

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

23rd December 2018

DEANERY TEAM

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Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownholymfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk

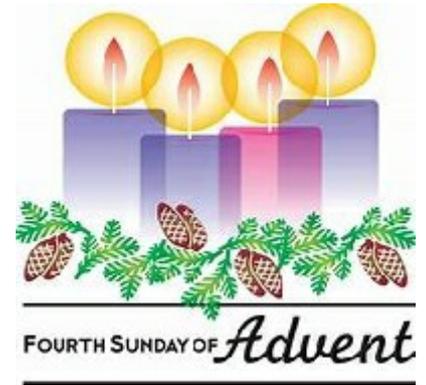


LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
Weekdays – Advent Part II (after 16th)

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
Tuesday Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord
CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)

Wednesday St. Stephen
Thursday St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Friday Holy Innocents
Saturday St. Thomas of Canterbury
Next Sunday Feast of the Holy Family (C)



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.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM

"This Christmas many people are living with uncertainty, yet this is nothing new. For centuries people have lived with worry and insecurity, but for over 2000 years we have lived with the truth which we celebrate each Christmas Day, the truth that God became like us, for each and every one of us. The Christ child born in Bethlehem is our anchor and our Saviour. His coming brings us confidence so we can face the future with hope.

We celebrate Christmas at the darkest time of the year. The days are short and the nights are long, but our celebrations bring light to our darkness and hope to our lives. In these days we see incredible generosity as people reach out to others, especially to those in need. In a time of political instability, financial worries, foodbanks and poverty, so many are daily supporting those who most need our help. In recent weeks donation to local foodbanks have increased as people give help to those most in need at this time of year. Those who have plenty are called to support those with so little.

Jesus was born in poverty, in a stable, in the dark, open to the cold. His first visitors were not friends and family or people that Mary and Joseph knew, they were strangers – shepherds from the surrounding hillside summoned by angels and wise men from the East who followed a star bringing gifts for the new born King. Stars don't just lead us but remind us of the creative power of God and his presence in our lives. God is with us in the star that shines in our hearts. God became one of us because we matter to him.

Jesus, the true light, has come into our lives to give us real hope because each one of us matters. This is not just wishful thinking. Jesus, the Light of the World, shows us the way out of the despair of poverty, and of instability and of the gloom of the seasons to a brighter future ahead. We believe that the child born in Bethlehem will guide us and support us and this is what makes our festivities worthwhile.

We buy presents for our families and friends, we decorate our homes, offices and Churches, and we travel long distances so that we can be with the people we love most, reminding us of God's love for us. Let us then pray for peace in our world and in our lives, echoing the song of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest Heaven and on earth peace to people of goodwill."

Yours in Christ,

*Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool.*

Psalm Response God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



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.

These must be handed in **today** as the list is being prepared to be put out tomorrow.



Feast of the Holy Family

As this is the Patronal Feast of Holy Family Church there will be tea, coffee and toast after both the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **next Sunday, 30th December.**



Congratulations...

to the children from St Gabriel's and Holy Family who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time as part of the With You Always programme.

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.

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.

Exposition at St.Richard's

Just like the last few years we will have a Winter break from Wednesday morning Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St.Richard's Church. We will start again at the beginning of Lent.

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

READINGS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-7

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a child being born who will bring liberation, illumination and peace to the world.

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14

In Christ, God's plan is revealed to us and our response is to live our lives according to his Good News.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-14

The humble birth of Christ takes place in Bethlehem and is heralded by the angel of the Lord to nearby shepherds.

CHRISTMAS DAY

First Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a time of great joy as God's salvation is seen by all people.

Second Reading – Hebrews 1:1-6

The coming of Christ surpasses any previous encounters with the divine because in Christ we truly meet God.

Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18

The Word of God, who existed with God from the beginning, becomes flesh like us in order to make us children of God.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1908.63

Advent Collection (St Ambrose Barlow) £ 19.48

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Advent Collections which have now closed.

Today & 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.

Pastoral Area Pilgrimage to POLAND 17th - 21st June 2019

Over the last few years we have had very successful visits to the Holy Land, Fatima and Rome.

We are offering a 4-night stay in Krakow, with visits to Wadowice, birthplace of St John Paul, the extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to the Polish National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Dinner, bed and breakfast in a 3 star hotel within minutes of the Central Square of Krakow. Price of £519 PLUS Airfare (Manchester-Krakow) currently approx £78.00. Please contact Des 07973 114365 for bookings. Information is available at the back of Church. A meeting will be held in mid-January for interested parishioners.

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

Today's familiar Gospel tells us of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. It reminds us that other people are important in each of our lives as they can enable us to recognise God's action in our lives.

Pray

Pray the 'Hail Mary', slowly, taking the time to reflect how Mary and Elizabeth must have felt as they met and the action of God was revealed in each of their lives.

Act

It's easy to get bogged down in the material side of Christmas. Take time out this week to thank God for the gift of his son, Jesus.

Challenge

Most of us will have sufficient food, and more, for our needs this week. But there are people in our community who are struggling to survive on an almost daily basis. When you do your last minute food shop don't forget to donate something to those who are collecting for food banks.

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
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 23rd December | Holy Family | St. Ambrose Barlow | St. Richard's |
|--|---|---|---|
| SUNDAY | 9.00 am Eileen Coates 11.00 am Pat Alexander | (Sat) 6.00 pm Bernard Hughes 11.00 am Philip Smith | (Sat) 6.00 pm Jean Neary 9.30 am Harry Knotman |
| MONDAY CHRISTMAS EVE | 6.00 pm Christmas Intentions 11.30 pm Service of Carols & Readings 12 Midnight Eileen Coates and Christmas Intentions | 8.00 pm Steven Blears, John Evans & Norah Malone | 6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions |
| TUESDAY CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation) | 9.00 am Christmas Intentions 11.00 am Keith Lewis, Harry & Kathleen Knight & Christopher Tickle | 11.00 am Skiffington & Hayden Families | 9.30 am Christmas Mass Intentions |
| WEDNESDAY | 12 noon Ian Francis Davies | | 9.00 - 10.00 am <i>No Exposition this week</i> |
| THURSDAY | <i>No Mass today</i> | | 9.15 am Bernadette Bates |
| FRIDAY | <i>No Mass today</i> | | 10.00 am Bernadette Sproston |
| SATURDAY | 10.00 am Helen Shearer | 6.00 pm John Burke | 6.00 pm Pat Shaw |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 9.00 am Maureen Riley 11.00 am Deceased Members of the Furey Family | 11.00 am Joseph Fletcher | 9.30 am Keith Boulton & Eileen Boardman |



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Deacon Tony Arrowsmith

Ted Leach

Hilda Lewis

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 Feast of the Holy Family (C)

First Reading *1 Samuel 1:22,24-28*
Hannah longed for a child and, having pleaded with God, she fulfills her promise by dedicating him to God and a life of service.

Second Reading *1 John 3:1-2,21-24*
John reminds us that we are the children of God. We are to be confident in God's love for each one of us.

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:41-52*
Mary and Joseph have been to Jerusalem with Jesus but, instead of returning with them, Jesus remains in the Temple, talking to and asking questions of the elders.

