

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

11th December 2016



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Readings Week 3
Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Weekdays – Advent, Wk 3

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

Tuesday St. Lucy

Wednesday St. John of the Cross

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



Third Sunday of Advent

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

As we heard in last weekend's readings John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He believed that Jesus was that Messiah. But now, locked up in a dark dungeon with the threat of death hanging over him, it seems that he began to have doubts about Jesus and what he was doing. John's idea of a Messiah was that of a stern, uncompromising judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus wasn't living up to this image. Instead of acting like a judge he was acting like a Saviour. His radiant friendliness contrasted sharply with the severe judge that John had in mind. John always lived apart from the people. He had distance between himself and them. But Jesus mixed with the people, eating and drinking with them, especially the sinners. John prophesied the judgement of God. Jesus promised the salvation of God. Knowing that his life was in danger, John wanted to know for sure who Jesus really was, so he sent two of his own disciples to question him. When the two asked Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?", Jesus might have replied with a straightforward, "Yes, I am." But he didn't. There is a well-known saying: actions speak louder than words. So, instead of trying to convince John's messengers with words, Jesus pointed to the work he was doing. These works were precisely the kind Isaiah had predicted for the messianic times – "the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life again and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." Jesus was quite happy to let his deeds speak for him.

Once, a group of salesmen were attending a sales convention. They had assured their families that they would be home in time for dinner. But the meeting ran over time so they had to run for the train. Tickets in hand, they dashed along the platform. One of them knocked over a table supporting a basket of apples. The apples spilled all over the platform, but neither he nor any of his companions stopped to help the young boy who owned the apple stall to pick them up. They all reached the train and boarded it with a sigh of relief. But then one of them felt a huge twinge of compassion for the boy whose apple stall had been overturned. He immediately decided to do something about it. Saying goodbye to his companions, he returned to the scene of the accident and helped the boy pick up all the apples. He was so glad that he did, because he discovered that the boy was blind. As he helped the boy he noticed that some of the apples were ruined. He took out his wallet and handing the boy some money he said, "Here, take this for the damage we did. I hope we didn't spoil your day." As he started to walk away, the bewildered boy called to him, "Are you Jesus?"

Are you Jesus? In a sense, he was because he acted like Jesus. The story reminds us that we are called to be Jesus to each other in the way we act and the way we care. Where is Jesus to be found today? As we continue our journey of faith through Advent let us pray that the Saviour who we welcome into our hearts and lives at Christmas may work in us and through us to make our world a better place. We may only be able to do this in very small ways but at least, in our own lives, if we continue to be people of prayer, God can work through us to make the presence of his Son a reality in the lives of those around us.

Psalm Response Come, Lord, and save us.

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

This Sunday's Mass Intentions at Holy Family

Apologies - The intentions for this Sunday's Masses at Holy Family were incorrectly advertised for this week. Due to this error there will be two intentions offered at the Sunday Masses to pastorally allow, in unusual circumstances, the published intentions and those that were accidentally omitted last week to be said together. Apologies for any confusion or inconvenience. Fr Paul G.

St Richard's 500 Club

The **Big December Draw**, which was deferred last week, will take place **this morning, Sunday 11th December**, during the coffee morning in the Parish Centre.

Alternative Christmas Cards

Stars are now available in the church porch at St Ambrose Barlow. Write your message on a star and place it in the basket for placement on the display. Then put your donation in the envelope provided and hand it in. All monies raised will go to CAFOD.

St. Mary's Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The St. Mary's Senior Citizens annual Christmas Party will be held at St. Mary's on **Tuesday 13th December** between 12noon and 2.00pm in the Conference Centre. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo. Attendees should have given their names in advance.

Tuesday Tea and Coffee

The refreshments after the 9.15am Tuesday morning Mass at St Ambrose are proving popular with all. As a result some students from St Mary's have asked if they can help with this service during Advent. Please come along and enjoy a chat and some fellowship with our young people who will be with us on **13th and 20th December**.

