

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

4th Sunday of Easter (A)

7th May 2017



DEANERY TEAM

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Priest: | Fr. Paul Seddon | Priest: | Fr. Paul Grady |
| Tel: | 01942 883395 | Tel: | 0161 790 2390 |
| Email: | paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk | Email: | frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com |
| Priest: | Fr. Kieran O'Grady | Priest: | Fr. Colin Fealey |
| Tel: | 01942 673517 | Tel: | 01942 673517 or 731280 |
| Email: | kjmogrady@hotmail.com | Email: | stjosephs@live.com |

Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday – 4th Sunday of Easter (A)
Weekdays – Easter, Wk 4

Sunday **4th Sunday of Easter (A)**
(World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

Saturday **Feast Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral
of Christ the King**

Next Sunday **5th Sunday of Easter (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

In today's Gospel Jesus gives a warning about people who have no care for others except to take advantage of them and exploit them for their own selfish purposes. He says anyone who gets into the sheepfold and does not use the gate is up to no good. The gate is the open entrance into the fold where the sheep safely graze. The gate is a pathway of honest approach. If we approach people in a sly manner we can be accused of being up to no good and people would have every reason to mistrust us. A true shepherd uses the gate. The sheep see the shepherd and know they are safe. The shepherd's voice is familiar and to be trusted and the sheep feel secure. Every good parent or guardian knows this. Children look to those who care for them. Those who feel vulnerable look to those closest to them or those who care for them most to feel secure and free from harm. They stay close to them for guidance and encouragement.

The story Jesus uses in today's Gospel is suited for anyone in positions of pastoral care. Sometimes we can be career people, working for ourselves with no real care for anyone else. Everything that applies to bishops, priests or deacons in the Church applies equally to all of us who have roles of responsibility towards others in life. Jesus sometimes had occasion to remark on the way of the religious leaders of his day, whose only interest was in taking the best seats in the synagogues and in being greeted "obsequiously" in the market place. They liked to wear the finest clothes yet they had no time to help the poor and needy.

Jesus, who is our great shepherd today, is also the innocent lamb who was led to the slaughter. Speaking about this, St. Peter describes to us how the Lord in his suffering left us an example to follow. He never lied. He never returned any insults. He never threatened anyone, even when he was being tortured. The Lamb of God went to his death teaching us to be wise and gentle with one another. His wounds heal our ills.

Peter's call to us today is stark in its message: "Save yourselves from this perverse generation." Every age has its evils and the exploitation of the innocents has raised its ugly features in our time, in our world and even, sadly, in our Church. Peter told the people to "repent of your sins and be converted to the Lord once more. If we do, the Holy Spirit will come upon us and we will become shepherds of the sheep. The Spirit can help us become more like Jesus in our own world, and in our most magnificent vocation in loving and caring for others. As we try our very best to do this let us pray that we may listen to the one voice of our Good Shepherd calling us to follow him. May the Good Shepherd help us to direct others in the footsteps of the Lord.

Psalms Response The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

Gospel Acclamation I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

First Holy Communion

Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of our Year Four children. This will mean that there will be more people attending than normal and is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate a Christian welcome to those visiting our parish.

Please pray for all our children that they may come to know the Lord's love in their lives as they receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Mass Intentions at Holy Family

With the exception of Mass Intentions that have been given for specific dates, there is an urgent need for intentions for Masses at Holy Family. If not enough are in the book then we will accept intentions from other parts of the diocese who have too many to offer in a reasonable time.

Many thanks, Fr Paul G.

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.



Holy Communion

At the recent training session for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion the issue was raised of receiving Communion by Intinction - in other words people taking the Consecrated Host to the chalice and dipping it in before receiving it. By direction of the Bishop's Council of England and Wales this is not allowed. It is never permitted for people to do this. Please may all parishioners follow the practice of receiving the Body of Christ in front of the distributing minister, then, if they wish to, receive separately the Blood of Christ from the chalice. Whether the communicant receives the Body only, or Communion under both kinds is by their own choice. as we receive the fullness of Communion even under one kind.

Thank you from both Fr Pauls.



"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 this week:-

- Tuesday May 9th in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,
- Thursday May 11th in St. Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall at 6.00pm.

Please note that you can go to either of the sessions. It doesn't matter which school the children go to just come along and join us

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

"HMS Pinafore"

The Three Towns Operatic Society are presenting a production of "HMS Pinafore" and "Trial By Jury" in St. Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh, from **Tuesday May 16th to Saturday May 20th**. Tickets are £11 & £13 (concessions available). Contact 01942-605369 or 01942-676594.

