

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

4th December 2016



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent (A)
Weekdays – Advent, Wk 2

Sunday **Second Sunday of Advent (A)**

Bible Sunday

Monday St. John Almond

Wednesday St. Ambrose

Thursday **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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



Second 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

The Advent readings glitter with bright promises – promises of the wonderful things that would accompany the coming of the Messiah. Mountains would be levelled out, valleys filled in, winding roads made straight, the desert would bloom, the poor will see justice done, the weak would no longer be exploited, war would vanish from the face of the earth. Christ Jesus came as our Messiah yet little seems to have changed. So we might well ask, what has become of these great promises? Look at the state of the world. None of these promises seem to have materialized.

Astronauts were the first human beings to see the earth from outside. As they gazed down on earth from space, they realized as never before that we are one family, with spaceship Earth as our common home. One of them said later, "The first day in space, we all pointed to our own countries. The second day, we pointed to our continents. By the third day, we were aware of only one Earth." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah who we listen to during Advent, had the same kind of high and wide vision, a vision of how things could be. But how real is that vision? When we read history books, or just the daily newspapers, we hear of wars, injustice, plagues, famine throughout the history of our planet. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see the hand of God in all this. Yet the prophets themselves lived in the real world, and were just as dismayed by its horrors and injustices as we are today. Yet they had a dream of a new world, a world free from injustice and war. Through faith in God they were able to rise above the horrors and see the face of God. What saved them from despair was their vision of a God who wants to save his people. There is always a way back with God.

The central theme of Advent is that of the faithfulness of God. In spite of the infidelities of his people, God did not forget the covenant he made with their father, Abraham. The Advent liturgy makes us aware of God's faithful love for us, and the wonderful gift he has given to us in Jesus. The wonderful promises of the prophets, therefore, are not just promises. The message of Advent should awaken us to the presence among us of our Saviour. It reveals his true identity and the nature of his mission, which is to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. And we have a vital part to play in making this Kingdom a reality. Advent provides us with a great opportunity to commit ourselves anew to Jesus and his Kingdom. But we cannot wait for these promises to fall from the sky. God calls us to be his prophets here in the world today and announce his Kingdom by making a difference and campaigning against the evil and darkness that this world so often brings. Isaiah's vision lives on as a task for us today and a promise for tomorrow.

Psalm Response In his days justice will flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Christmas Card Campaign 2016

Our annual opportunity to send cards to prisoners of conscience takes place this weekend, **3rd & 4th December**. Cards, together with information about the prisoners, in stamped, addressed envelopes, will be available after all Masses. A donation of £1.20 per card is requested to cover the costs including postage. Please support this campaign and send a message of hope this Christmas.

Christingle

The annual Christingle Service will take place at Holy Family **TODAY, Sunday 4th December at 4.00pm**. "Christingle" is an ancient service of light celebrated during Advent to welcome Jesus, the Light of the World. This service is especially suitable for children, who will be invited to lead a candlelit procession around the church.

Churches Together in Boothstown Community Christmas Carol Service

The annual outdoor Carol Service is **TODAY, Sunday 4th December at 5.00pm** outside the Standfield Centre shops, Boothstown. Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the Community 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.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on **Tuesday 6th December at 2.00pm** in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Ladies, please remember to bring your Secret Santa gift. **A buffet will be provided at this meeting.**

Leigh Foodbank and Leigh Homeless Collection

St Ambrose Barlow Brownies are collecting items for the homeless and for the foodbank in Leigh. They would be delighted to receive your donations of tinned foods, dried foods – more or less anything that isn't perishable. The Brownies are having a presentation by the people who run Leigh foodbank at their meeting on **Tuesday 6th December** and they would like to present their collection on that evening. If you are able to donate items for the foodbank you can drop them into the Brownies on **Tuesday, 6th December between 6.00 and 7.30pm**. Or you can hand them in at the back of church after Sunday Masses. Many thanks. Caroline – Brown Owl.

