

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

First Sunday of Lent (A)

5th March 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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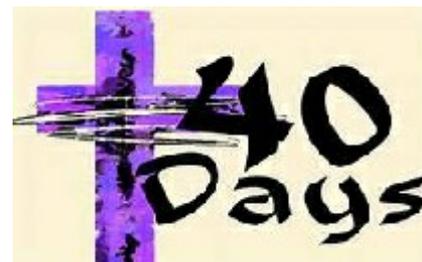
Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

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

Sunday **1st Sunday of Lent (A)**
(RCIA Rite of Election)

Next Sunday **2nd 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

The story of the Fall of Adam, which we listen to in today's First Reading, endlessly fascinates us because it is also the story of Everyman and Everywoman, of each one of us. At some point in our lives we all face the possibility of a fall when we are tempted to go astray. It can occur in many different ways. It could happen through the betrayal of someone we love, through a lie that has serious effects, or a business practice that destroys the hopes of someone else. There are perhaps many, many more. It is at these times that we are like our first parents, Adam and Eve, who chose to go against God and to be satisfied by eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The story tells us that the serpent tempts Eve, who then tempts Adam. Both wish to be like gods and choose for themselves. The effects of sin bring about the fall of others. The results can be disastrous, the relationship with God is broken, their own relationship is damaged and they feel enormous shame. They find it difficult to look at each other anymore. They are expelled from the Garden of Eden and will need to work for their living and experience the suffering of hard labour.

Remarkably God does not forget them and he is incredibly merciful towards them, because he wants them to find a way back into his love. In an ancient legend, which appears in the medieval Mystery Plays, Adam and Eve's third son, Seth, returns to the gates of the garden and asks God's angel to help them. The angel gives Seth some seeds, one of which he places in the mouth of Adam as he lies dying. From his seed God will bring about the new Adam, Christ, who will be born of the Virgin Mary. He will be tempted but will conquer the devil. We receive the hope that we can do the same with God's grace. God is always planting new seeds in our hearts. The Lord forgives us when we return to him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and our hearts are cleansed.

Lent is about the expansion of the heart so that it becomes more loving and generous. Just as the heart's muscle benefits from exercise, so our spiritual heart benefits from Lenten observances and practices. Firstly, prayer opens the heart and helps us to listen to God's Word. When we allow the Word to echo in our hearts and to penetrate down into its depths, it will help us to grow in the knowledge of God's mercy and love. Secondly, the invitation to fast expands our hearts so that we become more aware of the ways that we so often focus on, satisfying our own needs and desires rather than helping those around us, the poor of the world. Fasting can make us more grateful for what we have received and more generous to others in their need. Thirdly, we can develop our Lenten journey by giving to others, especially charities and other agencies. This helps us to focus on the needs of our neighbours across the world. So as we begin our journey through Lent let us pray that, by doing something extra, we may be more focused on our faith and allow it to touch the lives of those around us.

Psalms Response Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



HCPT Appeal

This weekend we welcome our friends from HCPT who will be doing an appeal for Lourdes at the Masses in St. Richard's Church and at the 11.00 am Mass in St Ambrose Barlow Church. We hope you enjoy the message they bring and give them your usual warm welcome and support.

Holy Family HCPT Coffee Morning 12/02/17

Once again the Holy Family HCPT Coffee Morning was a great success. The grand total raised, including donations, was £811.39. This figure actually exceeded the amount required to send one child to Lourdes. Many thanks to all who supported this event especially to those who helped on the day. The children will visit Lourdes at Easter where they will light a candle at the Grotto and pray for our parishes. Again thank you for your generosity and loyalty in supporting this worthy cause.

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.



CAFOD Lenten Café

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **today and every Sunday during Lent**. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, a wonderful array of home-made cakes and delicious snacks - including bacon butties - will be available. Proceeds from these will go to the CAFOD Lent Appeal.

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.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Friday 10th March is CAFOD's Lent Fast Day, a day when we are asked to live more simply so that others may simply live. This year we hear about Florence in Zambia who has received training in fish farming from CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. As a result, Florence is able to feed her family, sell some of the fish at market and is also able to send her children to school and give them a future.

Please take a Fast Day envelope from the back of church today and return it with your offerings next weekend. Many thanks.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place **this 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, **this Tuesday, 7th March at 7.45pm**. All welcome.

With You Always Preparation Sessions

Please note that 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 this week:-

- **Tuesday March 7th in St. Richard's Church at 5.30pm.**
- **Thursday March 9th in St. Ambrose Barlow Church at 6.00pm.**

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.

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.