Advent Mass in St Mary's School

There will be an Advent Mass celebrated in St Mary's High School on **Friday, 16th December at 1.15pm**. It is an opportunity for parishioners to join in prayer with our young people as together we prepare to welcome the Lord anew this Christmas. Everyone is welcome. If any parishioners would like to attend, then please let the school know by phone or by email. The Mass will take place in the excellence centre and you will need to sign in beforehand.

Deanery Confessathon

For those of you wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent, please check the Newsletter for times of Confessions. There will also be a "Confessathon" in St. Joseph's Church, Leigh, on **Saturday 17th December** between 10.00am-2.30pm.

Festival Carol Service

This will be at Holy Family on **Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm** followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers in one of the churches for Christmas in memory of deceased loved ones, please place donations in an envelope marked 'Christmas Flowers' with the name(s) of the deceased and the church in which you wish the name to be displayed. These names will be displayed in church to hold them in prayer during the Christmas Season. Please hand them in by 18th December at the latest so the lists can be prepared.

St. Richard's – Heating Update

Don't worry – Fr. Paul isn't going to turn the heating off to save fuel over the Winter! At the moment workmen have started putting in new boilers to begin the task of upgrading the Church heating system. Whilst this takes place there may be a little disruption in our usual timetable as the men begin to work in Church, mending the pipes and replacing the old heaters with new radiators. The good news is that whilst the new system is being put in, the old system will continue to be used so we should have a warm church. If there is any need to disrupt the usual masses and services we will let you know as soon as we can. Hopefully it will all be worth it in the long run. More details soon.

Exposition at St. Richard's Church

With all the work that is soon to be done at St. Richard's Church we have decided to cancel Exposition on Wednesday mornings for the time being. **Exposition will continue for the next two weeks of Advent** but after that it will cease until it resumes on the first Wednesday of Lent, March 8th. There may 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.

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.

Newsletter

Please ensure 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

Thank You

"Thank You" to all the people who attended the 'Carols by Candlelight' at Sacred Heart Hindsford on Tuesday night, especially the school children who attended and of course the Tyldesley Brass Band. It was a well attended event and a truly candle-lit occasion - no portable battery spot lighting that we normally have. Those resourceful enough to have a mobile flash light spot-lighted the scene!

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sacred Heart Parish Centre
Chocolate Bingo in Parish Centre
Today! Sunday 11th December

Doors open 1.00 pm; Bingo starts at 1.30 pm

Parish Christmas Lunch, 15th December

The final payment of £11 per person is now due. We also need your choice of meals so, if you haven't done so already, please get in touch with Holy Family Office for a copy of the menu or pick one up at the back of church. Please don't forget to put your name on your menu sheet. Many thanks.

Astley Churches Together Carol Service

Astley Churches Together invite you to join them at Astley Christian Fellowship (formerly Astley Independent Methodists) on **Monday 19th December** at 7.00pm for the annual ecumenical open air Carol Service. Following the singing there will be hot drinks and mince pies served in the Church Hall. All welcome – including children.

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Club
Lodge Road, Hindsford

Tickets are now on sale
£3.00 Christmas Eve

Carl Gordon – Fantastic Male Vocalist
£5.00 New Year's Eve

Darren Shaw – Another Fantastic Vocalist

New Year's Eve Dance

Bring 2017 in at a fantastic dance at St Joseph's (large hall), Mather Lane, Leigh on 31st December from 7.00pm till late. Entertainment by country artist Pete Redfern. There will be a bar and tea/coffee will be available for 50p (bring a cup). Tickets cost £8 and are available from Theresa on 01942 792293. Book early. It was a sell-out last year.

