

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

The Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

30th July 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings Sunday – Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 17

Sunday **The Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)**
Monday St. Ignatius of Loyola
Tuesday St. Alphonsus Ligouri
Friday St. John Vianney
Next Sunday **The Transfiguration 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

Most people in life go through some kind of pain or anxiety at some stage. Some of these things can be brought on by ourselves, other times they are brought on at the hands of others, and many other times they happen through no one's fault in particular. Wherever these things come from, they may make us think that there is no redemption. Life can sometimes overwhelm us and it can be difficult to see the way ahead. As a result of this we could easily have feelings of hopelessness and self-pity. We begin to doubt ourselves, to doubt life, and even, or perhaps especially, to doubt God. For anyone who has ever felt like this, St. Paul has a message. He tells us in today's Second Reading that God has a saving plan, a purpose, which everything serves. He can turn everything to the benefit of those who trust in him. He can bring good out of our pain, even out of our sins. This is not to say that God wants bad things to happen to us. No, but when bad things do happen to us, God is there for us, IF we turn to him, and he helps us, not only to pick up the pieces, but to reap a harvest from the wreckage.

There is a story about a king who owned a very valuable diamond. One day an accident happened and the diamond was deeply scratched. The king consulted experts to see if anything could be done to save the diamond. But they told him that even if they were to polish it, they would never be able to repair the wound it had suffered. So the king locked the diamond in his vault where it lay hidden and useless for years. Then one day a very famous diamond cutter arrived in the capital. At the king's invitation he undertook to examine the diamond to see if anything could be done with it. After examining it carefully he said, "Your Majesty, I will make the diamond look even more beautiful than it was before the accident." On hearing this, the other jewellers laughed. But the king was delighted, and gave him permission to work on the diamond. Bringing all his artistry to bear on it, he proceeded to engrave a beautiful rose on the diamond, using the deep scratch as the stem of the rose. When the king and the other jewellers saw what he had done they were filled with admiration. It wasn't just a clever cover-up. He took the diamond's fault and transformed it into something beautiful.

In the same way, God can help us to transform our worst faults into virtues, our worst misfortune into the greatest blessing. Sometimes our sufferings can bring us closer to God and to each other. They can also remind us of the most important things in life, life itself and the love of those around us. Sometimes if we are not careful we can dismiss the moments that can actually bring us closer to God and help us grow as his followers. From painful experiences and difficult times we can learn that God is faithful to us and can bring good out of anything. If we trust him, and have patience, we will see with our own eyes the truth of Scripture: "God makes all things work together for the good of those who love him." God sees us more clearly and knows us better than anyone else. He sees our wounds and our sorrows, the scars we carry in our hearts. He will be good to us in the end, both in this world and in the next. Life is unintelligible and unbearable without God. A close relationship with God is a real treasure. It gives us a sense of who we are and where we are going. Only God can give us what we are looking for. So if we find God we have everything.

Psalms Response Lord, how I love your law!

Gospel Acclamation I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Sunday Mass Times - Summer Schedule

Please remember that next week we begin our **August Summer Mass schedule**. It will give us an opportunity to look at what possibilities we have and have a trial run, as it were, for a future with fewer priests. The Summer Mass Schedule will not, at present, affect the Saturday evening Masses, but we are going to have a trial run with the following Sunday morning Mass times:-

- **Holy Family** 8.45 am
- **St. Richard's** 10.00 am
- **St. Ambrose Barlow** 11.15 am

The usual Mass times, including the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass, will resume once again on the first weekend of September, 2nd & 3rd.

Midweek Mass Times

Please check the Newsletter each week for the times of Masses during the week in each Church. If one of the priests is away then the other will cover and say Masses in the other churches too. So the usual weekday Mass time schedule would be as follows:-

- **Tuesday** 9.15 am **St. Ambrose Barlow**
- **Wednesday** 7.00 pm **Holy Family**
- **Thursday** 9.15 am **St. Richard's**
- **Friday** 9.15 am **St. Gabriel's School**
(during term time)

Please note that this ONLY applies when there is only ONE priest in the Parish. These times can change if a Funeral comes in. So please check the Newsletter for up to date details.

Many Thanks from Fr. Paul - the Elder!

