

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

First Sunday of Advent (C)

2nd December 2018

DEANERY TEAM

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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 1
Readings Sunday – First Sunday of Advent (C)
Weekdays – Advent, Week 1
Sunday **First Sunday of Advent (C)**
Monday St. Francis Xavier
Wednesday St. John Almond
Friday St. Ambrose
Saturday **Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Next Sunday **Second Sunday of Advent (C)**
Bible Sunday



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, Luke gives us the last address of Jesus' public ministry. And Jesus is clearly fretful about the future as he paints a bleak picture concerning the end of the world. There is talk of nations in agony, of bewilderment everywhere, of people dying of fear, of the power which menaces the world. It is a nightmare view of total disaster which "will come down on every living person on the face of the earth." Given this vision of ultimate collapse it is hardly surprising that, as Jesus anticipates, it might lead people astray. Being sober and awake, as Jesus suggests his followers remain in the Gospel, might not seem very attractive in the face of such catastrophe. Nightmares are bad experiences we usually wake up from, not experiences we stay awake for. Yet this is Jesus' advice: "Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen." But, why stay awake? What is there to stay awake for? In Jesus' view of the future there is another side to all the disaster he predicts. Jesus' forecast is all about redemption and liberation. After the horror story, we might take some convincing that this isn't the case. Jesus' view is that the terrible things that will happen are signs that something else is happening: the saving return of the Son of God at the end of time. The disaster is the beginning of the end age. The Good News is that out of it all will come the final liberation for every true disciple. It is what we pray during Mass in the Eucharistic Prayer:

"We hope to share in your glory
when every tear will be wiped away.
On that day we shall see you our God as you are."

Like the prophets before him, Jesus is painting a grim picture of the future in order to influence everything that is happening now. He doesn't want to paralyse people with fear but energize them into action. The real purpose of speaking of the final day is to say something about today – that we should stay awake and be ready. And since the future is determined by those who share responsibility for shaping it, we must all stay awake to what is happening now. The future starts from where we are today. Today's Gospel encourages us to do two things which are difficult to hold together: to be realistic about the way the world is going, and at the same time to not lose hope in the future. Even though the world is sometimes in a mess, Jesus tries to convince us about a future that is truly liberating. The way he does this best is through his own life from birth to resurrection. So, Advent reminds us that we don't have to sleepwalk into the future. We have to remember the story of Jesus again, and this memory of love must become the ground of our hope. The future holds hope for us only because of God's actions in the past. This is why we share God's story again and again beginning each Advent. We all need to be reminded of God's love. When we do, we see how far-reaching God's love is when we look at his Son, Jesus. Only when we keep looking at him throughout the year, can we keep a reason for hope.

Psalm Response To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Gospel Acclamation Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Children's Liturgy at Holy Family

This is being re-launched today at the **11.00am Mass**. At this point it will not be every week but will be as regular as possible.

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.

Christmas Hamper

There will be a raffle for a lovely Christmas Hamper to be drawn in **St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall after the 11.00am Mass TODAY, Sunday 2nd December**. If you could donate an item for the hamper please note it on the list in the church porch. When you bring the item please label it for the hamper in case it accidentally finds its way into the Food Bank basket. Many thanks.

Christmas Stall and visit from Santa

There will be a sale of new Christmas goods in **Saint Ambrose Barlow Church Hall after the 11.00am Mass TODAY, Sunday 2nd December**. Father Christmas will be in residence so bring the children along to meet him.



We would be grateful for donations of new Christmas goods (cards, wrappings, decorations etc) for sale on the stalls. Donations can be brought to church - or ring Steve on 07952 152371 if you require collection.

Holy Family Christmas Fair

TODAY!

Sunday 2nd December 2018, 12 - 3pm

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Kendal Road, Boothstown

Santa's Grotto / Festive Refreshments / Craft & Gift Stalls

Tombola Stalls / Festive Singing

Everyone welcome

Churches Together in Boothstown

Carol Service and Christmas Tree Switch On

TODAY!

Sunday 2nd December, 5.00pm at Standfield Precinct

All welcome.

Services for Advent

Please try your very best to come along to two very special events that are taking place in Atherton:-

- **Advent Carol Service – St. Phillip's, Atherton on TODAY, Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm.**
- **Advent Taize Prayer – St. Richard's, Atherton on Wednesday 5th December at 7.00pm.**

Ladies Group – Christmas Meal

Could those coming to the Meal at Applewood on **Tuesday 4th December** arrive there by **11.45am**? Thanks.

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 on **Wednesday, 5th December at 7.45pm** in Holy Family Presbytery.

Christingle

This will be held this year on **Thursday 6th December at 6.00pm** in Holy Family Church. All welcome, especially children.

Synod 2020

Please pick up one of the leaflets concerning Synod 2020 if you haven't already done so. We are hopeful that a number of people from the Pastoral Area will be involved in the Synod – there have already been a number of "open meetings" but the main preparation meetings begin in January. We need to have in total 16 Members of the Synod from our Pastoral Area, and we need to have the names in **by December 14th**. If you would like to volunteer please speak to one of the priests as soon as possible.