Early morning Masses will take place in:-

- St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley – Wednesdays at 7.30am.
- Holy Family, Boothstown – Fridays at 6.30am.

Stations of the Cross will take place in:-

- Holy Family – Sundays at 3.00pm.
- St. Richard's – Tuesdays at 7.00pm.
- St. Ambrose Barlow – Fridays at 7.00pm.

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

There will also be a Reconciliation Service and a Taize Prayer Service (dates and times to be confirmed very soon) along with all the usual services. Why not do something extra during Lent this year?

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

Lent 2017 Reflections with Laudato Si' - Care for our common home... *Living simply, sustainably and in solidarity*

These reflections, produced by the Archdiocesan J&P Commission and CAFOD Liverpool and endorsed by both Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop John (Salford), consist of five sessions and follow the format of previous resources "Mercy and our Common Home" (Lent 2016) and 'Reflections for Creation Time' (October 2016). Participating groups appreciated the combination of Sunday Gospel readings, excerpts from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical Laudato Si', case studies from home and overseas, questions to guide discussion, and opportunities to 'See – Judge – Act'.

Sessions will be running in our Deanery on:

- **Wednesday mornings at St Richard's House**, starting at 10.00am (after 9.00 o'clock Exposition) on March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th.

- **Friday lunch times, 12.30 - 1.30 pm**, following the midday Mass, at **St Joseph's Presbytery (Green Room)** on March 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7th.

All are welcome.



Reflect:

'Water, land, air and climate are the commons, but the common good is about the direction in which those commons need to be treated. We can't share resources and see them as simply resources – they're about the interrelationship between ourselves and the natural environment and how we need to understand ourselves as deeply interwoven – both between one another socially but also interconnected with the natural environment. Just as the common good is the good for all and the good for each, conversion also is about changing individuals and changing communities so ecological conversion is a community event as well as an individual event.' Celia Deane-Drummond CAFOD climate change reflections: One Climate, One World cafod.org.uk/campaign Published Aug 6, 2015.

Pray:

God of life, help us to see your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Act:

Make an extra effort to recycle this week. Add something to each of your recycling bins everyday.

Challenge:

Consider the amount of food you eat each day. Many people survive on only one meal a day. Where can you cut back on the amount of food you consume this week? Place the money you save in a Family Fast Day envelope.

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Parish Trip to Oscott on Sunday, 19th March

The deadline for names to be added to the list is **Friday, 10th March**. There are only a few places left. The coach has been booked. Departure time (early afternoon) will be announced next week. A suggested donation of £10 towards the transport cost would be greatly appreciated.

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.

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.

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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2029.45
Saint Vincent de Paul	£ 339.31
CAFOD (ongoing throughout Lent)	£ 101.00

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Lenten Alms or HCPT <i>HCPT at St Richard's and St Ambrose Barlow (11.00am)</i>
Next Week	CAFOD's Lent Fast Day (see page 2)

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 5th March	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Hobson 11.00 am Dawn Royle 12.30pm Baptism <i style="color: magenta;">3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm John Burke 11.00 am Joan Clegg	(Sat) 6.00 pm Kevan, Sam & Greg 9.30 am Brian Harrison 6.30 pm Michael Page
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Special Intention	9.15 am John Hogg <i style="color: magenta;">7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Kathleen & Harry Hilton	7.30 am Mary Sharples	9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 11.00 am Funeral Mass for Joan Mullin
THURSDAY	10.00 am Win Mullen		9.15 am John & Sue & Family
FRIDAY	6.30 am Fr Kevin Snape 10.00 am Thanksgiving <i style="color: red;">Mass in St Gabriel's School 3.00 - 4.00 pm Holy Hour</i>	<i style="color: magenta;">7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	9.15 am Joyce Hankinson
SATURDAY	10.00 am Vocations	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Bernadette Kelly	6.00 pm John Healy
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Ann Freeman 11.00 am Dorothea McGuire <i style="color: magenta;">3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	11.00 am Frank Bryan	9.30 am John Pearson 6.30 pm Brian Cotterill

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:
Joyce Hankinson
Joan Mullin

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 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
 Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Jack Ray Goodban
 May God bless him and his family.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

First Reading	<i>Genesis 12:1-4</i>
We listen to the call of Abraham. Thanks to his faith in God the whole human race has been blessed.	
Second Reading	<i>2 Timothy 1:8-10</i>
The power of God and the vision of immortality enable Christians to face the sufferings which faithfulness to the Gospel brings.	
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>
On Mount Tabor the three disciples get a glimpse of the glory of Jesus.	