

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (A)

28th May 2017



DEANERY TEAM

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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson and Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 3
Readings	Sunday – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (A) Weekdays – After Ascension
Sunday	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (A) <i>(World Communications Day)</i>
Wednesday	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday	St. Justin
Saturday	Ss. Charles Lwanga & Companions
Next Sunday	Pentecost Sunday (A)



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 First Reading the Lord takes the apostles out of the city of Jerusalem before his Ascension. He leaves them on the road, where they are rebuked by "two men in white" by which Luke, the Gospel's author, means angels. The apostles are left standing on the road, staring up into Heaven, but they seem to have forgotten about their new role. They are apostles, a name which means "sent out". They respond by returning to Jerusalem and spend their time praising God there. The story of the Acts of the Apostles is a story of how the Church is forced out of Jerusalem. After the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first martyr, many were scattered, a term used in the Book of Genesis to describe how the people were scattered after they had challenged God by building the tower of Babel. This is no accident. After the scattering of God's people they no longer shared a common language. Yet Pentecost had allowed people to hear the Word of God in their own language. Pentecost did not reverse this separation but allowed the separation to be overcome. So the Church has to go out on the road and bring the Good News to the world. St. Paul is converted on the road from Jerusalem, the same road from which Jesus rose to Heaven. The Church is always meant to be "on the road". We are meant to be travelling people, with a faith that can change all the time. We are not meant to be staring up to Heaven all the time, but sharing our faith with others. As the angels in the Gospel say to the apostles, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here?" They had a more important role to fulfil as we do today.

Some people travel all over the world but never really go anywhere. That is, they may visit places but do they truly experience everything about the area – the people, the culture, the food, etc. A person can travel the whole world but never really reach out to others. Yet some people spend their whole time in one place yet they stretch out their hearts to all humanity. This is the power of prayer. When we say that God is everywhere, we mean that God's touch is everywhere and sustains all things in being. In prayer we share in this reaching out. Many of us will have been traumatized at the scenes in Manchester on our TV screens this week. We wonder how one person could hate others so much that they would want to hurt or kill innocent people. We must remember all those who died in our thoughts and prayers every day. It reminds us that this world is a dangerous and very fragmented place. Yet amongst the sadness, the anger and the loss, we have seen the great outpouring of love and friendship amongst the people of Manchester and beyond. Just like the apostles we have to reach out to others, to share the love of Jesus with them and help make our world a better place. As we celebrate the feast of the Ascension this weekend, let us pray that we may help those who are hurt and afraid at this time with the hope and the consolation that this feast brings to us, that one day we will follow Jesus to Heaven and remind others that there are lots of good, loving and caring people in our world, illustrated by the people who helped others in Manchester this week.

Psalm Response God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Gospel Acclamation Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

PARISH NEWS This Week

First Holy Communion

Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of our Year Four children. This will mean that there will be more people attending than normal and is a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate a Christian welcome to those visiting our parish. Please pray for all our children that they may come to know the Lord's love in their lives as they receive the Eucharist for the first time.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Please pray for the children of the Parish who will be making their First Holy Communion. They will be celebrating on the following days:-

- **Sunday May 28th** – St. Richard's at 9.30 am, St. Ambrose Barlow at 11.00am.
- **Saturday June 3rd** – St. Richard's at 6.00 pm.
- **Sunday June 4th** – St. Ambrose Barlow at 11.00am.
- **Saturday June 10th** – St. Richard's at 11.00 am.



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **TODAY**, Sunday May 28th. 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.

Justice & Peace Meeting

The next meeting of the Deanery Justice & Peace Group will take place **this Wednesday, May 31st** at 7.30pm in St. Richard's House, Atherton. Please come along if you can. New members always welcome.

Ecumenical Walk

All are welcome to take part in a walk of witness **this Thursday, 1st June** led by two Anglican Bishops. This will begin at St Stephen's, Astley at 8.00am with a short service before walking to St Mary's, Leigh to arrive around 10.15am. This is part of a prayer initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Atherton W.I. Coffee Morning at St. Richard's

Atherton W.I. invite you to a Coffee Morning in St. Richard's Parish Centre **this Friday, 2nd June**, 10.30am to 12.30pm. Tombola, Cakes, Books, Crafts, etc. Admission £2.50 includes Tea/Coffee and Cake. The event is to raise much needed funds for the local WOMEN'S REFUGE.

Childrens Liturgy

This will be restarted at Holy Family on **Pentecost Sunday, 4th June at the 11.00am Mass**, but more catechists are needed as it is not currently possible for it to run every week. All children 3-11 welcome.

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 or priests 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.

Scouts

We welcome the 4th Tyldesley Scout Group to join the community for the **11.00am Mass at Holy Family next Sunday, 4th June**.

Ladies Group

The Ladies Group will be holding a Bingo Bring & Buy sale on **Tuesday 6th June** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. The proceeds will go to Childhood Diabetes. Everyone welcome.

St. Richard's Coffee Morning

Due to holidays and the Parish Centre no longer being available every week the Sunday Coffee Morning will no longer take place. Hopefully at some stage in the future we may be able to begin again. Thanks to everyone who has supported it over the years. The money in hand - £94.40 - will be given to HCPT. Many thanks to all those who have been running the Coffee Morning over the years.

Response to the Archbishop's Letter

Many thanks to all those who managed to come along to the meeting at St. Joseph's, Leigh, on Wednesday in response to the Archbishop's letter that we received a few weeks ago. Many good ideas were put forward and lots of sharing took place by people from across the Pastoral Area. We perhaps needed a much longer meeting. There will be inevitable changes in the future. Notes from the meeting will be compiled and circulated in all the churches in the next few weeks. It is clear that we need some kind of ongoing working party to take the discussions forward. So please watch this space for more details.

