

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)

8th January 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 1
Readings	Sunday – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A) Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 1
Sunday	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)
Monday	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
Saturday	St. Kentigern, (<i>Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese</i>)
Next Sunday	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (<i>Peace Sunday</i>)



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 word "Epiphany" means a manifestation or revelation. Literally, it means a "drawing back of the veil." On this day the veil is drawn back on a great mystery, namely, that Christ is the Saviour not only of the Jewish people but also of the Gentiles, namely all the people of the world. It is God's will that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. This is the theological meaning of today's feast-day. God invites all people, whoever they are, to share on an equal footing the benefits of salvation won by Christ Jesus. It stresses the perfect equality of all women and men and, as the Second Reading reminds us, in Christ we all have become part of one body.

In the Old Testament the Jews are portrayed as God's "Chosen People". But this idea was interpreted in a way that involved second-class status for all other people. This feast shows that election by God is not a privilege for some but a hope for all. It puts an end to every kind of exclusivism. So today is very much a universal feast because it tore down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. For the most part Jesus' own mission was restricted to his own people. Nevertheless, he also reached out to Samaritans, Canaanites, foreigners, and all kinds of social outcasts. He angered the Jewish leaders of the time by telling them that the Kingdom of God was open to everyone. The news that non-Jewish people would be accepted on equal terms as themselves caused shock and bewilderment amongst the religious leaders of the time. And in his final commissioning of the disciples he said to them, "Go out into the whole world and make disciples of all the nations."

This great and wonderful truth was revealed when the Magi, the three kings, three Gentiles from foreign lands, came to honour Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. The Magi are the first fruits of the outside world coming to share in the blessings of God, revealed in the stable in Bethlehem. So today is a happy feast. It is an inclusive and welcoming feast. Perhaps as we celebrate today's feast we should ask ourselves how well we welcome others, especially into our church. If God himself loved us SO MUCH that he gave us his only Son to be our Lord and Saviour, how much should we share that love with others? Let us allow this feast to remind us of our calling to be a welcoming Church, a welcoming Parish and a welcoming Family. After all, through Jesus we are now part of God's family too.

Psalm Response Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens.

PARISH NEWS This Week



The Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.



Justice and Peace Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Deanery Justice & Peace Group will be on **Wednesday, 11th January at 7.45pm at Holy Family Presbytery**. All are welcome.

Family Quiz Night

There will be a Quiz for all the family at St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall on **Friday 13th January 2017, from 7.00pm**. Tickets cost £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket. Hotpot supper is included. Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring your own alcoholic and soft drinks. Tickets available from Steve Cooper.

St Ambrose Barlow 200 Club:

Numbers have been drawn for those people who have already joined the 200 Club and are available from Steve at the back of church this weekend. If you have been intending to join but haven't yet got around to it – don't worry, there's still time. The first draw will take place after the 11.00 Mass on Sunday 22nd January. You have until then to get yourselves signed up. To make sure you are entered into the first draw see Steve at the back of church or call him on 07952 152371. You know it makes sense.

St Richard's 500 Club

Please note that from January 2017 the **500 club** will be run by **Mr Michael Farrimond and Mr James Duffy**, and the Monthly Draw will take place during the Coffee Morning after 9.30am Mass at St. Richard's on the first Sunday of every month. **New members welcome.**

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.

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.

Exposition at St. Richard's Church

A reminder that the next Wednesday morning Exposition in St. Richard's Church will take place on the first Wednesday of Lent, March 8th. During the work that is soon to be done at St. Richard's Church there will be occasions when we have Mass in the Parish House or even the Parish Centre whilst the new radiators and heating system are being fitted. More details nearer the time.

St. Kentigern Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese

Next Saturday, 14th January, is the Memorial of St. Kentigern, Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. He was born about 516. Brought up in the discipline and piety of St. Servanus, Abbot of Gilross, he was sent to Glasgow and became Bishop there. Known as Mungo, 'one dearly beloved', he was vigorous in defence of the faith against Pelagianism, and he was outstanding in piety and missionary zeal.

For a time he had to flee Glasgow, and he lived with St. David in Menevia. He built a monastery and a school, which he left in the care of St. Asaph. He returned to Scotland and ruled as Bishop for the next 40 years, dying in 601. An eminent saint of the ancient Church of North Britain.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Later this month we will celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is always a very special week when we pray for our sisters and brothers of other denominations and come together to celebrate our faith. There will be a special service of prayer in **St. George's Church**, Atherton next **Sunday January 15th at 6.30pm**. During this special week, the following churches will be open for prayer between 10.00-11.30am:-

- **Monday January 16th – Chowbent Chapel.**
- **Tuesday January 17th – St. Richard's Church.**
- **Wednesday January 18th – St. Michael's Church.**
- **Thursday January 19th – Independent Methodist Church.**
- **Friday January 20th – St. John's Parish Church.**

Everyone welcome.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Live Screenings at Cineworld

It has been quite a while since we last advertised the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh. It was great to meet up with other parishioners to watch a live performance and enjoy each other's company. There are three good looking performances coming up in the New Year.

