

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

19th November 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 1
Readings Sunday – 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 33

Sunday 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Tuesday Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday St. Cecilia
Friday St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions
Next Sunday The Feast of Christ the King (A)
(Youth Sunday)



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

Once a re-union took place of past pupils of a famous school run by a religious order. An elderly priest, who had come back to be present at the re-union, found himself surrounded by a host of former pupils, most of whom he hadn't seen since they left school many years earlier. It was obvious from the way they flocked to meet him that he enjoyed great respect from them. He received them with graciousness. Then, without the slightest prompting from him, they began to pour out their stories. One was an architect who had built a number of public buildings, including two churches. Another was a University professor who had written several books. Another was the head of a business company which had branches in over a dozen countries. Another was a highly successful farmer. Another was a Monsignor in the Church. Another was the principal of a very prestigious school. The old priest listened with pleasure to the impressive litany of successes and achievements. There didn't seem to be a single failure or loser among them. If there were any such people among the ranks of his past pupils, it was obvious that they hadn't shown up at the re-union. As they told their stories he said very little, contenting himself with nodding his head and smiling. When they had finished he complimented them on their achievements. Then, looking at them with affection, he said, "And now, tell me what you have made of yourselves?" A long silence followed. They were reluctant to talk about themselves. It seemed that they were so absorbed with their careers that they had neglected everything and everyone else in their lives. Their energies were so focused on efficiency and success that they never had any time for personal happiness. The Spanish painter, Picasso, once said, "It's not what an artist does that matters, but what he or she is."

People may have done great things in their public lives but failed in their private lives and have never really been completely happy. How many musicians and artists over the centuries appeared to have everything in terms of talents and gifts, but inside they were really unhappy? There are so very many, too many to name. Most people who are successful in such a way often struggle to be happy away from what it is that they do. Their successes are often achieved at the expense of their personal happiness.

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about three people who were given different talents. He commends the first two because they used their talents. But he criticizes the third because he buries his talent. When Jesus talks about talents, we must not think he means something like a musical talent or a sporting talent. (Continued on page 2)

Psalm Response O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful,
and I will give you the crown of life.

Gospel Reflection - Continued from page 1

Such talents are important, and all credit to those who possess them, develop them and use them. But they are outrageously over-valued and over-rewarded in our times. Jesus' parable goes much deeper. Ultimately the only thing that really matters is what we make of ourselves. However, we can be mistaken if we think the Gospel is about making something for ourselves in a materialistic sense, though this is not ruled out. The woman in the First Reading this weekend could hardly be described as being either successful or famous. Yet she is held up as a model of virtue. Why? Because of the kind of person she is... industrious, caring, wise, and virtuous. She possesses something more valuable than wealth or beauty. She possesses a loving heart. She has put her talents at the service of her family, her neighbours and the poor and needy. Hence, she has the respect of the entire community.

Life is God's gift to us. What we do with our life is our gift to God.

PARISH NEWS **This Week**

Greetings Card Campaign

Today we remember those imprisoned unjustly, especially those gaoled and/or in danger of torture for their beliefs, and send greetings cards to let them know that they are not forgotten. This year we are very fortunate that we have cards especially designed for this campaign by Liz Atherton. These, together with the details of the prisoners and a stamped envelope, will be on sale at the back of church after all Masses **TODAY**, for a suggested donation of £1.50 to cover the cost of the card and postage.

Please support this if you can and send a message of hope at Christmas. Thank you.

Christmas Draw Raffle Tickets

These are now available to purchase after Mass in the porch at the back of our churches. £1 a book - please bring extra change!!! In previous years we have received tremendous support with good quality bottles of spirits and wine, premium items such as large boxes of sweets and chocolates and gift boxes of all sorts. Please support the Grand Draw again. Donations can be left at any of our Churches over the next few weeks. Alternatively, please contact Des (07973 114365).

Pious Lists

Please hand in lists of those who have died into church in the usual way, so that they can be placed near the altar during the month of November. These names will be remembered generally during each Mass. If you want a Mass said specifically for loved ones please hand in a Mass Intention as usual. Due to the higher number of intentions during November we will try to celebrate these intentions as soon as possible.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Please note that the Holy Communion preparation for Year 4 children from Sacred Heart, Hindsford, St. Richard's, Atherton and St. Ambrose Barlow, Astley, will take place in the New Year. Letters will be sent through school soon to explain what the preparation course involves. A good way of preparing now is to bring the children to Mass each week so that they become more familiar with the Church and get to know everyone in the Parish.