Fr. Paul the Elder would like to thank everyone who sent him cards and good wishes on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Ordination last week. He celebrated it in style – watching good golf for a change at the British Open at Birkdale! Without Fr. Paul's knowledge, someone very kindly put in a Mass Intention for him last Sunday – I think some people were worried that he was ill! So thanks for all the prayers and support. Here's to the next 30!!!



CAFOD Café



The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **TODAY, Sunday, July 30th**. Delicious home made cakes will be available, as well as tea, coffee, soft drinks, toast, tea cakes – and bacon butties!! The Traidcraft stall, with an array of fair trade produce, will also be available. Proceeds from the refreshments will go to CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia.

So far this year we have sent £1,800 to CAFOD to support the people of Sebeya in Ethiopia. Over the time we have been supporting this programme, we have sent £9,200 to Connect2Ethiopia. Thank you to everyone for your generosity. We receive regular updates on the progress and these are displayed in the Café. In the July 2017 update, received a few days ago, Bairagabr Gidey, a resident of Sebeya says: "I would like to thank the Catholic Church for all they have done. We are thankful for the seeds, the cash for work programmes, the water points and the irrigation channels. The support continues to save the lives of the people who are the most in need. I would like to see more work in water as it is the only obstacle to our existence."

Please come along to the Café if you can, you will be very welcome, and please continue to remember the people of Sebeya in your prayers. Thank you.

Ladies' Meeting

The next meeting of the Ladies' group will take place on **Tuesday 1st August at 2.00 pm** in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Raffle: Mary Tiernan & Linda Rushworth.

Ecumenical Walk of Faith

Organised by Churches Together in Boothstown, this will be **next Saturday, 5th August**.

11.00 am Leave St. Andrew's, 11.30 am arrive at St. Mary's, 11.45 am leave St. Mary's, 12.10 pm arrive at St. John's, 12.25 pm leave St. John's, 12.45 pm arrive at Holy Family, 1.00 pm leave Holy Family, 1.10 pm arrive at Boothstown Methodist, 1.25 pm leave Boothstown Methodist, 1.30 pm approx arrive at St. Andrew's.

A light lunch will be provided at St. Andrew's. All are welcome to take part in this witness to Christ in our community.

This Walk is an opportunity to show that the Christian Faith still flourishes in our country despite the pressures of secular ideologists who are trying to drive Christianity out of Public Life. Please join in if you can, to increase the numbers. If you can't manage all of it, select one of the churches as your starting point, join in there and just do as much as you can.

Happy Holidays!



We would like to wish all the children and staff from all the schools a very happy Summer holiday. Happy holidays to anyone else who may be going away over the Summer. We hope you feel relaxed and refreshed on your return.

If you're staying in the area then we hope the sun shines on you too.

Astley, Atherton, Tyldesley, Hindsford and Boothstown are as nice as anywhere at this time of the year!

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



Reflect:

In today's parables we are reminded that the kingdom of God is something more precious than anything else. Do we spend our lives waiting for the kingdom of God to appear or can we find the kingdom in that sacred space within us? "The Kingdom of God here on earth is human life, high quality human life, filled with His glory." (Fr Charles Irvin). To what extent do we reveal this kingdom in our daily lives?

Pray:

Lord help us to live the kingdom of God, making it a reality in the lives of those we meet.

May we be abundantly generous with our time and resources rather than limiting ourselves to a bare minimum.

May we give joy instead of taking the joy of living away from them.

May we be life-giving rather than a drain on the lives of others. We ask this through your son, Jesus, Our Lord.

Amen

Act:

Make an effort this week to improve the quality of life for others. Find ways to affirm their lives by acknowledging their existence, their importance in the overall scheme of things. By not ignoring the call of the homeless, the poor, the needy, the unloved or unwanted.

Challenge:

This week can you sacrifice your own personal comfort and convenience for the well-being of those around you? Can you make choices and decisions which will contribute to the well-being of others and of our world?

Fatima Pilgrimage



Our next day in Fatima was very full and very hot! Many of us prayed the Stations of the Cross in the morning, which was a wonderful experience. It took us quite a while and we met many other pilgrims en route, but it was very prayerful and a wonderful experience. We then went to visit the childhood homes of Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. The homes were almost unchanged from the days they lived there, over 100 years ago. The rest of the day was spent touring Fatima – some went on the mini-train (not Fr.Paul – he was too big!) and certain others discovered a wonderful new delicacy called Pink Gin!! After tea many of us attended the nightly Rosary Procession. Again another wonderful day with Our Lady and our fellow pilgrims.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cineworld – Live Screenings

If anyone would like to join us for the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh, then please do so. 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 RSC's "Titus Andronicus" on **Wednesday 9th August**.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be on **Tuesday 5th September at 7.30 pm at St Ambrose Barlow**.

