

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

The Holy Family (B)

31st December 2017

DEANERY TEAM

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Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – The Holy Family (B)
Weekdays – Christmas, Week 2
Sunday **Feast of The Holy Family (B)**
Monday **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
Tuesday St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen
Wednesday Holy Name of Jesus
Next Sunday **Epiphany of the Lord (B)**



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 regular presence of parents can be a constant assurance of safety and love for every young child. A family, no matter how good or bad or great or small they may be, provides the fundamental human connection that everyone needs in life. No matter how much or how good any institution, the family is the best place for any child to grow up. So it was with the Holy Family. The reality of the Incarnation, that the Son of God did NOT pretend to be human but was fully human, is shown in his need for a family, a family who struggled to find their place in the world. They brought him into the world homeless, born in a manger in Bethlehem. They were forced to flee into Egypt, therefore they were asylum seekers. They later approached Jerusalem with great caution and were rightly worried about their child, especially when they lost him. The stories of the infancy narratives can appear very romantic but they were anything but. We love to tell these stories to children, and yet they are stories of worries, struggle and frustration. Struggle, worry and frustration, but also triumph over all that would try to break them apart. Out of the unity of the Holy Family came the unity of the whole human race.

In the paintings of some of the greatest artists of the world, Mary, Jesus and, when the painting includes Joseph, rarely look directly at each other. This is not because there is a lack of intimacy between them but because the painters wish to present the mystery of the Holy Family. They are bound together by something more than mutual concern. They are caught up in God's great plan, which is why they exist as a family. Sometimes they may be looking at a cross, sometimes at a symbol of grace such as a flower representing suffering, but often enough they are gazing at something outside of the painting. For all Christian families, the Holy Family reveals that all of our lives are enfolded in the great mystery of Christ Jesus himself. The Gospels only give us glimpses into the life of the Holy Family, yet it is clear that before he began his public ministry, Jesus lived for most of his short life in the circles of this family in the small village of Nazareth. This life within his family is referred to as Jesus' "hidden life", yet it was from these days that the human thoughts of Jesus developed. The parables of the Kingdom come from his experience as a human being living with other human beings. What is the Kingdom of God like? It is like the life of Jesus, and what he saw of human yearnings for happiness as he grew up in Nazareth.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend, let us remember that Jesus himself needed a family himself to feel protected, to feel loved, to feel valued. As God's family here on earth today we are called to protect, to value and to love others in the way Jesus was by Mary and Joseph 2,000 years ago. We all need to feel part of a family, of God's family. We are all called to be part of this special family. May the unique story of the Holy Family inspire us to keep on going when all around us seems so difficult. Jesus' life on earth was tinged with hardships, suffering and sadness but he persevered because of the love of his family. May this same Holy Family inspire us to continue on our journey of faith until we too arrive at our homeland in Heaven.

Psalms Response
Gospel Acclamation

He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant forever.

At various times in the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.

PARISH NEWS This Week



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Old Fr. Paul & Young Fr. Paul would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. Let's hope that 2018 will be a great year for all of us in the Parish. Many thanks for all your work and participation throughout the year and your kindness to each other. We always need new people and new volunteers. If you are not that involved and feel that you could help out in some way why not approach one of the priests or anyone involved in the Parish. Perhaps this could be our theme for 2018, to get more people involved in Parish life. Let us pray that the New Year will be full of peace and blessing for us all.

Thanks also from Frs Paul and Deacon Bob for all the kind cards and gifts. Further thanks to all who have helped prepare the churches for the Christmas liturgies, and everyone who has helped in any way. We wish you all a blessed New Year.



Feast of the Holy Family

This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. During Masses this weekend at Holy Family, the new altar servers will be inducted into the order of St Stephen, whose medals they wear. After Mass tea and toast will be available for the church feast day.

New Year's Day Mass

There will be a special Mass to celebrate the arrival of 2018 in **Our Lady of the Rosary Church** in Leigh.

This will take place at **12noon on New Year's Day**.

All welcome.

Wednesday Exposition

A reminder that, just like previous years, we will have a break from having Exposition on Wednesday mornings at St. Richard's until we begin the season of Lent. Therefore the next time we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday, February 21st.