Holy Family Craft Group

This has been started in the Parish Hall at Holy Family on Wednesday afternoons between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. We hope to cover most popular crafts such as knitting, crochet, card making and sewing amongst others. Admission £3.50 including all materials.

Christmas Donations

Your kind donations are requested for:

- Items suitable for prizes for the Grand Christmas Draw (tickets now on sale at each of the churches in the Parish).
- New Christmas items (e.g. Boxed Christmas Cards, Christmas wrappings, decorations, or any new items suitable for sale on a Christmas stall).
- There is a list on St Ambrose Barlow Church door asking for food items for the Luxury Christmas Hamper. If you are able to donate any of the items please indicate on the list. Items can be handed in at church each week and will be collected weekly. Finally, thank you in advance for your continuing generosity in support of St Margaret Clitherow parish.

St Ambrose Barlow Guides

Guides are collecting items for Women and Children's Wellbeing Bags to go out to Uganda in early December. Please donate any of the following in the box at the back of church or please contact Delia on 07753929476 to collect. Any item will be much appreciated: toothpaste and toothbrush; wrapped soap; flannel; writing paper and pens/pencils and sharpener; hairbrush; socks; crayons. Thank you so much for your support with this. Delia, Bernadette and all the leaders and guides.

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.

Cancer Research Fundraiser...

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the recent event. We raised £708.23 in memory of Anna Bartoszek. In addition to this the guides raised a further £100 at their Bonfire Bingo on Thursday which they wanted to donate to Cancer Research too. Thank you to everyone involved, true parish life in action. Delia x

Next Week

Barnabus Clothes Collection

May we remind you that the final date for donating clothes is **next Sunday, 26th November** after which they will be taken to the Barnabus Project.

Thank you for such a generous response.



CAFOD
Café



The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **next Sunday, November 26th**. 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. This will be a great opportunity for you to buy all sorts of things you need for Christmas – including the ingredients you need for making your Christmas cake – and, at the same time, support Traidcraft's pioneering work in promoting and developing fairness through trade.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



'Christmas Fair'

The traditional Christmas Fair at St Ambrose Barlow has been in decline over recent years and it has been decided to try something different this year. The Grand Draw will take place as usual and tickets will be on sale in the church communities of St Margaret Clitherow for the next three weeks.

On **Friday 1st December** from 7.30pm there will be a **Christmas Cabaret Night** in the Parish Hall at St Ambrose Barlow. There will be a pasty supper and the entertainment will be provided by Steve Green. Tickets cost £5 and proceeds of the evening will be added to income from the raffle and other income from the Sunday (see below). The Grand Draw will take place at this event.

On **Sunday 3rd December**, immediately following the 11.00am Mass at St Ambrose Barlow, **Father Christmas** is visiting the Parish Hall and the children will be able to come and see him. There will be refreshments on sale and a **Christmas Stall** - selling only NEW Christmas items (boxed cards, decorations, wrappings etc.) plus a raffle for a luxury Christmas Hamper.



Christmas Party Invite from Students at St. Mary's Sixth Form Tuesday, 12th December 2017

St. Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite the senior members of our parishes to their annual Christmas party, which will be held at St. Mary's on Tuesday, 12th December 2017 between 12.00 pm and 2.00 pm in the school's Conference Centre.

Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo.

If you would like to attend please add your names to the list at the back of the church by Sunday 3rd December so we can cater for numbers appropriately.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Carols by Candlelight Tuesday 12th December 7.00pm

To be held in the grounds of **Sacred Heart Church Hindsford**
Music by Tyldesley Brass Band

This will be followed by a Raffle and mince pies in the Parish Club where the fully stocked bar will be open.

NB: IF THE WEATHER IS BAD THE CONCERT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH CLUB

Sacred Heart Club Quiz Night

Every Thursday
Doors open 8.00 pm for 8.30 start.
Cash Prizes

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

Rock & Roll Band
REUNION
plus DJ CARL
Tickets £10, including Buffet.
Phone 882125

Reflect:

The currency of the kingdom of heaven is about what we have been given, that can be put to good use. And put to good use, not so that we might get the benefit – but that the harvest might produce an abundance for others. Can we be faithful and use what we have not to build ourselves up, but to reach out to others; not to separate ourselves from them, but to deepen the communion between us?

Pray:

Loving God,
Open our ears to hear you in the cry of those living in poverty.
Open our eyes to see you in the lives of the oppressed.
Open our hearts to meet you in others and to respond with mercy and compassion.

