

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

17th December 2017

DEANERY TEAM

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Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
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 3
Readings Sunday – 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)
Weekdays – Advent Time, Wk 3

Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)
(Gaudete Sunday)

Next Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent (B)
(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

In a lengthy interview the year before he died, the great sculptor Henry Moore reflected on how his early works in a Yorkshire mining village influenced his later work. The scenes of the pits and the slag heaps, like mountains, were everywhere and dominated the landscape. It always seemed to be foggy and the sun could only just manage to break through the fog and the mist caused by the mining. His father, a miner, was very fond of baked apples and little Henry had to go to their dank, dark cellar to collect them. He was frightened of the dark, so he used to go down the steps sideways, always with one eye on the lighted doorway. Later when he was carving deep into his sculpture he said he always felt he wanted to find a way out, remembering that cellar. Many of Moore's massive sculptured forms have holes in them, but the holes have their own significance. What appears essential to the sculpture is left out. The holes are there to let the light in. In the mining village where he grew up there was always competition between the sun and the fog, between the daylight and the pitch black of the mines. In his work the light always wins and the slag heaps change into human form.

Today's Gospel begins with the absence of light. John the Baptist speaks for the light that is to come. John is the rugged figure whose task is described by the evangelists as laying low mountains and hills, shaping a path through the wasteland. He is God's sculptor, giving shape and form to an indeterminate mass of people, insisting always on the essential place of the light. When he faces critical opposition, he points away from himself to his work in preparing for the one to come. John keeps declaring "I am not" in order to point to the one who can say "I am". The identity of the one coming after John is unknown, but John is clear in his own mind that he is NOT the light. He must make way for the light, create a space for the light to shine through. And when the people see the light, his own task is finished. John's role can be appreciated fully only when the light does come in the person of Jesus. Only then can people realize the true measure of John's worth and the unique place this enigmatic man has in Christianity.

Like John we are asked to make way for the light. None of us is the light on our own: our role is to allow the light to shine through the darkness of our human landscape. This can be a mountainous task. Our own abilities and commitment look so small. Who are we to compete with the darkness of this world? Advent challenges us to make whatever contribution we can. Like Henry Moore carving through stone until he comes to the light, we have to keep working our way towards the light that is Christ Jesus. Our work may appear fruitless at times or just odd to those who witness our efforts, but the space we create is significant. Holiness is the constant struggle of letting Christ be the light that shines through everything we do. This is our Advent task. May it help us, like John, to share the Good News with others.

Psalm Response My soul rejoices in my God.

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

6.30 pm Sunday Mass (St. Richard's)

A reminder that this weekend will be the last celebration of the 6.30pm Mass at St. Richard's. Many thanks to all of you who supported this Mass and helped at it over the years. If you wish to read, or be involved at any of the other Masses please speak to one of the priests after Mass.

Festival Carol Service

This will be at 4.00pm TODAY, Sunday 17th December in Holy Family church. Please bring along mince pies to enjoy with some mulled wine afterwards. All welcome.

Christmas Flowers: St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family

Please fill in the forms at the back of church with names of loved ones who we will remember during the Christmas season. Donations welcome.

Christmas Flowers at St Ambrose Barlow

Anyone who is willing to help prepare the flowers in St Ambrose Barlow church please contact Fr Paul G so he can connect volunteers to arrange when they are able to come together to arrange the flowers.

Advent Collections

Last Day Today, Sunday 17th December

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. The children range from babies to 18 years old. Hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts but they do appreciate donations of wrapping paper etc to help with this. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark or the EU Standards CE Mark.

The Windsor Drop-In Centre (also called Loaves and Fishes) in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period.

Animals in Distress, Irlam would welcome donations of cat and dog food and old towels.

The above collections are closing this Sunday, 17th December after which we are unable to accept any further donations. We would like to thank you so much for your generosity.

Advent Hamper

There will be a hamper in St Ambrose Barlow church into which you are asked to place items throughout Advent. On Christmas Eve these items will be taken to a local food bank for distribution amongst those in the community whose needs are greater than our own.

Alternative Christmas Card Giving

Pick up a Star.

Write a Christmas Greeting to your Friends/Parishioners on the Star (instead of sending individual cards), place a donation and the Star into an envelope and place in the basket (St Ambrose Church Porch). All funds raised will go to CAFOD.

Stars will be displayed from weekend 2nd/3rd December.

St. Mary's Advent Service

St. Mary's High School would like to invite you to an Advent Service on Thursday December 21st at 7.30pm in the school hall. Pupils in Years 7 to 13 are all invited to attend from 6.15pm for social time and refreshments before the service. Parents and any siblings who attend our local primary schools are very welcome to attend the 30 minute service at 7.00pm. if you need any further information please contact the school.

