

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

4th Sunday of Advent (B)

24th 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 4
Readings Sunday – 4th Sunday of Advent (B)
Weekdays – Christmas, Week 1

Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent (B)
(Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers)
Monday The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day
(Holyday of Obligation)
Tuesday St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
Thursday The Holy Innocents
Friday St. Thomas of Canterbury, (Becket)
Next Sunday Feast of The Holy Family (B)



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

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM

If we take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the feast can transform our lives, and not just for a few days at the end of the year. The Christmas message of peace and love never changes from one year to the next because it is there for us every day of our lives. The Gospel tells us that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will have eternal life." We remember this especially at Christmas, showing our thanks by reaching out to those around us.

We remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem: the Nativity reproduced each year in numerous plays and presentations and recreated through the centuries in countless works of art. The stable, Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus, visited by shepherds and wise men.

It is right that we should remember and celebrate in this way, but sometimes our celebrations can lose sight of the reality of that cold winter night 2000 years ago. The distance travelled: Mary and Joseph were far from home, they were living in a land ruled by an occupying power, forced to travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census. When they arrived there, among the crowd, there was nowhere for them to stay until an innkeeper let them use the stable. There were shepherds looking after their flocks on a dark hillside with no light and no warmth, and wise men who travelled from afar, a great distance, in the hope of seeing the Saviour.

Suddenly, a transformation as darkness became light. A child is born. Shepherds, at first cowering and scared, have a vision of angels bringing tidings of great joy, for "today a Saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord".

Christmas transforms our lives too, especially if we give to those around us: to people who are on their own at Christmas, or by visiting the housebound and the sick in hospital. We can make welcome those, who like Mary and Joseph, are far from home; those seeking asylum, those in prison, and members of the Forces who must be apart from their loved ones.

On Christmas Day we hear the account of the Nativity showing us what God's love means for us today. Let us recognize his love so that our lives may be transformed.

With my prayers and every good wish for a Happy and Peaceful Christmas,

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

Psalm Response I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.
Gospel Acclamation I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.

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.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Christmas Greetings

Old Fr.Paul & Young Fr.Paul would like to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. Many thanks for all your work and participation throughout the year and your kindness to each other. Let us pray that Christmas will be a time of peace and great blessing for all of us and that 2018 will be a great New Year for everyone. God Bless you one and all!

Thanks also from Frs Paul and Deacon Bob for all the kind cards and gifts. Further thanks to all who have helped prepare the churches for the Christmas liturgies, and everyone who has helped in any way. We wish you all a happy and a holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Feast of the Holy Family

This is **next Sunday, 31st December**. During Masses next 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.

CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia

Many thanks to all who have supported Connect2Ethiopia through the CAFOD Café. This year, we have sent a magnificent £3,300 to CAFOD for this scheme. Thank you for your generosity. The Café will be having a rest over Christmas and will return again in the new year.

6.30 pm Sunday Mass (St. Richard's)

A reminder that we have now finished celebrating the 6.30pm Sunday evening 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.

Wednesday Exposition

Just like last year we will have a break from having Exposition on Wednesday mornings at St.Richard's until we begin the season of Lent. Therefore the next time we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be Wednesday February 21st.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

No meetings until further notice.

Eucharistic Ministers

New rotas are now available in Holy Family.

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.

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!

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.



CHRISTMAS READINGS

Depending on which Mass you attend over Christmas there are different options for the Christmas readings. So please note that some of the churches may be doing slightly different readings than others. Below are the main readings for some of the different Christmas Masses.

Christmas Eve

First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-6

There is a new light of hope in the child that is born for us.

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14

Salvation is possible for the whole human race if we give up everything that does not lead to God.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-14

Today a Saviour has been born for us. He is Christ the Lord.

Christmas Morning

First Reading – Isaiah 62:11-12

Isaiah tells the people that their Saviour is close at hand.

Second Reading – Titus 3:4-7

It was for no reason except his own compassion that Jesus came to save us.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds were among the first to visit the Infant Jesus, along with Mary and Joseph.

Christmas Day

First Reading – Isaiah 52:7-10

The Good News of salvation is for all people to hear.

