

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (A)

25th December 2016



DEANERY TEAM

Priest:	Fr. Paul Seddon	Priest:	Fr. Paul Grady
Tel:	01942 883395	Tel:	0161 790 2390
Email:	paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk	Email:	frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com
Priest:	Fr. Kieran O'Grady	Priest:	Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel:	01942 673517	Tel:	01942 673517 or 731280
Email:	kjmogrady@hotmail.com	Email:	stjosephs@live.com

Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 1
Readings	Sunday – Nativity of the Lord (A) Weekdays – Octave of Christmas
Sunday	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Tuesday	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Wednesday	The Holy Innocents
Thursday	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
Friday	Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday	Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity
Next Sunday	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



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 the darkness of this night we gather again to celebrate the coming of the light. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem we hear again the song of the angels telling us of a child born for us, a Saviour. We hear those words that feature readily throughout the Gospels – “Do not be afraid”. There is Good News to tell, news that will always survive the evil and the bad that the world can bring our way. There is a joy meant for us, a reason to believe, a cause of happiness that we can know and share in. St. Paul explains it in one of his letters. The coming of the child Jesus into the world is the revealing of God’s loving kindness for us all. It means that we now do not have to fend for ourselves as if our salvation depended on us alone. From now onwards we are called to one ambition, that of doing good everywhere and in every circumstance of life. We are being called again today to follow the Lord who was born for us. The child born this day calls us to be purified of all wickedness and selfish ways. He calls us again to belong to him, to cling to him, to follow him every day of our lives and to do so with one single ambition – to do good in this world to everyone and in every situation.

Here in the Church, as in all churches throughout the world, we have prepared a Christmas Crib, a tradition that originated with St. Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Not everyone can go to see the birthplace of the Lord in Bethlehem and so we recreate its presence among us by means of a simple crib. Some cribs can look very dramatic, with flowing water and many other features. Others are more simple and focus on the Holy Family themselves. During Christmas this can be a powerful focus for our attention and prayer. Cribs have a special attraction for children and indeed for the child inside each one of us. The mysteries of the Lord are hidden from the learned and the clever and are revealed to mere children. Gathered around the figures in the straw we see the beauty of the human person in the form and features of a newborn baby. This is the child who will be the Prince-of-Peace. The child that we see in the manger we will one day see nailed to a cross then laid in a tomb. After his rising we will recognize him in the breaking of bread, as we do now in the Christmas Mass. This same Lord tells us that we can also recognize him in one another – “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me.”

As we celebrate this wonderful feast of Christmas, let us pray that the child of Bethlehem may be born in us today. Let us pray that we may allow his light to shine through us and touch the lives of others so that they too may believe in and open up their hearts to Jesus, the Emmanuel, the Saviour who has come to bring us salvation. May this feast always remind us that God loves us SO MUCH that he gave us his only Son, not just at Christmas but every day of our lives.

Psalm Response Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord.

Happy Christmas!

PARISH NEWS This Week



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2016

Please take note of all the Mass times in the Deanery this Christmas.

Christmas Eve

- 5.30pm – Twelve Apostles, Leigh & St. Joseph's, Leigh
- 6.00pm – Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton
- 8.00pm – St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley



11.30pm

Carols and Readings, Holy Family, Boothstown
(before Midnight Mass)

Midnight Mass

Holy Family, Boothstown
& Our Lady Of The Rosary, Leigh

Christmas Day

- 8.30am – St. Joseph's, Leigh
- 9.00am – Holy Family, Boothstown
- 9.30am – St. Richard's, Atherton & Sacred Heart, Leigh
- 10.30am – St. Joseph's, Leigh
- 11.00am – Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley
- 11.15am – Our Lady Of The Rosary, Leigh

Feast of the Holy Family

This year this is celebrated on **Friday 30th December** and not on a Sunday as New Year's Day falls on a Sunday and we celebrate Mary as the Mother of God. There will be a **celebration Mass in Holy Family Church at 6.00pm** followed by wine and light refreshments. All are invited to come and celebrate the Holy Family in the Christmas Season.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

This will not be meeting on Saturday, 31st, December but will recommence the following week.

Exposition at St. Richard's Church

A reminder that the next Wednesday morning Exposition in St. Richard's Church will take place on the first Wednesday of Lent, March 8th. During the work that is soon to be done at St. Richard's Church there will 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.

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.

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.

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.

Newsletter

Please ensure that items for next week's newsletter are sent in by **TUESDAY evening to meet the New Year print schedule. 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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Club Lodge Road, Hindsford

**Tickets are now on sale
£5.00 New Year's Eve**

Darren Shaw – Fantastic Male 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.

Ladies Group

The next Ladies Meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd January at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Raffle: Joan Butler & Maureen Craddock.

Motown New Year Party / Concert Featuring Countdown to Midnight

**At St Stephen's Church, Manchester Rd, Astley
On Saturday 7th January – 8.00pm, til late, with bar**
Tickets: Adults £10.00, Children Free (Includes food)
available from 01942 879608 or email Phil:
p.dand2011@btinternet.com

Family Quiz Night

There will be a Quiz for all the family at St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall on Friday 13th January 2017, from 7.00pm. Tickets cost £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket. Hotpot supper is included. Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring your own alcoholic and soft drinks. Tickets available from Steve Cooper.

