

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

17th September 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday – 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 24

Sunday **24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)**
(Home Mission Day)

Wednesday Ss. Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, Martyr & Companions Martyrs

Thursday **Feast St. Matthew, Apostle**

Saturday St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Next Sunday **25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)**
(Special Day of Prayer, Thanksgiving for Harvest)



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 Matthew continues to deal with relations between Christians, focusing on the need for forgiveness between different members of the community. Peter asks Jesus how often should he forgive his brother, then answers his own question by answering seven times. The Jewish tradition taught that God forgives three times and punishes on the fourth occasion; it was not believed that injured people could be more gracious than God, so forgiveness was limited to three times. According to this tradition, Peter's measure is generous. But according to Jesus it is insufficient. In his reply Jesus reverses the old law of vengeance: "If Cain is to be avenged seven-fold, truly Lamech is to be avenged seventy and seven fold." (Genesis 4:24) Just as in the old days there was no limit to hatred and vengeance, so among Christians there is to be no limit to mercy and forgiveness.

In the Gospel the parable of the unforgiving official is told in order to underline the need for forgiveness. When a king calls his court officials to audit the accounts, one shows a deficiency of 10,000 talents, a colossal sum of money. The sum is deliberately extravagant from the point of view of the story, running into millions of pounds, to heighten the contrast with the few pounds owed to the official. When the king orders the sale of the debtor and his family into slavery, the official pleads for time. The king feels sorry for him and decides to remit the whole of the vast debt. The official, however, learns nothing from his experience, for he refuses to forgive his colleague a much smaller debt. When his heartless behaviour is reported to the king, the grant of full forgiveness is retracted and the unforgiving official is thrown into prison.

Apart from anything else, the unforgiving official is condemned for loss of memory. Forgetfulness of our own sins can lead to a lack of compassion for others. Remembering how our sins have gone unpunished by God should lead us to forgive others. Through forgetfulness of God's compassion, we can end up being cruel to each other instead of compassionate. That is why at the beginning of each Eucharist we are invited to pray the "Our Father", and ask for the strength to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The purpose of calling our sins to mind is not to paralyse us, or make us feel bad, but to remind us that we all live in the gracious forgiveness of God. Whoever we are, we remember our sins because we need to remember always to forgive.

Psalm Response The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy

Gospel Acclamation Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life.

PARISH NEWS This Week

With You Always

For any children in Year 4 who wish to make their **First Holy Communion** this school year from the communities of Holy Family or St Gabriel's, application forms are now available from either school, the back of Holy Family church, or from Holy Family parish office. Please pass these back to school or to the office by Monday 18th September. Dates of meetings will be passed on to those who apply in the coming weeks.

Creation Time: 1st September – 4th October 2017

Pope Francis has asked us to mark this period with prayer, reflection and action in relation to the Earth and our place upon it and so the Liverpool Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have produced a resource for parishes called *Reflections During Creation Time: Praying with the Gospels, stories from our time and Laudato Si'*. Like the resource we used last year, this one can be used as a course or as a series of one-off sessions following each of the five Sundays and comprises the Sunday's Gospel, case studies, quotations from Laudato Si' as well as opportunities for reflection, prayers and an invitation to action.

This year there will be sessions running at:

- **St Ambrose Barlow Hall** on Tuesdays **September 19th**, 26th and October 3rd at 11.00am followed by a shared lunch
- **St Richard's House** on Wednesdays **September 20th**, 27th and October 4th at 10.00am, following Exposition
- **St Joseph's Presbytery (Green Room)** on Fridays **September 22nd** and 29th at 12.30pm, following 12 noon Mass.

Please come along to whichever of the above is most convenient for you. You will be most welcome.



Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society

Anna Davidson will be taking part in the Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society at Heaton Park on Saturday, 30th September. She would welcome your support and has a Just Giving page

at www.justgiving.com/anna-davidson6 or you can sign the sponsorship form at the back of Holy Family church.

CAFOD Café.

The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses NEXT Sunday, September 24th. On sale there will be delicious home made cakes as well as tea, coffee, soft drinks, toast, tea cakes – and bacon butties!! Proceeds will go to our CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia project. The Traidcraft stall, with an array of fair trade produce, will also be available.

Please come along if you can. You will be very welcome.