Living Fully

"Living Fully" is a new initiative introduced by the Nugent Care Society to enable every child and adult with a disability to encounter Jesus in the life of the Church today. A day of study, worship and workshops will take place soon exploring how all life is a gift from God and how every person has a valuable and dignified place within the Body of Christ, the Church. The day will take place at LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, on **Saturday 23rd September** from 10.00am-4.00pm. Cost is £10 which includes lunch.

"Come & See" Conference

The next Archdiocesan "Come & See" Conference will take place at Christ The King High School, Stamford Road, Southport, over the weekend of **October 14/15th**. The keynote speaker this year will be Fr.Timothy Radcliffe. There are many other workshops and prayer sessions taking place over the weekend. For more information please contact Jenny at Irenaeus on 01519491199 or by email jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or www.irenaeus.co.uk.

"Lourdes At Home" Day

A number of people have asked why we are not having a "Lourdes At Home" Day this year. The simple reason is that we have not been able to get a day when all the priests have been available at the same time, at least not during the Lourdes Pilgrimage itself. We will try our best to make sure we can have one next year, God willing. However, one of the highpoints of the day is the Mass of Anointing. Since we are celebrating the centenary of the apparitions of Fatima this year, it would be good to have a similar gathering of the whole Deanery near the date of the final apparition in October. So, at the next Clergy Meeting, which is in August, we will try to come up with a few dates and hopefully have a similar celebration to "Lourdes At Home" at this time of the year. Watch this space for more details.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1981.50
Monthly SVP Collection	£ 364.04
Thank you so much for your generosity.	

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	SSAFA
Next Week	Catholic Deaf Association

SSAFA stands for 'The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association'. SSAFA is a national charity supporting those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both.

The **Catholic Deaf Association** is an association of deaf and hearing people who support each other and promote services for deaf people in the community. Have a look at their website: www.cda-uk.com

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 30th July	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Dorothea McGuire 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	(Sat) 6.00 pm Linda Buckley 11.00 am Mary Sharples	(Sat) 6.00 pm Angela & Maurice McGreavy 9.30 am Neil & Margaret Hurley NO 6.30 pm Mass
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Paddy & Jack Hession
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm June Oldfield		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition Blessed Sacrament 1.00 pm Funeral Mass for Patricia Hughes
THURSDAY	10.00 am Mick Helmes		9.15 am John O'Malley 10.00 am Funeral Service for Brian Brady
FRIDAY		10.00 am Sick of the Parish	9.15 am Nancy Heaton
SATURDAY	10.00 am James Markland	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Mary Ann & John Farrington	6.00 pm Peter McCoy
NEXT SUNDAY	8.45 am Anthony Dermody	11.15 am John Evans	10.00 am Mary & Alan Charlton NO 6.30 pm Mass

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Brian Brady	Patricia Hughes
Neil Hurley	Kathleen Price
Dorothy Joan Angel	

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	Freda Peake
Margaret Hurley	Sr Megan Haisley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Leonard Beach
Ann Mellin	Fon O'Hara
Margaret Dawson	Thomas Higgins
Maureen Halliday	Betty Rostern
Enid Kenwright	Wyn Wright
Bernard O'Donnell	James Pickering
Mary Tiernan	Bridie Molyneux
Ted & Harriet Langin	Gwenda Byers
Baby George	Edward Leach
Margaret Aspden	Patricia Wilson
Irene Burke	Gerald Hackett

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions 10.30am at Holy Family after
Saturday morning Mass.

Confession available by request or by appointment.

After 6.00pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.

Confession also available by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Transfiguration of the Lord (A)

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

In his vision of Heaven, Daniel sees a human being coming on the clouds of Heaven who receives sovereignty, glory and kingship.

Second Reading

2 Peter 1:16-19

Peter gives his version of what he saw and heard on the holy mountain.

Gospel Reading

Mark 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of the disciples Peter, James and John.