Eucharistic Ministers

New rotas are now available in Holy Family.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

No meetings until further notice.

Christmas Mass Times

This year's Christmas Mass times for St. Margaret Clitherow Parish and St. Edmund Arrowsmith are as follows:-

Christmas Eve:

- XII Apostles, Leigh at 5.30pm.
- St. Joseph's, Leigh, Holy Family, Boothstown & St. Richard's, Atherton at 6.00pm.
- St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley at 8.00pm.
- Sacred Heart, Leigh & Holy Family, Boothstown at 11.30pm

Christmas Day:

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

There will also be a special Mass to celebrate the arrival of 2018 in Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Leigh. This will take place at 12noon on New Year's Day. All welcome.

Feast of the Holy Family

This is on Sunday 31st December. During Masses that weekend at Holy Family, the new altar servers will be inducted into the order of St Stephen, whose medals they wear. After Mass tea and toast will be available for the church feast day.

St Margaret Clitherow 200 Club

Steve Cooper will be collecting names for this year's 200 Club from this weekend. The 200 Club runs from January to April and it costs £20 to join (payable in one go or 4 monthly instalments). There will be a draw in January, February, March and April for £100 and £50. In late April there will be a cabaret evening in St Ambrose Barlow hall (Free to members). At that function a draw will be made for £1000, £100, £50 and 2 x £25. So for your £20 you have the chance to win a share a total of £1800. See Steve after Saturday/ Sunday mass or give him a ring on 07952 152371 to register for a number.

Admissions Consultation

St Mary's Catholic High School are currently consulting on a change to their Admissions Criteria further details can be found on the St Mary's School website or via the following link <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Admissions-Consultations>

Act in Support of Catholic Education

Archbishop Malcolm wishes to contact us to encourage us to speak out for Catholic Education. He writes:

"Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government NOT to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools."

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Carol Singing at Tesco's

Churches Together In Atherton will be singing in Tesco's, Atherton, on **Saturday December 23rd** at 11.00am until 12 noon. We need all the help we can get! Rev.Reg Sinclair and Fr.Paul will be there. Please come along and join us as we sing carols and share the real story of Christmas.

St Richard's Parish Centre - New Year's Eve

Rock & Roll Band

REUNION

plus **DJ CARL**

Tickets £10, including Buffet. Phone 882125

Holy Family Craft Group

The Craft Group is now closed for Christmas and New Year. It will restart on **Wednesday 10th January** when the group will be making candles. Admission £3.50 including all materials.

Parish trip to Stratford

Many thanks to those who have booked places on the Parish trip to Stratford in June. We are going to see the RSC's production of "Macbeth" starring Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack in Stratford on Thursday June 28th. All the tickets for the theatre have now been sold. There are still **seven** places available for the coach if you fancy a day out in Stratford. If you have phoned and left a message for Fr.Paul S, then he will begin phoning everyone in the New Year to confirm the booking. If you would like to go on a **reserve list** for the theatre then please leave a message for Fr.Paul on 01942-883395 stating how many seats you would like for the coach. **Please also leave your contact number.**

Parish Visit to Rome - June 2018

We are sounding out the possibility of a group travelling to Rome mid-June next year. Hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. 4 nights - bed and breakfast in a Religious House close to Vatican City. If you are interested and want more information please contact Des - 07973 114365.

Response to the Archbishop's Letter

A few weeks ago we listened to a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Malcolm concerning a way ahead for the whole of the Archdiocese. The letter was in response to the results of Deanery meetings throughout the Archdiocese early in the Summer – many thanks again to all those who came along to our Open Meeting in St.Joseph's. In his letter the Archbishop outlined a three-year plan in which we can share a vision for the future of the Archdiocese and every Parish and Deanery within it. This will lead to a Synod – a gathering of the whole Archdiocese in 2020. This doesn't mean that nothing will be done until then. It means that the process will begin in the New Year with a year of prayer. Therefore, during 2018, there will be a number of Holy Hours throughout the year. One of these will be led by the Archbishop himself. The second year will focus on Parish groups coming together to share their vision for the future. Then the final year all the deaneries will meet on a more regular basis to propose a way ahead. It is a proposal that the Archbishop has initiated himself in response to the people who shared their views at the different Open Meetings last year. As soon as we know more about the process we will share it with you but, in the meantime, please come along to the Holy Hours when we have them in the New Year and pray for the future vision of our Church.

Reflect:

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. Although Advent is a penitential season, it still has a real note of joy about it, this is the joy of anticipating the birth of Christ. In today's Epistle, St Paul summarises what is vital for the Christian life. Do good, shun evil, listen to the spirit, discern. He includes being joyful and thankful. How do we live out these vital parts of the Christian life in our own lives?