"Michael James USA"

"Michael James USA" - Saturday 23rd September at 7.30 at St Stephens Church, Manchester Road, Astley. Due to popular demand Michael James returns to St Stephens in Astley for the 3rd time. He will be playing all your favourite Rock and Roll and Country songs with a little bit of Easy Listening thrown in for good measure. Tickets for the show are priced at £7.50 can be booked through Phil Dand on 01942 879608 or e-mail him on p.dand2011@btinternet.com. Booking in advance is advisable - but you can also pay on the door.

Midweek Mass Times

Please check the Newsletter each week for the times of Masses during the week in each Church. If one of the priests is away then the other will cover and say Masses in the other churches too.

So the usual weekday Mass time schedule would be as follows:-

• Tuesday	9.15 am	St. Ambrose Barlow
• Wednesday	7.00 pm	Holy Family
• Thursday	9.15 am	St. Richard's
• Friday	9.15 am	St. Richard's or
	10.00 am	St. Gabriel's School (during term time)

Please note that this **ONLY** applies when there is only **ONE** priest in the Parish. These times can change if a Funeral comes in. So please check the Newsletter for up to date details

Macmillan Coffee Mornings Dates for your Diary

St Richards Parish Centre - Macmillan Coffee Morning
Thursday September 28th,
10.00am to 12.00 noon

Various Stalls, Raffle etc. Admission £2 including unlimited Coffee & Tea and a delicious cake.

Helpers would be very much appreciated. To volunteer, please phone Eileen on 874928 or Margaret on 884893.

Macmillan Bring & Buy Coffee Morning

in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall
Saturday 30th September,
9.00am to 12.00 noon

For further details or donations
please contact Mary Barton.

Newsletter

Please ensure that 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

Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford Website

www.sacredheartrchindsford.co.uk

Reflect:

Do you remember the Make Poverty History campaign of 2005? The G8 summit at Gleneagles saw 225 000 people campaigning to have the debt of the world's poorest countries written off. Countries which received debt relief were then able to use funds to provide better educational, health care and housing services to their people.

Today's Gospel reminds us that the events of 2005 should not happen just once, but should be the daily choice of those who profess the Christian faith. We should always strive to defeat poverty in whatever shape or form it takes.

Pray:

Father, you are an ocean of peace and you grant us this gift through your Son Jesus Christ and the action of the Holy Spirit. You sow it in our hearts through conversion and reconciliation. You entrust us with peace, making it our responsibility, converting us into builders of peace, so that we build it with "passion, patience, experience and determination". Walk with us as we act upon our responsibilities in our social, political, economic, cultural and church lives.

Help us to spread respect for life, people and creation; may we live in solidarity, may we be brotherly and sisterly, and just, and may we work for the common good. Amen.

Adapted from Colombian Bishops' Conference prayer by CAFOD.

Act:

Make Poverty History is still active:

www.makepovertyhistory.org find out more about their current programme of actions and try to take part in them.

Challenge:

In what way can you challenge poverty in your own life? Can you help to support those less fortunate than yourself? This does not have to be a monetary exercise, but could also be considered as supporting those who are 'time' poor or 'friend' poor. Support others in whatever way you can this week

A Message from Fr. Paul

"I just want to say a big thank-you for all the messages and prayers you have offered for myself and my family following the rather sudden death of my lovely big brother Mike. So many of you have been in this situation yourselves, so I know you will understand something of the pain and grief I am feeling. We simply didn't expect this to happen. On the night before his operation Mike was sat up laughing and joking. We were talking together about all the concerts we were going to go to and the places we were going to visit. He even wanted to join the Parish Music Group at St. Richard's when he retired in a few weeks. His 60th birthday is this weekend, September 16th.

Sadly Mike's heart was a lot weaker than anyone realized. He went into the operation at peace with the world. The last food he received was the Body of Christ, as I gave him Holy Communion the night before his op. He would not have been in any pain and thankfully he would have been unaware of everything. The doctors and nurses were wonderful and did everything they could to save him. Alas it was not meant to be.

Please keep us in your prayers at this very difficult time. We still cannot believe he has gone – it will take us a long time to come to terms with our loss. At present we are planning his funeral which will hopefully be next week at his local Church, St. Lewis' in Croft. I don't know when I will be back in the Parish. I would dearly love to see you all very soon but I also know that I need some time out to get over this loss as much as I can. I will take advice about that from those who know best. Please keep the prayers going. Mike is in a better place now. As I pray for him I promise that I always pray for all your loved ones who have gone before us. May they enjoy each other's company in Heaven."