St Margaret Clitherow (St Ambrose Barlow) 200 Club

This year's 200 Club will be starting soon. Entry costs £20 – payable weekly, monthly or in one up-front payment. Members are entered in a monthly draw in January, February, March and April for £100 and £50. In late April there will be a cabaret evening in the church hall (free to members) where a draw will be made for £1000 – with consolation prizes of £100, £50 and £25. If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Steve Cooper at the back of church after 11.00am Mass on Sunday, or give him a call on 07952 152371. Or see your usual agent.

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 will be welcome from January.**

Burns Night 2017

Friday 20th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 876050 / 07973 114365 for reservations.

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. More details below.



Advent Collections, to 11th December

- The Barnabus Project** in Manchester is looking for winter clothing for men and women living on the streets. E.g. Hats, coats, scarves, gloves, jeans, jumpers, shoes and socks. They would also be grateful for new underwear.
- The Windsor Drop-in Centre** in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.
- The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital** is looking for NEW gifts for those children who will not receive a gift or a visit on Christmas Day. Children range from babies to 18 years old. Hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts but they do welcome contributions of wrapping paper. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark or the EU Standards CE Mark.
- Animals in Distress**, Irlam would welcome donations of cat and dog food and old towels.

Items for the above collections can be left at the back of any of the churches in the Parish today, Sunday 11th December.

N.B. Advent Collections are then closed. We are unable to accept any further donations after today, Sunday 11th December. Thank you for your continued generosity.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection **£2095.67**
+ Advent Collections (see above)
Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today **Advent Collections** (see above)
Next Week **Monthly SVP Collection**

'SVP' stands for 'St Vincent de Paul'. There is an SVP Group in most Catholic parishes whose sole purpose is to reach out to those who are struggling and in need in the community in which we live. The monthly SVP collection assists us in this ministry. Thank you for the support you give consistently throughout the year. It really does help to change lives.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 11th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Joan Weir & Brenda McDonald 11.00 am The Williams Family & In Thanksgiving for Betty Rostern's 90th Birthday 12.30 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Parishioners 11.00 am George Daniel Love	(Sat) 6.00 pm The Geraghty Family 9.30 am Derrick Langin 6.30 pm Arthur Hennessy
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Mary Coleman	9.15 am Margaret Blain
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Cath Walker		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Tony Carroll		9.15 am John Doherty
FRIDAY	10.00 am Julia Beryl O'Keefe <i>Mass with St Gabriel's School in Holy Family Church</i>		9.15 am Alfred Jackson
SATURDAY	10.00 am Pat Ryan	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm John Burke	6.00 pm Mary & Martin Furey
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Gladys Waring 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	11.00 am Bernard Hughes	9.30 am Harold Haigh 6.30 pm Alan Charlton

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Joe Rigby
Norman Terrell

Patrick McCarrick

Those who are sick, especially:

Emma Oldham
Kathy Kenyon
Guy Ryan
Shelagh Welsby
Frank Bryan
Joan Wilkinson
Margaret Smith
Agnes Pilkington
Margaret Hurley
Thomas McLoughlin
Marjorie Price
Jean Tchibukdjian
Ann Lyons
Margaret Dawson
Fon O'Hara
Margaret Brown
Thomas Higgins
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson
Bernard O'Donnell

Pat O'Neill
Rev Jim Melia
Anne Broad
Margaret Case
Derek Maude
Catherine Jones
Michael Wright
Irene McIntyre
Neil Hurley
Susan Phillips
Margaret Ross
Eugenie Cheetham
Freda Peake
Ann Mellin
Leonard Beach
Maureen Halliday
Enid Kenwright

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

10.30 am, after Saturday morning Mass at Holy Family.
After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism
Sofia Enza Liberati
Spencer Warren Sammon
Jenson Lewis Sammon
May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-14*
Isaiah foretells the birth of a very special child – a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is, God-with-us.

Second Reading *Romans 1:1-7*
The opening lines from St. Paul's letter to the Romans draw attention to the human and divine "roots" of Jesus.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 1:18-25*
The prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in the person of Jesus.