We have now received a "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)**

Greetings Card Campaign 2018

Our annual opportunity to send cards to prisoners of conscience will take place **next weekend, 8th & 9th December**. Cards, in stamped envelopes, together with information about the prisoners and advice on how to send the greetings, will be available after all Masses next weekend. A donation of £1.50 per card is requested to cover all the costs including postage.

Please support our campaign again this year and send a message of hope this Christmas. Thank you.

Time Out for Christmas

If you are already 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 on December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 3.00pm** to spend an hour in quiet and prayer, making yourself truly ready for Christmas.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1835.70
Animate Youth	£ 561.80
Quiz, St. AB, Friday 23rd Nov.	£ 267.00

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

**Today, Next Week & The Week After
Advent Collections - 2nd to 16th December**

We will be having the following collections during Advent:

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.

Thank you on behalf of these organisations.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Astley Churches Together Carol Singing

This year's Carol Singing will be on **Monday 10th December** at Astley Christian Fellowship chapel on Manchester Road, Astley. Please note the earlier time of 6.30pm. Singing will be followed by hot drinks and mince pies in the chapel.

Parish Trip to York

A reminder that we have our Parish trip to York on **December 11th**. We are going to celebrate 9.00am Mass at St. Richard's, Atherton, then leave for York straight away. For those of you who cannot make it in time for Mass we will pick up from St. Ambrose Barlow Church at 9.45am.

When we get to York we will have some time at St. Margaret Clitherow's house on the Shambles in the City Centre, then it will be free time in York until we leave at 6.00pm, hopefully arriving back about 8.00pm.



Many thanks to all those who have phoned to confirm that you are still going – it is quite a while now since people signed up for the trip. So those who haven't yet done so, could you please phone Fr. Paul (the Big One! 01942-883395) and leave a message confirming that you are definitely going to go or email on paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk? Please remember to leave your name and the number of people in your party. We will collect money for the coach on the day - £10 per person.



Christmas Party Invite from Students at St. Mary's Sixth Form Tuesday, 11th December 2018

St. Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite the senior members of our parishes to their annual Christmas party, which will be held at St. Mary's on **Tuesday, 11th December 2018** between 12.00noon and 2.00pm in the school's Conference Centre. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo. If you would like to attend **please add your names to the list at the back of the church by TODAY, Sunday 2nd December**, or email j.knight@smchs.org.uk so we can cater for numbers appropriately. Please also inform us of any special dietary requirements, or if you will need a parking space. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday December 11th, 7.00pm

at Sacred Heart Parish Club, Lodge Road Hindsford.

Music by Tyldesley Brass Band.

This will be followed by a raffle and free mince pies.

All are welcome.

Sacred Heart School Carol Service

Sacred Heart Primary School are holding a Carol Service in St. Richard's Church on **Wednesday 12th December** at 6.30pm. All parishioners, families & friends are very welcome to join us.

Lourdes Music Group

The group will be holding a Carol Concert in Christ the King, Childwall, Liverpool on **Friday 14th December** at 7.00pm. Fr Paul G will be taking part and would love to see people there to support the cost of next years pilgrimage.

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.

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, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. We all experience times of worry in our lives – ill health, job security, those we are responsible for, the world around us. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him.

Pray

To you O Lord I lift up my soul.
Make your ways known to me
Teach me your paths.
Set me in the way of your truth
And teach me,
For you are the God who saves me.

Act

Make a list of the things that you are currently worried about. Each day, bring one of these things to God in prayer and ask him for the strength to face your worry.

Challenge

Many in our world worry about having the basic necessities of life – food, water, shelter, love. What can you do to help?

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 Clitherow Please note spelling 'Clitherow'). 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

Week Beginning 2nd December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Dennis Sweeney & Walter Meanwell 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jozef Godzinski 11.00 am George Daniel Love	(Sat) 6.00 pm Dennis Yates 9.30 am Mary Burke
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Harry Knotman
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Helen Shearer		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	10.00 am Deceased Members of the McNulty & McGee families		9.15 am A Special Intention. (E)
FRIDAY	10.00 am Holy Souls <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		10.00 am Mary Marjorie Shaw 12noon Funeral Service for Mary Marjorie Shaw
SATURDAY	10.00 am Danny Williams	10.00 am <i>Exposition and Rosary</i> 6.00 pm Richard Farrington	6.00 pm Ciaran Reid
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Anastasia Giblin 11.00 am Martin & Mary Furey	11.00 am Jess Garrett	9.30 am Mary Burke

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

An early notice concerning 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

We will also give you the Mass times for St.Edmund Arrowsmith Parish as soon as possible.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our family of Faith:

Lola Hill
 Annie Jo Tarbuck
'With You Always' children from St Gabriel's - Kaylee & Casey Reed,
 Jack Gaskell,
 Jack & Ava Anderton,
 Deanna Harrison Stones,
 Morgan Jackson, Jack Goulden
 May God bless them and their families.

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

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

First Reading *Baruch 5:1-9*
 Jerusalem is told to forget the sufferings of the past because God is going to bring back her exiled children.
Second Reading *Philippians 1:3-6,8-11*
 Paul urges his fellow Christians to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ by living pure and blameless lives.
Gospel Reading *Luke 3:1-6*
 John the Baptist urges the people to prepare a way for the Lord through repentance.

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Myra Mottam
 Mary Marjorie Shaw

R.I.P.