St Margaret Clitherow 200 Club

Steve Cooper is now collecting names for this year's 200 Club. The 200 Club runs from January to April and it costs £20 to join (payable in one go or 4 monthly instalments). There will be a draw in January, February, March and April for £100 and £50. In late April there will be a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow hall (Free to members). At that function a draw will be made for £1000, £100, £50 and 2 x £25. So for your £20 you have the chance to win a share a total of £1800. See Steve after Saturday / Sunday Mass or give him a ring on 07952 152371 to register for a number.

Admissions Consultation

St Mary's Catholic High School are currently consulting on a change to their Admissions Criteria which would result in a reduction in the school's planned admission number (PAN) from 280 to 260 with effect from September 2019. Further details, including Information on how you can respond, can be found on the St Mary's School website or via the following link

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Admissions-Consultations>

This consultation will run between **6 December 2017 and 31 January 2018**.

Act in Support of Catholic Education

Archbishop Malcolm wishes to contact us to encourage us to speak out for Catholic Education. He writes:

"Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government NOT to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools."

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

By forcing Catholic schools to turn away Catholic school children on the basis of their faith, the very principle of a Catholic parent's right to choose a Catholic education is under threat. Please fill in the simple form on the web site to take action:

Collections - Used Stamps & Spectacles

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas Card envelopes! If you've had your eyes tested this year and have some old spectacles you no longer need please bring them along to St Ambrose Church. Stamps and glasses can be handed to Mary Barton or left in the red box in the church porch. Thank you!

Eucharistic Ministers

New rotas are now available in Holy Family.

CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia

Many thanks to all who have supported Connect2Ethiopia through the CAFOD Café. This year, we have sent a magnificent £3,300 to CAFOD for this scheme. Thank you for your generosity.

The Café will be having a rest over Christmas and will return again in the New Year.

6.30 pm Sunday Mass (St. Richard's)

A reminder that we have now finished celebrating the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass at St. Richard's. Many thanks to all of you who supported this Mass and helped at it over the years. If you wish to read, or be involved at any of the other Masses, please speak to one of the priests after Mass.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

No meetings until further notice.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



St Richard's Parish Centre

New Year's Eve

Rock & Roll Band

REUNION

plus DJ CARL

Tickets £10, including Buffet. Phone 882125

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will be on **Tuesday 9th January** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Please remember to bring your Secret Santa Gift.

Holy Family Craft Group

The Craft Group is now closed for Christmas and New Year. It will restart on **Wednesday 10th January** when the group will be making candles. Admission £3.50 including all materials.

Family Quiz Night

Astley Churches Together invite you all to the annual Family Quiz Night to be held in St Ambrose Barlow Hall on **Friday 12th January** at 7.00pm. Tickets are £3 per person or £10 for a family and include hotpot supper. Please note, there is no bar so please bring your own drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. For tickets see Steve Cooper or ring / text him on 07952 152371.



Sacred Heart Club

Quiz Night

Cash Prizes - Every Thursday
Doors open 8.00 pm for 8.30 start.



Burns Night 2018

Friday 19th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.

Justice and Peace Annual Memorial Lecture 2018

Dr Pete North, University of Liverpool Department of Geography and Planning, will be delivering the lecture "Towards Social and Solidarity Economies" on **Sunday 21st January**, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, at LACE, Croxteth Rd, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA. All are welcome.

Parish Visit to Rome - June 2018

We are sounding out the possibility of a group travelling to Rome mid-June next year. Hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. 4 nights - bed and breakfast in a Religious House close to Vatican City. If you are interested and want more information please contact Des - 07973 114365.

Reflect:

Today's readings illustrate the importance of Family and our need to support each other in our shared journey. It can be easy to be dismissive of a brother or sister that we may not get on with, and yet each of us has a unique role to play in forming the family unit. The same is true of the role that each of us plays in our interactions with other people in our wider community. We are enhanced by each other, but we are also diminished when our relationship with each other is not as it should be.

Pray:

Through our lips let Christ speak.
Through our hands let Christ act.
Through our hearts let Christ love
And through our sharing let Christ work.
Amen

Anabel Shilson-Thomas

Act:

Have the courage to be the one to take the first step towards reconciling any differences there may be between members of your family.