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. Evenings at 7.15pm. Matinees, 21st, 22nd, 23rd from 2.00pm.

Special Offer, 18th and 19th, all tickets £4.

Tickets available from Stones Carpets, Chapel Street, Leigh (opposite Church).

Live Screenings at Cineworld

It has been quite a while since we last advertised the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh. It was great to meet up with other parishioners to watch a live performance and enjoy each other's company. There are three good looking performances coming up in the New Year.

- RSC's "The Tempest" – Wednesday, January 11th at 7.00pm.
- National Theatre's "Amadeus" – Thursday, February 2nd at 7.00pm.
- National Theatre's "St. Joan" – Thursday, February 16th.

More details nearer the time.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will take place in Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Hindsford, on Tuesday January 17th at 7.30pm. All welcome.

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.**

Feast Days This Week

Monday, 26th December – St. Stephen, traditionally venerated as the first martyr of Christianity, was according to the Acts of the Apostles a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgement on him and was then stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee who would later himself become a follower of Jesus.

Tuesday, 27th December – St. John the Apostle was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome. His brother was James, who was another of the Twelve Apostles. He died about 100 AD.

Wednesday, 28th December – The Holy Innocents. Herod "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under" in order to kill Jesus. The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah...sobbing and loud lamentation...Rachel weeping for her children..." The Holy Innocents are few, in comparison with the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had only been one, we recognise the greatest treasure God put on the earth - a human person, destined for eternity and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Thursday, 29th December – St Thomas Becket, 1118-70. Born in London, he became archdeacon of Canterbury and Chancellor of Henry II. He was a close friend of the king. Henry obtained Thomas' election as Archbishop of Canterbury hoping the same relationship would continue. As Archbishop, Thomas adopted an austere way of life and resigned the chancellorship. There emerged conflict with the king over Church-State relations and finally Thomas went into exile in France. On his return to England his reconciliation with the king proved superficial. In a rage the king asked who would rid him of this turbulent priest and four barons slaughtered him in Canterbury Cathedral.

Friday, 30th December – The Holy Family. See page 2. Celebration Mass in Holy Family Church at 6.00pm.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection	£2150.50
Monthly SVP Collection	£ 311.91
Christmas Pots (St. Ambrose Barlow)	£ 221.00
<i>(50% CAFOD, 50% Pensioners Party)</i>	
Alternative Christmas Cards	£ 15.00
<i>(Also to CAFOD)</i>	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	No Collection (Crib Offerings)
Next Week	No Collection (Crib Offerings)

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 25th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY (CHRISTMAS DAY)	<p><i>First Mass of Christmas (Sat) 6.00 pm Philip Ward</i></p> <p><i>11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass George & Margaret Baybut</i></p> <p>9.00 am Eileen Coates 11.00 am Anastasia Giblin, Christopher Tickle, Knight and Nuttall Family</p>	<p><i>First Mass of Christmas (Sat) 8.00 pm Steven Blears, Norah Malone, Bob & Anne Roberts</i></p> <p>11.00 am Ronnie Kenwright, Joan Clegg, Mary Sharples, Joe Rigby, Graham Smith</p>	<p><i>First Mass of Christmas (Sat) 6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions</i></p> <p>9.30 am Christmas Mass Intentions</p> <p><i>6.30 pm No Mass this week – Happy Christmas!</i></p>
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		<i>No Mass today</i>	9.15 am Patricia Oliver
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Pat Mullen		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>No Exposition now until March 8th 2017</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Funeral Mass at St Ambrose</i>	1.30pm Funeral Mass for George Stevenson	9.15 am Ben Eglin
FRIDAY	6.00 pm Delia & Peter Connolly & Rose Shaughnessy	9.15 am Tony Berbas	<i>Mass in Holy Family</i>
SATURDAY	10.00 am Martha Ryan	6.00 pm Frank Bryan	6.00 pm Fiona Doyle
NEXT SUNDAY	<p>9.00 am McHugh & Lyth Families</p> <p>11.00 am Veronica Marsden</p>	11.00 am Deceased members of the Ellison Family	<p>9.30 am The People of the Parish</p> <p><i>6.30 pm No Mass this week – Happy New Year!</i></p>

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Frank Bryan
George Alexander Stevenson

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 Lyons Margaret Dawson Fon O'Hara Maureen Halliday Enid Kenwright Bernard O'Donnell Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson	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 Ann Mellin Leonard Beach Margaret Brown Thomas Higgins Betty Rostern
--	--

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
Hollie Elizabeth Mullen
Dominic James Parry
May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

First Reading *Numbers 6:22-27*
The Lord promises his blessing on his chosen people.

Second Reading *Galatians 4:4-7*
St. Paul shows that we are sons and daughters and heirs,
because we are adopted brothers and sisters of Mary's Son.

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:16-21*
Mary, kneeling by the manger, is present right at the start of our salvation.