Sometimes thanksgiving and joy just come to us without any effort. At other times we find it difficult to find joy in our lives.

Take time to listen to what the Spirit is saying to us about ways in which we might bring more joy and thankfulness into our lives.

Adapted from 'Pray As You Go' -

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/prayer/?uid=6529>

Pray:

Psalm 100

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness,

Come before him, singing for joy!

Know that he, the Lord, is God,

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Enter his gates giving thanks

enter his courts with songs of praise,

give thanks to him and bless his name!

Indeed the Lord is good

His love is everlasting

He is faithful from age to age.

Act:

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people – the sick or housebound, the elderly, the bereaved. Make an effort to help those who are suffering by visiting or offering your support.

Challenge:

Have a Green Christmas this year by being less wasteful and as a show of respect for our environment and the occasion. Visit

<https://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Green-Christmas> or

http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm for some simple ideas enabling you to do this.

Collections - Used Stamps & Spectacles

Don't forget to save the stamps from your Christmas Card envelopes! If you've had your eyes tested this year and have some old spectacles you no longer need please bring them along to St Ambrose Church. Stamps and glasses can be handed to Mary Barton or left in the red box in the church porch. Thank you!

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.

Sacred Heart Church, Hindsford Community Website

www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



Agnes Pilkington
All Cancer Patients
Ann Mellin
Anne Broad
Baby George
Bernard O'Donnell
Bridie Molyneux
Catherine Jones
Christopher Browne
Clifford Browne
Derek Maude
Edward Leach
Emma Oldham
Enid Kenwright
Eugenie Cheetham
Fon O'Hara
Freda Peake
Gerald Hackett
Guy Ryan
Irene Burke
Irene McIntyre
Jean Tchibukdjian
Jess Garrett
Joan Wilkinson
John Wall
Kathy Kenyon
Maisie Sweeney (age 9)
Margaret Case
Margaret Dawson
Margaret Hurley
Margaret Ross
Margaret Smith
Margaret Wall
Marjorie Price
Mary Tiernan
Maureen Halliday
Michael Skiffington
Michael Wright
Patricia Wilson
Rev Jim Melia
Sandra Jones
Shelagh Welsby
Sr Megan Haisley
Ted & Harriet Langin
Thomas Higgins
Thomas McLoughlin
Wyn Wright

Those who have died, especially

Ellen Heaton
Tess Fallon
Alice Hewertson
Pat O'Neill

Week Beginning 17th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Gladys Waring 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	(Sat) 6.00 pm George Alexander Stevenson 11.00 am Bernard Hughes	(Sat) 6.00 pm Jean Neary 9.30 am Albert Sawyer 6.30 pm John McLoughlin
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Molly Yates	9.15 am Leonard Beach
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Beverley Norgrove		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Joan Grady		<i>Sorry No Mass today – Christmas Assemblies in St.Mary's</i>
FRIDAY	10.00 am Margaret McCarrow <i>Mass in Holy Family Church</i>		9.30 am Brian Hodgkiss <i>Mass in Sacred Heart School</i>
SATURDAY	10.00 am Get Well Evie	<i>No Padre Pio Prayer Group</i> 6.00 pm Philomena Lines	6.00 pm Bessie Hulme
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Hibbert 11.00 am Betty Rostern	11.00 am Joe Rigby	9.30 am Pat Shaw <i>(NO 6.30 pm Mass)</i>
NEXT SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions 11.30 pm Christmas Mass Intentions	8.00 pm John Evans, Stephen Blears, Colin Foy	6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions
NEXT MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY	9.00 am Anthony Dermody & Christmas Intentions 11.00 am Harry & Kathleen Knight, Christopher Tickle & Christmas Intentions	11.00 am Graham Smith, Joseph Anthony Ellison, Graham Jones	9.30 am Christmas Mass Intentions

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £2080.64
Animate (addtl.) £ 16.00
CAFOD £ 35.46

*Thank you so much for
your generosity.*

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today
Advent Collections
- Food & Toys -
Last Day!

Next Week
Monthly SVP Collection



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family & after both 6.00 pm Masses in St Ambrose and St Richard's. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

First Reading *2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16*

The prophet Nathan assures David that his Kingdom will be protected, but it will not be his task to build the Temple.

Second Reading *Romans 16:25-27*

God's plan is for the Good News of Jesus to reach out to the pagans as well.

Gospel Reading *Luke 1:26-38*

Mary is chosen and she consents to be the mother of the Son whose throne will be established forever, as foretold in the Book of Samuel.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our
family of Faith

Benjamin Lane

May God bless him & his
family.

GAUDETE
MEANS
REJOICE
DON'T LOSE HEART