00am, followed by a time of prayer and witness outside Atherton Parish Church at 11.00am. Please come along and join us.

Easter Sunday 'Son-Rise'

If you would like to end Lent with one final big effort and welcome the Risen Lord, why not come down to St Stephen's, Astley for the 6.00am 'Son-rise' service on Easter Sunday. This is a short service of readings and prayers followed by refreshments in St Stephen's church. All welcome.

200 Club Grand Draw

The £1000 draw will take place at a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall from 7.30pm on Friday 21st April. Members wishing to attend the evening can obtain their tickets from Steve Cooper either at the back of church or by ringing Steve on 07952 152371.

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!!! Good luck!

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1849.87
Emergency Appeal - CAFOD	£1748.35
+ Cards for the Holy Land	
+ CAFOD (ongoing, St. Ambrose)	£20.25

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Catholic Blind Services
Next Week	THOMAS

The **Catholic Blind Services** assist the Church in her ministry with people who are blind or have a visual impairment. One aspect of their work is to prepare the large print Mass sheets that are available at the back of church.

THOMAS stands for "Those on the Margins of a Society". It is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme, set up by a Catholic Priest in Blackburn, and offers people the opportunity to rebuild their lives by finding a solution to the problems of addiction. It does wonderful work. Have a look at their website: www.thomasonline.org.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 2nd April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Manuel Mendes 11.00 am Grace & John McGee 12.30pm <i>Baptism</i> <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mary Pendlebury 11.00 am Joe Rigby	(Sat) 6.00 pm Patricia Leach 9.30 am Alan Charlton 6.30 pm Simon Ward
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Arthur Hennessy <i>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Fr Kevin Snape	7.30 am James Houten	9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	<i>No Mass this morning</i>		9.15 am Joseph Lyons
FRIDAY	6.30 am Vocations <i>3.00 - 4.00 pm Holy Hour</i>	<i>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	9.15am Peter Fitzmaurice
SATURDAY	10.00 am For the Sick and Housebound	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm In thanksgiving to St Jude	6.00 pm Colin Ryan
PALM SUNDAY	9.00 am Bill & Mary Freeman 11.00 am Rita Condron <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	11.00 am Ellen Hounslea	9.30 am Joyce Hankinson 6.30 pm Albert Hewson

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Thomas Albert Proctor
Edith Hilton
James 'Keith' Lewis

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	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
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions 10.30am after Saturday morning Mass and during Holy Hour, Friday 3.00 - 4.00pm at Holy Family.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.
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
George Albie Brooks
Hollie May Dick-Roberts
 May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

PALM SUNDAY (A)

Gospel for the Procession *Matthew 21:1-11*
 Jesus enters Jerusalem, not as an all-conquering warrior, but as a gentle, humble bearer of God's Good News.

First Reading *Isaiah 50:4-7*
 The prophet Isaiah suffers in carrying out his mission, but he is sustained by the firm belief that God will not abandon him.

Second Reading *Philippians 2:6-11*
 Because Jesus took on himself our human condition, and accepted death on a Cross, the Father has raised him up and made him Lord of Heaven and earth.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 26:14-27:66*
 St. Matthew presents the Passion as the fulfilment of the prophecies of Scripture, and portrays Jesus as someone who does the Father's will.