

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)

9th April 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)
Weekdays – Holy Week

Sunday **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)**
Holy Thursday **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Good Friday **Passion of the Lord (Day of Fast & Abstinence)**
Holy Saturday **Easter Vigil**
Next Sunday **Easter Sunday (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

Jesus organizes his own procession into a city that is going to kill him. It may seem puzzling, not only to go voluntarily to the place where your innocence will not protect you, but to enter the arena of your own execution in the midst of songs and acclamations. Matthew's Gospel tells us that all the commotion of the first Palm Sunday throws Jerusalem into turmoil as the people seek to discover who Jesus is. The people are told that this is the prophet, Jesus of Nazareth, from the north in Galilee. The northerner has come to question the south. The countryman has come to take over the city. The prophet has come to confront the established authority. By the time the Passion begins there is nothing more to shout about. Processions that follow Messiahs are triumphant affairs. Processions that follow condemned criminals are timid by comparison. Matthew tells us that all his disciples deserted him, one betrayed him with a kiss, another denied him with curses. When the Passion arrives it brings with it a very important question: Can you still associate yourself with this man when all the authorities are against him? Can you still believe in Jesus when you face the direction of Calvary? Jesus himself presses on to the very end. When we speak of the Passion of Jesus we usually mean the suffering and death inflicted on him. But the Passion is not just something that happens to Jesus, it is the power within Jesus – his passion – that enables him to face the violence and the pain. Jesus has a Grand Passion, one that consumes his whole person and drives him through this time of horror. He could have avoided coming south to Jerusalem. He could have compromised and settled for survival. But the Passion within him was greater than his need for security and survival. He is a passionate man. His ardent love insists that he should face the ultimate test of love, the Cross.

Throughout his ministry Jesus revealed the greatness of his own Passion - his undying urge to do his Father's will; his preference for the poor and abandoned; his fury at a religious authority that only invents new burdens and restrictions for people; his energetic love for those who feel unloved and abandoned in any way. In the end the Cross comes as no surprise. It is the penalty for making a habit of such extravagant love. The Cross of Jesus stands at the centre of the Christian story as the sign of the lengths love will go in its passion for others. If we ever wonder if we are really loved, we should look at the figure on the Cross. If it difficult to maintain that we are unloved when we know that someone thought we were worth dying for. The Cross is lifted up as a sign of our worth. Somebody, that is Jesus and God the Father himself, thought we were worth all that pain and suffering. We remember the death of Jesus not as an arbitrary, heedless act of violence, rather we honour his death as the supreme act of love. The love of one who "did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself" to become as we all are; and as we are to show that, in spite of our sins and the bad and stupid things we sometimes do, God still loves us. This message is the very heart of the Passion story.

Psalm Response My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



Easter Triduum Services

Please note the times for the services for the Easter Triduum.

Mass of the Lord's Supper:-

- St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley & St. Richard's, Atherton
Thursday April 13th at 7.30 pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion:-

- Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton
Friday April 14th at 3.00 pm.

The Easter Vigil:-

- Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton
Saturday April 15th at 8.00pm.

**Please note that there will be NO 6.30pm Mass on
Easter Sunday or Sunday April 23rd.**

Holy Week Liturgies - Easter Sign Up Sheets

Sign up sheets are at the back of all three churches - Holy Family, St Ambrose Barlow and St Richard's - for the ministries of reader and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion during these great days. As always, we are looking for a balance showing the unity of our communities in our celebrations by working together and sharing ministries where possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Can readers please sign up for Easter Sunday? Readings can be obtained from Fr Paul G or Bernie in the parish office at Holy Family or from Fr Paul S at St Richard's.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make an offering towards the flowers for Easter in memory of loved ones who have died, TODAY is the last day to give their names into Church so that the list can be compiled before Easter. Names will be displayed throughout the Easter Season.

CAFOD Lenten Café

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **today**. 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 CAFOD.