Fr. Paul. X

"Fatima At Home" Day

A reminder that, after our recent Pilgrimage to Fatima, we have decided to have a "Fatima At Home" Day in October, to celebrate the centenary of the last Apparition of Our Lady to the children. So an early warning, a note for your diaries, that we will have a "Fatima At Home" event during October on the following dates:-

- **Friday October 13th**
Holy Hour in St. Richard's Church at 7.00pm.
- **Saturday October 14th**
Mass of Anointing in St. Richard's Church at 12noon.

We will have a planning meeting on **Wednesday, September 27th at 6.30pm** in the Parish House at **St. Richard's, Atherton** to prepare for the occasion so please come along and join us. We need your help.

Living Fully

"Living Fully" is a new initiative introduced by the Nugent Care Society to enable every child and adult with a disability to encounter Jesus in the life of the Church today. A day of study, worship and workshops will take place soon exploring how all life is a gift from God and how every person has a valuable and dignified place within the Body of Christ, the Church.

The day will take place at LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, on **Saturday 23rd September** from 10.00am-4.00pm. Cost is £10 which includes lunch.

St Margaret Clitherow St Vincent de Paul Society

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th September at 7.45 p.m. (after the 7.00 p.m. Mass) in Holy Family Conference Room. This is for all members so please come along if you can.

Mike Seddon RIP

Mike Seddon RIP - Fr Paul Seddon's brother's funeral will take place at St Lewis' Church in Croft on Saturday 23rd September at 11.30am.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£ 1803.94
Catholic Education Service	£ 444.02
Thank you so much for your generosity.	

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today	Home Mission Sunday
Next Week	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Home Mission Sunday

The Home Mission Office exists to help the Church throughout England and Wales to share the joy of the Gospel. It can seem daunting to share such a personal part of our lives as our faith in Jesus Christ. However, we can pray that the people we carry in our hearts will encounter him for themselves.

The money received from this collection ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced and is able to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith.

Harvest Fast Day

This year, **Harvest Fast Day** is Friday 6 October, and focuses on the work that CAFOD's partners are doing in El Salvador.

Web site:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Fast-Day>

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 17th September	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Anthony Dermody 11.00 am Special Intention 12.30 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Parishioners 11.00 am John Swift	(Sat) 6.00 pm Norah Devlin 9.30 am Margaret Aspden 6.30 pm Sheila Hughes
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Simon Tipper	<i>Mass at Ambrose Barlow</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Gladys Waring		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	<i>Mass at St Richards</i>		9.15 am Gerald Riley
FRIDAY	10.00 am Michael Seddon <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		<i>Mass in St Gabriels School</i>
SATURDAY	<i>Sorry, no Mass or Confessions this morning</i>	10.00 am <i>Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Thomas Laing	6.00 pm Michele & Tim Balcombe
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Ann Callan 11.00 am Anthony Walsh LD 12.30 pm Baptism	11.00 am Betty Grundy	9.30 am Len Meadows 6.30 pm Leo Dillon

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Susan Mary Bradley
Michael Seddon
Ann Callan

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 Mellin Margaret Dawson Maureen Halliday Enid Kenwright Bernard O'Donnell Mary Tiernan Ted & Harriet Langin Baby George Patricia Wilson Irene Burke Margaret Wall	Pat O'Neill Rev Jim Melia Anne Broad Margaret Case Joan Wilkinson Margaret Smith Irene McIntyre Freda Peake Sr Megan Haisley Margaret Ross Eugenie Cheetham Leonard Beach Fon O'Hara Thomas Higgins Betty Rostern Wyn Wright James Pickering Bridie Molyneux Gwenda Byers Edward Leach Joan Higgins Gerald Hackett John Wall
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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

10.30 am after Mass at Holy Family on Saturday;
After both the 6.00pm Masses on Saturday evenings
at St. Richard's and St. Ambrose Barlow.
 Confession wherever possible is available by request or
 by appointment.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Primrose Elizabeth Dawson
 May God bless her and her family.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to
Matthew and Bethan Trussell
 May the Lord bless and strengthen their love always.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

First Reading *Isaiah 55:6-9.*
 As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's
 ways above our ways.

Second Reading *Philippians 1:20-24,27.*
 Writing from prison, Paul is thinking of his death, and longing for
 complete union with Christ.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 20:1-16.*
 The love and generosity of God soars above human love