Friends of Holy Family Summer Fair

Friends of Holy Family are holding a Summer Fair on **Saturday 20th May**, 12.00pm-3.00pm in the school playground/field. Refreshments will be on sale, including a licensed bar, along with a variety of tombola, stalls and bouncy castle etc. Please come along to support us in raising funds for school.

If anybody wishes to hold a stall please contact Holy Family School on 0161 790 2123.

Parish 'Spring Sing'

The next Parish Singalong social night at Sacred Heart (Hindsford) Parish Centre will be on **Friday 26th May**, from 8.00pm till late. Come along and enjoy a drink or two from the bar whilst listening to and joining in with Folk, Country, Traditional, Comedy and other popular songs led by local musicians and singers - some of whom have contributed to previous Parish Singalong nights and some who are coming for the first time.

Admission free!

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Date of Draw 30 April 2017

£200. 378 — £50. 25 — £25. 466

£10 Winners 208, 26, 93, 997

£ 5 Winners 206, 335, 94, 583, 665

Thank you for your continued support

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

www.sacredheartrchindsford.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Atherton Pentecost Service

Churches Together In Atherton are organizing a Pentecost Service outside Atherton Parish Church on Sunday June 4th in the afternoon. At the service Tyldesley Brass Band will provide the music and will play for us afterwards as we have refreshments in Atherton Baptist Church. More details soon.



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

Atherton Carnival

The Atherton Carnival takes place on Sunday 25th of June. At the Carnival we want to have a real Christian presence by having a Churches Together stall. We will need volunteers from all of our churches to put up a gazebo, to look after the stall by talking to people and giving out leaflets. If you can help in any way then please sign up at the back of St. Richard's Church as soon as possible.

Cineworld – Live Screenings

If anyone would like to join us for the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh, then please come along and join us. 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.

- RSC's "Anthony & Cleopatra" – **Wednesday May 24th**
- RSC's "Titus Andronicus" – Wednesday August 9th

Ladies Cocktail Evening

A ladies evening is being held on Saturday 20th May in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall from 7.30 til 12. Tickets are £20 which includes your first two cocktails - Alcoholic or non will both be available. It also includes a buffet and a raffle ticket for some amazing prizes - beauty vouchers, a meal for two, wine, chocolates and many more prizes.

We will have entertainment by the very fabulous Steven Green and our very own not one but two cocktail waiters!

All proceeds go to Parkinsons. Please come along to support this very worthy charity.

Please contact Sarah Dootson on 07914 755990 or Delia Fletcher on 07753 929476.

Delia will be selling tickets at St Ambrose Barlow after the 11am mass.

Admission by ticket only.

Women of all ages 14+ are welcome - no men in disguise!

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 1.00 pm at Westhoughton Golf Club. If you would like to play please contact Richard (07900385494) or Joe (07402332955).

Reflect:

The fourth Sunday after Easter is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' or 'Vocation Sunday'. In Jesus's time and even now, in the Middle East a shepherd does not use dogs, but walks ahead of the flock and the sheep follow him. The sheep rely on the shepherd to feed them, protect them, they recognise his voice. The shepherd is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep - he is totally committed to them.

This Sunday is also 'Vocations Sunday'. Whilst there is a critical shortage of priests and religious, each of us is called in our own particular way to a life lived in Christ. For most of us our vocation is probably what we are doing now. But do we ever consider if this is our true vocation, or a role we have wandered into? How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith on a daily basis?

Pray:

I become still and take time to reflect on the presence of God all around me, within me. I listen intently: Among the many voices speaking to me in my heart, do I recognise his voice calling me? I look at the path he is showing me, inviting me to follow him, and offering me the protection of his arms. What response do I make? Finally, I bring my prayer to a close and give glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act:

Take time to recognise the vocation you live and ask yourself - How am I a shepherd for others in my life? Do I feed those who are hungry, protect those in need of protection, reveal God's word to those who are searching? To what extent am I a spreader of truth, of love, of justice, of freedom, of tolerance and acceptance...?

Challenge:

What keeps me from following Christ? Have the courage to change this.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Offertory | £ 1989.14 |
| Monthly SVP Collection | £ 302.04 |

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Today | Priests' Training Fund |
| Next Week | Aid to the Church in Need |

Priests' Training Fund

Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The second collection will be the annual collection for the Priests' Training Fund which is the chief source of income that enables the Archdiocese to train our future priests. It takes six or seven years to train a priest and costs approximately £100,000. Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the back of each church.

Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need helps Christians who suffer persecution or oppression for their faith in more than 130 countries around the world. You can find out more at: www.acnuk.org