The Traidcraft Stall containing a selection of fairtrade products will also be available.

This will be the last day for the CAFOD Lenten Café. There will not be a Café on Easter Sunday and after that it reverts to being on the last Sunday of the month.

Ladies Group Easter Hamper Draw

Will be drawn **today, Sunday 9th April** after the 11.00 am Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church. All monies raised will be going to the British Lung Foundation.

Churches Together Lenten Service

The Churches Together in Atherton Palm Sunday United Service takes place **today, Sunday April 9th at 6.30pm** in Atherton Salvation Army Chapel.

Chrism Mass

We will be taking a coach to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass **this Wednesday**, 12th April. The Mass begins at 7.30pm so the two pick ups will be: **5.30pm at St Joseph's and 5.45pm from Holy Family. Please note earlier times than published last week.** If you would like a place on the coach please sign the list at the back of church.

Churches Together Good Friday Service

Churches Together In Atherton are having their annual Stations of the Cross in **St. Richard's Church on Good Friday at 10.00am**. This will be followed by a time of prayer and witness outside Atherton Parish Church at 11.00am. Please come along and join us.

Easter Sunday 'Son-rise'

If you would like to end Lent with one big effort and welcome the Risen Lord, why not come down to St Stephen's, Astley for the 6.00am 'Son-rise' service on Easter Sunday? This is a short service of readings and prayers followed by refreshments in St Stephen's church. All welcome.

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Date of Draw 26 March 2017

£200 156, **£50** 611, **£25** 957
£10 Winners 1183, 187, 1028, 380
£5 Winners 813, 576, 1150, 538, 1114
Thank you for your continued support

St Richard's 500 Club Draw for April

£100	227	R. Richardson
£50	204	K. Walsh
£25	042	J. Duffy
£15	322	N. Isherwood
£15	232	D. Mills

Thank you for your continued support

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for **next week's newsletter** are sent in no later than **TUESDAY** 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

Holy Communion

At last week's 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 we will be having a break over Easter. Therefore the next "With You Always" preparation sessions will take place on the following dates:-

- **Tuesday May 2nd in St. Richard's Parish Centre at 5.30pm,**
- **Thursday May 4th in St. Ambrose Barlow 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. 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.



Reflect:

Today we walk with Jesus to the shadow of the Cross. Jesus' heart is full of sorrow in the garden of Gethsemane. He knows his friends will desert him. When he is handed over, the soldiers twist him a crown of thorns and mock him as though he is nothing. Perhaps Jesus even feels abandoned by God, as he cries out, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" (Matthew 26:14-27:66) Yet Christ endures all of this, trusting and praying and holding onto God. In this way, he reveals his divine dignity, both fully God and fully human. Christ's passion is an immense sacrifice of love for each one of us, setting us free.

Pray:

Loving God, we watch as silent shadows sweep across the earth. For all those who are living as slaves today, in refugee camps or in merciless working conditions, we pray we may hold hope in our hearts for the coming of dawn. Amen.

Act:

Be inspired by the hopes and determination of our sisters and brothers who are living as refugees. Read messages of solidarity from women, men and children living in refugee camps to the UK at <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Refugee-messages-to-UK> (Rachel McCarthy from CAFOD's Theology Programme.)

Challenge:

On the cross, Jesus trusted that his suffering made some kind of sense, to be revealed when the Father chose. Every day of his human life, he wanted to do whatever he could to alleviate the suffering of those around him. But he was thwarted. He had to die in the hope that he would live again in our flesh. Our challenge now is to follow in his footsteps, to see the suffering of all the people whom God puts in our lives and strive with great effort to grieve with them and do whatever we can to alleviate their suffering. Who do you know in your life who is suffering? How can you help them?



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

An 11-18 Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

St. Mary's Head of R.E.

