

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

16th December 2018

DEANERY TEAM

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<http://stmmaryschs.org.uk/> – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent (C)
Weekdays – Advent, Week 3 (after 16th)

Sunday **Third Sunday of Advent (C)**
Gaudete Sunday

Next Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)**
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers



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

This weekend we hear the prophetic words of John the Baptist. They are words of judgement and yet we are told that he announced the "Good News". How can judgement be Good News? In last weekend's readings John was introduced as one who preached a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He wants the people to change their ways but they are reluctant. They want to stay as they are. But John has been sent to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord who will bring them salvation. He warns them of the judgement to come and their consciences are touched. They ask him, "What must we do?" in Luke's Gospel, especially, Jesus links salvation to what we do with our possessions. So many of his parables will warn of the danger of riches and the accumulation of possessions, whether it is the story of the rich man and Lazarus or the farmer who hoards everything and does not share his produce. Now John does not just tell his listeners that they must produce fruits, he specifies what each group should do in practice. He demands change that is not just superficial but makes them uncomfortable, for they are called to share their possessions more justly. He tells them to share their food, and even their clothing, with those in need. The tax collectors who exploit the people must restrain their greed and act fairly. Soldiers must be satisfied with their pay and not misuse their power to rob and blackmail. John's words of judgement arouse the people from their complacency and prepare them to receive the Good News of salvation which Christ Jesus will bring.

We may sometimes wish that God would leave us alone. But John the Baptist and the prophets tell us that this is the worst thing God could do. Left to ourselves we get lost following whatever desire we have for possessions, money or just a comfortable, quiet life. Do we still hoard our possessions and close our hearts to those in need, even though we have plenty? Do we benefit from, or at least approve of, the excessive charges and bonuses big businesses award themselves? And, as John the Baptist noted, there are many people in all kinds of powerful positions who do not seem to mind corrupting themselves for the sake of getting more. But we may also face the challenge of changing even though our lives may be happy and normal. We may be deaf to the call of God to serve in a more demanding way. John the Baptist still points to a deeper freedom beyond the enticement of comfort or possessions. His is a word of judgement which makes us ready to receive the words of Jesus. And it is a word of judgement that leads to the Good news of salvation. This is why today we rejoice because we know that beyond the pain and inconvenience of change we can rejoice in Christ's presence as he comes to us this Christmas. "Be happy," writes St. Paul, "the Lord is very near."

Psalm Response Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Festival Carol Service

This is being held at Holy Family Church **TODAY, Sunday 16th December at 3.00pm**. All welcome. Any donations of mince pies to be enjoyed with mulled wine would be most welcome.

Christmas Flowers

Sheets for names to be displayed in St Ambrose Barlow and Holy Family church over Christmas, in whose memory the flowers will be arranged, are now at the back of church. Money donated goes towards the cost of flowers.

Time Out for Christmas

If you are fed up with the TV adverts telling you that 'the holidays are coming', if your ears are tired of the Christmas songs playing in the shops, then there is an antidote... The Sundays of Advent are time to slow down and reflect on the true message of the season, so come along to the **Green Room at St. Joseph's, Leigh today, December 16th at 3.00pm** to spend an hour in quiet and prayer, making yourself truly ready for Christmas.

Deacon Tony Arrowsmith

Last week we informed you of the death of Deacon Tony Arrowsmith. Tony's Funeral Mass, led by Bishop John Rawsthorne, will take place in Sacred Heart Church, Leigh, **this coming Tuesday at 12noon**. Please keep Tony and his family and friends in your prayers at this time.

Goodbye & Farewell Mr. McCann

Many of you will perhaps know by now that Mr. McCann is moving to new pastures after his time as Head Teacher at St. Ambrose Barlow School in Astley. Despite being a St. Helens' fan, Mr. McCann has been a wonderful Head Teacher and he is going to be greatly missed. We wish him every success and happiness at his new school and hope he will keep in touch with us here in the Parish. We hope to appoint a new Head Teacher as soon as possible.

Parish Trip to York

Many thanks to everyone who came along to the trip to York last Tuesday. Despite the fog and the cold we had a great day. Fr. Paul Senior even started his Christmas shopping! It was good to visit St. Margaret Clitherow's home then enjoy the Christmas markets. York is a very beautiful city. Here's to the next time.