Second Reading – Hebrews 1:1-6

Throughout history God has spoken to God's people in various ways, but now the revelation is personal, through God's Son.

Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18

The glory of God is to be seen in the eternal Word who was made flesh and lived among us.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



CAFOD Fun Run

Run, walk or toddle with friends and family!
2k walk or 4k or 8k run

Where? Wavertree Athletics Centre, Liverpool, L15 4LE

When? Wednesday 27th December 2017

12.00pm registration, start 1.00pm.

Entry: £7 or £15 per family.

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.

Family Quiz Night

Astley Churches Together invite you all to the annual Family Quiz Night to be held in St Ambrose Barlow Hall on **Friday 12th January** at 7.00pm. Tickets are £3 per person or £10 for a family and include hotpot supper. Please note, there is no bar so please bring your own drinks. Tea and coffee will be available. For tickets see Steve Cooper or ring / text him on 07952 152371.

Burns Night 2018

Friday 19th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.

Justice and Peace Annual Memorial Lecture 2018

Dr Pete North, University of Liverpool Department of Geography and Planning, will be delivering the lecture "**Towards Social and Solidarity Economies**" on **Sunday 21st January**, 2.00pm - 4.00pm, at LACE, Croxteth Rd, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA. All are welcome.

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 now **only three 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.

Reflect:

In today's reading we are told the story of the Annunciation and Mary's 'Yes' to God. Her response to the Angel was one of absolute faith and trust in God, the culmination of her years of getting to know God through a life of prayer. It was the only response she could make. How much do we trust God? Are our days lived in God's light? Can we say a daily 'Yes' to whatever God asks of us?

Pray:

We long for your coming

The prophets of old longed for the coming of Jesus into the world. We, too, long for your special coming at this time in the hope that it may bring joy to all who are suffering and the light of faith to all who do not know you. Amen.

Sr Bridgetta Rooney / CAFOD

Act:

Make each day your own personal 'Yes' to God.

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.

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.

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(age9)
 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

Week Beginning 24th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Hibbert 11.00 am Betty Rostern	(Sat) 6.00 pm Philomena Lines 11.00 am Joe Rigby	(Sat) 6.00 pm Bessie Hulme 9.30 am Pat Shaw
CHRISTMAS EVE MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)	(Sun) 6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions (Sun) 11.30 pm Carols and Readings 12.00 Midnight Christmas Mass Intentions 9.00 am Anthony Dermody, Christmas Mass Intentions 11.00 am Harry & Kathleen Knight and Christopher Tickle, Christmas Mass Intentions	(Sun) 8.00 pm John Evans, Stephen Blears, Colin Foy 11.00 am Graham Smith, Joseph Anthony Ellison, Graham Jones	(Sun) 6.00 pm Christmas Mass Intentions 9.30 am Christmas Mass Intentions
TUESDAY		No Mass today	12.00 noon Mass in Sacred Heart Church, Leigh
WEDNESDAY	No Mass today		No Exposition until Lent
THURSDAY	10.00 am Eileen Cootes		9.15 am Maria McCoy
FRIDAY	Mass in St Ambrose Church	9.15 am Early Mass due to Ordination	Mass in St Ambrose Church
SATURDAY	10.00 am Keith Lewis 2.00 pm Nuptial Mass Jennifer Riley & Phillip Scott	6.00 pm Joseph Rigby	6.00 pm Jimmy Hancock
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Pat Mullen 11.00 am Soul of Michael	11.00 am Joan Clegg	9.30 am Keith Boulton (NO 6.30 pm Mass)

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1915.42
 CAFOD £ 37.02

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today
 Monthly SVP Collection

Next Week
 Crib Offerings



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

Feast of The Holy Family (B)

First Reading *Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3*
 Abraham's faith meant nothing without Sarah. His faith was supported by his wife and family.

Second Reading *Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19*
 Faith bears fruit when we celebrate our faith with others.

Gospel Reading *Luke 2:22-40*
 Love is never without sorrow in this world. Mary rejoiced in the love of her child, but she would also know sorrow.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our family of Faith

Michael Furey

May God bless him & his family.

Those who have died, especially

Tess Fallon
 Alice Hewertson
 Pat O'Neill

Merry
 Christmas