- RSC's "The Tempest" – Wednesday, January 11th at 7.00pm.
- National Theatre's "Amadeus" – Thursday, February 2nd at 7.00pm.
- National Theatre's "St. Joan" – Thursday, February 16th.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will take place in Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Hindsford, on **Tuesday January 17th at 7.30pm**. All welcome.

St Joseph's Players Pantomime

St Joseph's Players will present their pantomime, "**Robinson Crusoe**" in St Joseph's Hall, Leigh from **18th January to 28th January 2017**. Evenings at 7.15pm. Matinees, 21st, 22nd, 23rd from 2.00pm. Special Offer, 18th and 19th, all tickets £4. Tickets available from Stones Carpets, Chapel Street, Leigh (opposite Church).

Burns Night 2017

Friday 20th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Just a reminder to those already booked. Please pay on the night.

"With You Always" Catechists Meeting

As we prepare for the up-coming "With You Always" preparation course, there will be a meeting of catechists for St. Ambrose Barlow and St. Richard's on **Tuesday February 7th at 7.00 pm**. The meeting will be held at St. Richard's Parish House.

St Patrick's Night at Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford

There will be an evening of Irish and Country songs at Sacred Heart Catholic Club, Hindsford to help the Parish celebrate St Patrick's Day on **Friday 17th March**, from 8.00 pm till closing time. Admission free.

Over 60's Afternoon – 18th March 2017

Every year, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community welcomes persons over 60 years of age to an afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.00 pm followed by a meal and entertainment. We can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities. We will, of course extend our invitation to those who were invited last year. We do have a number of places available free this year. If you have not attended in the past please contact us to arrange invitations.

As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend any Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, plus those who help at our community events on a regular basis.

If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Delia (07753 929476), Jackie B. (01942 516619) or Steve (01942 876487) before January 31st who will pass your request on to the organisers. Invitations then will be issued, according to the above criteria and subject to numbers.



Parish Visit to Oscott

A reminder about the parish trip to **St. Mary's College, Oscott**, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Birmingham serving the Catholic Church in England, Wales & Scotland. The visit will take place on **Sunday 19th March 2017** and will follow the pattern: arrival about 4.00pm, afternoon tea, tour of the college, evening prayer 6.30pm, departure about 7.00pm. The parish group will be led by Fr Paul the Younger who spent some time at the College during his training for the priesthood. Please let Fr Paul know if you would like to go on the visit.



Fatima, 19th - 23rd June 2017

We have a good sized group travelling but still have places available on this Pilgrimage. The price is £377.00 PLUS the airfare (approx £100). If you want to book please contact Des or Cath during the week on 01942 888844 or complete a booking form (at the back of church) and send it with your deposit to the address shown on the booking form.

Save Stamps for Charity

If you would like to save stamps for charity they can be placed in the red box at the back of St Ambrose Church.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Offertory & Christmas Collections	£2991.09
<i>(plus St. Richard's collections, tba)</i>	
Alternative Christmas Cards (to CAFOD)	£ 23.00
<i>(St Ambrose Barlow)</i>	

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1726.16
Crib Offerings (St Ambrose Barlow)	£ 26.76

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Monthly SVP Collection
Next Week	Pax Christi

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace organisation providing support and resources for the Christian community in the UK. Website: www.paxchristi.org.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 8th January	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Cyril & Mary McLaughlin 11.00 am Celia Beresford	(Sat) 6.00 pm Batrak & Chilman Families 11.00 am Joe Rigby	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mary Joseph Walters 9.30 am Mary & Martin Furey 6.30 pm The Neary Family
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am William, Beryl & John Skiffington, Angela Valentine & Eileen Bond 12 noon Funeral Service for David Hilton	9.15 am James Dawson
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Paul Goggins		<i>No Exposition until March</i> 10.00 am Funeral Mass for Margaret Brown
THURSDAY	10.00 am Margaret Hobson		9.15 am Colin Brett
FRIDAY	10.00 am Philippa Craig <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>	9.15 am	9.15 am Patricia Oliver
SATURDAY	10.00 am Thomas & Alice O'Neill	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Frank Hudson	6.00 pm Patricia Shaw
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Win Mullen 11.00 am Lloyd Hacker & James McGuinness	11.00 am Frank Bryan	9.30 am John Pearson 6.30 pm Rex Baxter

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Colin Brett	David Hilton
Margaret Brown	Ann Lyons
Jack Pheby	

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	Susan Phillips
Margaret Hurley	Neil Hurley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Freda Peake
Ann Mellin	Leonard Beach
Margaret Dawson	Fon O'Hara
Maureen Halliday	Thomas Higgins
Enid Kenwright	Betty Rostern
Bernard O'Donnell	
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

10.30 am on Saturday, after morning Mass at Holy Family.
After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.

Confession also available by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading *Isaiah 49:3,5-6*
Isaiah talks about the servant God has chosen to bring Israel back to him, and not just Israel, but all people.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:1-3*
Paul reminds the Christians at Corinth that they are called to holiness.

Gospel Reading *John 1:29-34*
Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus. He is God's chosen servant who takes away the sins of the people and baptizes them with the Holy Spirit.