Christmas Hamper

Thanks for supporting the Christmas Hamper by donating items and buying raffle tickets. The hamper was won by Mrs Jean Tchibukdjian.

Grand Draw, 30th November

Many prizes have been claimed but some counterfoils had no names. Ticket Numbers 6549, 8114, 4199, 2887, 4557 all have prizes waiting, so please check and contact Des on 876050.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The next Exposition and Rosary will be on **January 5th**.

Children's Liturgy at Holy Family

This will next take place on **6th January** at the 11.00am Mass.

R.C.I.A.

The next meeting for any adults who are interested in becoming Catholic or just want to find out more about the Faith will be in the New Year – date to be announced.

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

Please note the Mass times for Christmas here in the Parish:-

Christmas Eve

6.00pm – Holy Family

6.00pm – St. Richard's

8.00pm – St. Ambrose Barlow

11.30pm – Carols & Readings at Holy Family before

Midnight – Holy Family

Christmas Day

9.00am – Holy Family

9.30am – St. Richard's

11.00am – St. Ambrose Barlow

11.00am – Holy Family

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES FOR ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH

Christmas Eve

5.30pm – XII Apostles

6.00pm – St. Joseph's

Midnight – Our Lady of the Rosary

Christmas Day

8.30am – St. Joseph's

9.30am – Sacred Heart

10.30am – St. Joseph's

11.15am – Our Lady of the Rosary

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1843.77

Advent Collection (St Ambrose Barlow) £ 24.72

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Advent Collections

May we remind you that all the collections

CLOSE TODAY!

Once again, thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. It is all greatly appreciated.

1. The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital welcome NEW gifts for children who may not receive a gift or even a visit on Christmas Day. The patients come from all over the country and visits are not always possible, especially when there are several children in the family, and transport can be very difficult. The patients range from babies to young people up to 18 years. The hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts, but they do welcome contributions of wrapping paper. The gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark or the EU Standards CE Mark. There will be large Christmas gift bags at the back of each church for the gifts.

2. The Windsor Drop In Centre, Salford (otherwise known as Loaves and Fishes) is grateful for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.

3. Animals in Distress, Irlam would welcome donations of dog and cat food and old towels.

Next Week

No Second Collection (Crib Offerings)

Synod 2020

We have now sent off the names of those who have volunteered to become Synod members.

Here is a reminder of the "Synod Timeline" for the first year.

- **Sunday 3rd February – Synod Opening Ceremony in Liverpool Cathedral.**
- **Feb 9th or 13th or 16th – Meeting of Members. (Members can attend any one meeting)**
- **Lent 2019 – Discernment Preparation. (Various dates)**
- **29th April – 10th May – Pastoral Area gathering of all Members.**
- **May – June 2019 – Listening and discerning in Parishes. (Led by Members)**
- **21st or 25th or 28th September – Meeting of Members. (Members can attend any one meeting)**
- **October 2019 – January 2020 – Pastoral Area Pre-Synod 1. (One in each Pastoral Area)**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

200 Club 2019

I am now collecting names for the next 200 Club. It will take the same format as in previous years. The only difference being that agents need only bring in 5 members. For every 5 members recruited agents will receive a complimentary number for all draws. Anyone can be an agent.

Your £20 membership fee will ensure you are entered into a monthly draw for prizes of £100 and £50. These draws will take place in January, February, March and April. In early May there will be a cabaret evening with first option for free tickets going to 200 Club members. Please note that membership of the 200 Club and attendance at this event is restricted to over-16's!

At the cabaret evening, we will make the Grand Draw – a top prize of £1000, a second prize of £100 and a third prize of £50 plus 2 at £25.

As ever, it is your support that will help to ensure the success of the 200 Club, so please join. Many thanks to you all for your continuing support – and good luck in the draws.
Steve.

Deanery Forum Meeting

The next meeting of the Deanery Forum will take place on **January 10th** at 7.30pm in All Saints Church in Golborne. This will be the first time we have held the meeting outside the "old" Deanery boundary. If anyone would like a lift there should be a few cars going so please ask around at Church over the weekend.