Carols By Candlelight Sacred Heart Church Grounds, Hindsford

7.00pm, Tuesday 6th December
Music by Tyldesley Brass Band

A special Service of Carols By Candlelight will take place in the grounds of Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford, followed by a raffle, free mince pie and a hot drink in Sacred Heart Parish Centre. If the weather is bad the service will take place in the Parish Centre itself, Lodge Road, Hindsford. Please come along and join us.

HCPT Carol Service

HCPT Manchester Region are holding a service of Christmas Carols in Salford Cathedral on **Friday 9th December** at 7.30pm with mince pies and mulled wine! For further details please visit hcptmanchester.org.uk/carol-service.

St. Mary's Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

St. Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite any Senior Citizens from the Deanery to their annual Christmas Party which 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. If you would like to go, please put your name on the list at the back of Church **by Sunday 4th December, i.e. TODAY** so we can cater appropriately. Thank you.

Tuesday Tea and Coffee

The refreshments after the 9.15am Tuesday morning Mass at St Ambrose are proving popular. As a result, Year 10 Health and Social Care Students from St Mary's have volunteered to help out at the Coffee Morning after Mass during Advent and have also offered to put on a spot of bingo! Please come along and enjoy a chat and some fellowship with our young people who will be with us on **6th, 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.

Teaching Assistant Vacancy

Required, as soon as possible, a vacancy for a **Level 1 Teaching Assistant** to work in **St. Richard's RC Primary School**. **Closing date for applications is December 9th**.

If you are interested then please contact the School Office on 01942-882980 or email:

enquiries@admin.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

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

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.

Parish Christmas Fair

With the help of many people, the Parish Christmas Fair raised **£1862.44**. Many thanks to all who gave their time, energy and money!

Holy Family School Christmas Fayre

Thanks to Mrs Roberts and staff, Friends of Holy Family School, and parishioners who organised the Fayre to raise funds for school projects and also provided us with an enjoyable afternoon with friends new and old.

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.

St. Richard's Church – 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.

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw results

Date of Draw 27 November 2016

£200 254, £50 932, £25 785

£10 Winners 158, 426, 200, 53

£5 Winners 19, 1061, 302, 870, 242

Thank you for your continued support

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sacred Heart Parish Centre

Chocolate Bingo in Parish Centre

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 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.

Festival Carol Service

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

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 11.00 am Mass on Sunday, or give him a call on 07952 152371. Or see your usual agent.

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.**

Advent Collections, to 11th December

1. **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.
2. **The Windsor Drop-in Centre** in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.
3. **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.
4. **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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory Collection	£2080.65
Christmas Fair (see above)	£1862.44
St. Ambrose 2nd Collection	£ 54.93

(accumulates during Advent for CAFOD)

+ Advent Collections (see above)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Christmas Card Campaign (see page 2)
	+ Advent Collections (see above)
Next Week	Advent Collections (see above)

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 4th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Thanksgiving 11.00 am Kevin Higgins	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jean Jackson 11.00 am Enid Kenwright	(Sat) 6.00 pm Catherine, Albert & Kenneth Thompson 9.30 am Andrea, Rufino & Nicodemus Kinamot 6.30 pm Jim & Mary Burke
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Molly Yates	9.15 am Margaret Blain
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Pamela Thorpe	9.00 am St Mary's Year 11	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Gerry Ryan		9.15 am Thomas Furey
FRIDAY	10.00 am Thanksgiving <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Shaun Pendlebury
SATURDAY	<i>Sorry, no Mass or Confessions this morning</i>	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Parishioners	6.00 pm The Geraghty Family
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Joan Weir 11.00 am The Williams Family 12.30pm Baptism	11.00 am George Daniel Love	9.30 am Derrick Langin 6.30 pm Arthur Hennessy

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

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

After 6.00 pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
Confession also available by request or by appointment.

*Sorry, no Mass or Confessions this Saturday morning
at Holy Family.*

BAPTISM

We welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism
Oscar Isaac Chambers
May God bless him and his family.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading *Isaiah 35:1-6,10*
God is the hope of his people who are crushed by misfortune.

Second Reading *James 5:7-10*
St. James urges us to be patient with one another, and patient
regarding the Lord's final coming.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 11:2-11*
We see Jesus at work, and hear his words of praise for his
imprisoned cousin, John the Baptist.