Challenge:

Show solidarity with the wider community by donating to a charity which supports those who are lonely, hungry or homeless.

Response to the Archbishop's Letter

A few weeks ago we listened to a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Malcolm concerning a way ahead for the whole of the Archdiocese. The letter was in response to the results of Deanery meetings throughout the Archdiocese early in the Summer – many thanks again to all those who came along to our Open Meeting in St. Joseph's. In his letter the Archbishop outlined a three-year plan in which we can share a vision for the future of the Archdiocese and every Parish and Deanery within it. This will lead to a Synod – a gathering of the whole Archdiocese in 2020. This doesn't mean that nothing will be done until then. It means that the process will begin in the New Year with a year of prayer. Therefore, during 2018, there will be a number of Holy Hours throughout the year. One of these will be led by the Archbishop himself. The second year will focus on Parish groups coming together to share their vision for the future. Then in the final year all the deaneries will meet on a more regular basis to propose a way ahead. It is a proposal that the Archbishop has initiated himself in response to the people who shared their views at the different Open Meetings last year. As soon as we know more about the process we will share it with you but, in the meantime, please come along to the Holy Hours when we have them in the New Year and pray for the future vision of our Church.

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for next week's 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

All monies should be paid into the Parish account of St Margaret Clitherow Please note spelling 'Clitherow'). Thank you.

Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford Community Website

www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



Agnes Pilkington
 All Cancer Patients
 Ann Mellin
 Anne Broad
 Baby George
 Bernard O'Donnell
 Bridie Molyneux
 Catherine Jones
 Christopher Browne
 Clifford Browne
 Derek Maude
 Edward Leach
 Emma Oldham
 Enid Kenwright
 Eugenie Cheetham
 Fon O'Hara
 Freda Peake
 Gerald Hackett
 Guy Ryan
 Irene Burke
 Irene McIntyre
 Jean Tchibukdjian
 Jess Garrett
 Joan Wilkinson
 John Wall
 Kathy Kenyon
 Maisie Sweeney (age9)
 Margaret Case
 Margaret Dawson
 Margaret Hurley
 Margaret Ross
 Margaret Smith
 Margaret Wall
 Marjorie Price
 Mary Tiernan
 Maureen Halliday
 Michael Skiffington
 Michael Wright
 Patricia Wilson
 Rev Jim Melia
 Sandra Jones
 Shelagh Welsby
 Sr Megan Haisley
 Ted & Harriet Langin
 Thomas Higgins
 Thomas McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright
 + addition this week
 Hannah Delargy

Those who have died, especially

Madeline Sighe

Week Beginning 31st December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Pat Mullen 11.00 am Soul of Michael	(Sat) 6.00 pm Joseph Rigby 11.00 am Joan Clegg	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jimmy Hancock 9.30 am Keith Boulton
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		<i>Sorry, No Mass today</i>	<i>Sorry, No Mass today</i>
WEDNESDAY	<i>Sorry, No Mass today</i>		<i>No Exposition until Lent</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am For a Safe Delivery		9.15 am Malcolm Griffiths
FRIDAY	<i>Mass in St Ambrose Church</i>	10.00 am Joe Rigby	9.15 am Jack Prady
SATURDAY	10.00 am Martha Ryan	6.00 pm Eileen West	6.00 pm John Healy
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Ronald Hailwood 11.00 am Joan Higgins	11.00 am Alice Hewertson	9.30 am A Special Intention

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Sunday Offertory £2011.20

CAFOD £ 85.15

Alternative Christmas Cards £ 56.01

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Christmas Day Collections to be notified next week.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today
Crib Offerings

Next Week
Crib Offerings



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family & after both 6.00 pm Masses in St Ambrose and St Richard's. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND Feast of The Epiphany (B)

First Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6*
Isaiah exults over the light and glory through which the nations will come to the Lord.

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6*
Pagan and Gentile nations are now being given their place in the early Christian Church.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 2:1-12*
The wise-men are led by God's grace through the light of a star to worship the Lord and give him their gifts.