St. Mary's High School, Astley, are inviting applications for the post of Head of Department in Religious Education, to begin in September 2017. Informal visits to the school are actively encouraged. Closing date for applications is **Friday April 21st**. Date of Interview is April 26th. For more information please contact the school website, www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

200 Club Grand Draw

The £1000 draw will take place at a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall from 7.30pm on Friday 21st April. Members wishing to attend the evening can obtain their tickets from Steve Cooper either at the back of church or by ringing Steve on 07952 152371.

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Hour of Grace devotions will take place in Holy Family on Sunday 23rd April beginning at 3.00pm with Exposition and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Reconciliation will be available during the hour which will conclude with Sung Benediction at 4.00pm.

April 29th - Fete du Vin

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall, 7.30pm - - £10.00 pp
Come along to an evening of wine tasting. Bread and cheese included to help soak it up. Spare bottles of wine will be auctioned. Sponsored by the Catenian Association. Please contact Des (07973 114365) or Eamonn 01942 892967 for tickets.

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 1.00pm at Westhoughton Golf Club. If you would like to play please contact Richard (07900385494) or Joe (07402332955). Alternatively you can contact Fr. Paul the Elder. Please note that Fr. Paul cannot play this year since he has to attend a Dean's Meeting on the same day, so you might have a better chance of winning!!! (NB. This doesn't mean Fr. Paul is any good. It means that you have more chance of winning if you're not on his team!!!) Good luck!

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2072.06
Catholic Blind Services	£ 234.93
CAFOD (St Richard's)	£ 108.11
Easter Flowers (St Ambrose)	£ 135.02

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	THOMAS
Good Friday	Holy Places
Easter Sunday	No collection

THOMAS stands for "Those on the Margins of a Society". It is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme, set up by a Catholic Priest in Blackburn, and offers people the opportunity to rebuild their lives by finding a solution to the problems of addiction. It does wonderful work. Have a look at their website: www.thomasonline.org.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 9th April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
PALM SUNDAY	9.00 am Bill & Mary Freeman 11.00 am Rita Condron <i>3.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm In thanksgiving to St Jude 11.00 am Ellen Hounslea	(Sat) 6.00 pm Colin Ryan 9.30 am Joyce Hankinson 6.30 pm Albert Hewson
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Joan Mullin <i>7.00 pm Stations of the Cross</i>
WEDNESDAY	<i>Chrism Mass at the Cathedral (see p2)</i>	11.30 am Funeral Service for Eileen Retford	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
HOLY THURSDAY	<i>(Mass at St Ambrose Barlow)</i>	7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Sheila Swift <i>Followed by Watching concluding with Night Prayer at 11.00 pm</i>	7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Maria Conneely
GOOD FRIDAY	<i>11.00 am Children's Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord</i>	<i>10.00 am Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm Service of Reflection</i>	<i>10.00 am Churches Together in Atherton Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord</i>
SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL	<i>(No Morning Mass) 8.00 pm Mass of the Easter Vigil Deceased Members of the Maude & Taylor families</i>	<i>(Easter Vigil at Holy Family)</i>	8.00 pm Mass of the Easter Vigil Chiara Barberio & Patrick Quaid
EASTER SUNDAY	9.00 am Ben Parker & Bridey Ryann 11.00 am Fr Kevin Snape	11.00 am Mary Coleman	9.30 am Sarah Mary Herron <i>(No Evening Mass)</i>

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Eileen Retford 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 James Pickering	Edith Hilton 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

Confession available by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND EASTER SUNDAY (A)

First Reading *Acts 10:34,37-43*
 St. Peter preaches to the early Church that the Risen Christ is the Saviour of all those who believe in him and that he is the Judge of the living and the dead.

Second Reading *Colossians 2:6-11*
 Through our Baptism we already share in the risen life of Christ, though in a hidden and mysterious way.

Gospel Reading *John 20:1-9*
 On finding Jesus' tomb empty, the truth of his resurrection begins to dawn on his disciples.

Pope Francis @Pontifex March 30

Prayer is powerful. Prayer conquers evil. Prayer brings peace.