Burns Night 2019

Friday 18th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.50. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.

With You Always

A note to all children and families in Year 4 at St.Richard's, St.Ambrose Barlow & Sacred Heart, Hindsford, that the celebrations of First Holy Communion will take place next year on the following dates:-

- **May 4th at 11.00am in St.Ambrose Barlow Church.**
- **May 11th at 11.00am in St.Richard's Church.**

The "With You Always" preparation sessions will take place early in the New Year.

Prayer in preparation for Synod 2020

We thank you Father
For the love you have shown us
In the gift of Jesus, your Son.
Keep us grateful each day
For the blessings that surround us.

As we are fed by you,
So now send us out
To share what we have received
With our hungry brothers and sisters.

We humbly ask your help to become the Church
That you are calling us to be:
A community that listens, that trusts,
That lives with courage
And that puts out its nets into new waters.

May the gentle presence of Christ in our hearts
Be a source of healing, of new life
And a deeper trust in you.
We ask this in faith
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.Amen.



Reflect

In today's Gospel reading, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation and encourages the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life.

Pray

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
Sing and shout for joy,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

Act

John the Baptist gives us some very practical ways to live our lives in a way which is true to the Gospel. Can we choose to do one of these?

Challenge

John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. Can we identify one specific change we might make in our lives to prepare the way of the Lord?

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 Clitheroe Please note spelling 'Clitheroe'). Thank you.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



Arthur Leggett
All Cancer Patients
Anne Broad
Baby George
Baby Grace
Baby Luke
Bernard O'Donnell
Bridie Molyneux
Catherine Jones
Christopher Browne
Clare Barlow
Clifford Browne
Derek Maude
Eddie Shaw
Edward Leach
Emma Oldham
Enid Kenwright
Fon O'Hara
Freda Peake
Gerald Hackett
Guy Ryan
Hannah Delargy
Irene Burke
Irene McIntyre
Jack Rothwell
Jean Tchibukdjian
Jess Garrett
Jessie Lucas
Joan Wilkinson
John Neary
John Wall
Kathy Kenyon
Maisie Sweeney (10)
Margaret Case
Margaret Dawson
Margaret Ross
Margaret Wall
Marjorie Price
Mary Tiernan
Maureen Halliday
Michael Wright
Olivia Hutchinson
Rev Jim Melia
Sandra Jones
Shelagh Welsby
Stephen Howell
Terry Barlow
Thelma Humble
Thomas McLoughlin
Wyn Wright
Yvonne Mellin

If any of the above are now better please tell margaretclitherow@yahoo.com

Week Beginning 16th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Gladys Waring 11.00 am Deceased members of the Maude & Taylor Families	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ann Callan 11.00 am Deceased members of the Beresford & McGarth Families	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jimmy Hancock 9.30 am Teresa & Michael Cleary
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Mary Sharples & Frank Bryan	9.15 am Ian Davies
WEDNESDAY	9.30 am Maureen Riley <i>Mass with Holy Family School in Church</i> 7.00 pm The Parker Family		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	11.30 am Funeral Mass for Edna Mullaney		9.15 am Bill O'Connor
FRIDAY	10.00 am William Jarrott <i>Mass with St Gabriel's School in Church</i>		9.30 am <i>(in Sacred Heart School)</i> Children of the Parish
SATURDAY	10.00 am The Sydoruk Family	6.00 pm Bernard Hughes	6.00 pm John Neary
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Eileen Coates 11.00 am Pat Alexander	11.00 am Philip Smith	9.30 am Harry Knotman

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

See page 2 for the Mass times for Christmas here in the Parish and in St. Edmund Arrowsmith Parish.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our family of Faith:

Emme Amelia Watson
Poppy Preston
Alfie Preston

May God bless them and their families.



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Deacon Tony Arrowsmith

Edna Mullaney

R.I.P.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

First Reading

Micah 5:1-4

The prophet Micah announces to the beleaguered inhabitants of Jerusalem that a ruler will come from Bethlehem who will bring them peace.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

Jesus came, not to offer the sacrifices of the Old Law, but to do the will of God. His one perfect sacrifice replaced the former sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth praises Mary, and, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.