Pour out on us your grace,
so that we may grow as your faithful people,
always seeking your kingdom of Truth, Justice and Peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen
(WORLD DAY OF THE POOR PRAYER CARD SUNDAY 19
NOVEMBER 2017 www.csan.org.uk)

Act:

There are opportunities in our own church community to support those who are struggling. Read the newsletter to find examples of how you can help and take action.

Challenge:

There are many people in our own country and overseas living in poverty. Today we are invited to respond to their needs. How will you get involved with some of the following groups of people:

- Those living in poverty in our local area
- The homeless
- The elderly or housebound in poverty
- Children living in poverty
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Those living in poverty overseas?

Parish Trip to Stratford

A very early notice that we have managed to organize a Parish Trip to Stratford in the Summer. Fr. Paul S has managed to buy 30 tickets to see the RSC's production of "Macbeth" starring Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack in Stratford on Thursday June 28th. Tickets are priced at £16 and £22 and are available on a strictly first come first served basis. Just like other trips to Stratford we will leave at about 9.00 am, have a full day in Stratford, then set off for home about 6.30-7.00 pm. We will book a 50 seater coach so that people can just come along for the day and hopefully enjoy the nice weather. If you would like to go then please leave a message for Fr. Paul on 01942-883395 saying how many seats you would like for the coach and how many and what priced theatre tickets you would like. Please also leave your contact number. There are only 10 x £16 tickets available and therefore 20 tickets priced at £22, so it is strictly first come first served.

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

Those who are Sick
please pray for



All Cancer Patients
Agnes Pilkington
Ann Mellin
Anne Broad
Baby George
Bernard O'Donnell
Betty Rostern
Bridie Molyneux
Catherine Jones
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
Margaret Case
Margaret Dawson
Margaret Hurley
Margaret Smith
Margaret Wall
Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price
Mary Tiernan
Maureen Halliday
Michael Wright
Pat O'Neill
Patricia Wilson
Rev Jim Melia
Shelagh Welsby
Sr Megan Haisley
Ted & Harriet Langin
Thomas Higgins
Thomas McLoughlin
Wyn Wright
+ additions this week
Christopher Browne
Clifford Browne
Maisie Sweeney (age 9)
Sandra Jones

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER
Those who have died recently and all those on the pious lists.

| Week Beginning 19th November | Holy Family | St. Ambrose Barlow | St. Richard's |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| SUNDAY | 9.00 am Kevin Freeman 11.00 am Marian Philamena Marguerie | (Sat) 6.00 pm James Pickering 11.00 am Michael Seddon | (Sat) 6.00 pm John Neary 9.30 am Leonard Beach 6.30 pm Tony Donelan |
| MONDAY | | | |
| TUESDAY | | 9.15 am Special Intention | 9.15 am Thomas & Alice O'Neill |
| WEDNESDAY | 7.00 pm Peter Gavin | 9.00 am St Mary's Mass (Leslie Almond) | 9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| THURSDAY | 10.00 am Margaret Collins | | 9.15 am Carmel Finn |
| FRIDAY | 10.00 am Ann Callan <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i> | | 9.15 am Audrey & Terry O'Keeffe |
| SATURDAY | <i>No Mass or Confessions today</i> | 10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Mary Benjamin | 6.00 pm Mary Benjamin |
| NEXT SUNDAY | 9.00 am Denis Sweeney 11.00 am Joan Higgins 12.30 pm Baptism | 11.00 am Anna Bartoszek and Bartoszek / Boardman families | 9.30 am Eileen Veronica Moran 6.30 pm Andrew Berry |

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1953.52
Royal British Legion £ 299.11

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today SVP Collection & Greetings Card Campaign

Next Week Animate

'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.

Animate: The annual National Youth Sunday collection goes to support Animate - the Archdiocesan Youth Service.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After both 6.00 pm Masses in St Ambrose and St Richard's. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

No Saturday Confessions or morning Mass at Holy Family this week.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

The Feast of Christ the King (A)

First Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17*

God is portrayed, not so much as a judge of his people, but as someone who cares for them as a Good Shepherd cares for his sheep.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28*

At the end of time Christ will reign as Universal King, having overcome all hostile forces, including death.

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:31-46*

We don't know exactly how the last judgement will happen, but we do know what the followers of Jesus will be judged on.

Pope Francis Tweet

Poverty is not an accident. It has causes that must be recognized and removed for the good of so many of our brothers and sisters. (16th Nov)