Thank You

A MASSIVE thank you to everyone who attended our Ladies' cocktail evening on Saturday 20th May. The event was a huge success raising £758.22 for Parkinson's UK. Thanks again, Delia, Sarah & Sarah.

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

www.sacredheartchindsford.co.uk



Reflect:

Today's Gospel reminds us that as Christians our directive is to reach out to others and tell them about the Gospel message, we should teach them how to observe the commands Jesus has given to us.

The Gospel message is a message of joy and hope for all peoples, no matter who they are. Jesus's commandment is to 'Love one another as I have loved you' - not just the people we know or meet every day, those with whom we are comfortable, but also those who we are unsure of, those we are wary of, those who challenge us, those who hate us. Sounds scary doesn't it? But the other part of today's Gospel reminds us that Jesus is always with us 'to the end of time'. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit, who gives us the courage, faith and trust to meet the sometimes difficult or awkward challenges that face us.

Pray:

Creator God, create us anew! Teach us respect for your wonderful world, awareness of the earth's resources, compassion for the needy, and gratitude for our daily blessings. (Jonathan Leach CAFOD)

Act:

In every single person we encounter we either come face to face with the presence of Jesus, because of that person's sheer goodness, love, generosity, compassion, courage, concern for others... or we see someone who is deeply in need of the touch of Jesus because of their evil or inappropriate behaviour, their hates, resentments, their violence, or on the other hand, their weakness, sickness, loneliness, despair. This week try to be fully aware of each person encountered. Celebrate the presence of Jesus in them or Touch them with the presence of Jesus in you.

Challenge:

'I am with you always'.... Do we always see Jesus in our lives? Do we see him in the little things - in the beauty of the earth, in the breath of the wind, in the touch of the rain, in the song of the birds, in the voice of those we meet, in the grace of the present moment? Open our minds to you Lord in all things and all people.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King Liverpool

Cathedral Celebrations

This year marks the Golden Anniversary of the opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. There will be a number of special events to mark this great occasion. For more details please see the notice at the back of Church or visit www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk for full details.

Events during the next two weeks are:

Monday 29th May: Jubilee Organ Recital by James Luxton, 3.00pm - 4.00pm

Friday to Monday, 2nd - 5th June: Cathedral Flower Festival: Cathedral Life - A Floral Tribute, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Saturday 3rd June: Golden Jubilee Dinner

Sunday 4th June: Solemn Jubilee Mass, 11.00am - 12.00pm

Saturday 10th June: Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra present "Gloria!", 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

Atherton Pentecost Service

Churches Together In Atherton are organizing a Pentecost Service outside Atherton Parish Church on **Sunday 4th June** in the afternoon. At the service Tyldesley Brass Band will provide the music and will play for us afterwards as we have refreshments in Atherton Baptist Church.

St Stephen's presents its Summer Concert:

Spanish Connection



Salva Contreras Gila (Clarinet)

+

Javier Navascues (Cello)

10th June 2017

7.00 for 7.30pm

Admission £10.00

Wine Bar + Raffle

St Stephen's, Manchester Road, Astley

Atherton Carnival

The Atherton Carnival takes place on **Sunday 25th June**. At the Carnival we want to have a real Christian presence by having a Churches Together stall. We will need volunteers from all of our churches to put up a gazebo, to look after the stall by talking to people and giving out leaflets. If you can help in any way then please sign up at the back of St. Richard's Church as soon as possible.

Cineworld – Live Screenings

If anyone would like to join us for the Live Screenings at Cineworld in Leigh, then please come along and join us. We usually try to meet up in the foyer about 6.45pm so we can buy tickets and a drink and enjoy the performance together. The next live screening is RSC's "Titus Andronicus" on Wednesday August 9th.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £2141.93

Friends of the Holy Land £ 242.90

Thank you so much for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Catholic Communications Network

Next Week

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

World Communications Day is kept in the Catholic Church worldwide this Sunday, 28th May. The day is about highlighting the way the Church uses the media to proclaim the Gospel. The second collection will go to support the Catholic Communications Network, which is the Church's media office in the UK. Website: www.catholicnews.org.uk

Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association: The Second Collection next weekend will go to support those pilgrims who are sick who may not be able to afford to travel to Lourdes with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage in July. The collection will also help to make their journey and stay in Lourdes more comfortable.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Week Beginning 28th May	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Patrick McCafferty 11.00 am Anastasia Giblin 12.30 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Kateryna Batrak 11.00 am Simon, B&N Atkinson's Grandson First Holy Communions	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ellen Minshull 9.30 am A Special Intention First Holy Communions 6.30 pm Margaret Brown
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	<i>Mass at St Ambrose Barlow</i>
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm McKenna & Harding Families		9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
THURSDAY	<i>Mass at St Richard's</i>		9.15 am Paddy Walsh
FRIDAY	<i>Mass at St Richard's</i>		9.15 am Molly Whelan
SATURDAY	<i>No Mass or Confessions this morning</i>	10.00 am Padre Pio Prayer Group 6.00 pm Clara Brierley	6.00 pm Susan Theresa Phillips First Holy Communions
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Victims of Terrorist Attack in Manchester & their families 11.00 am George Sheridan 12.30 pm Baptism	11.00 am Donoghue & Roberts Family First Holy Communions	9.30 am Alan & Mary Charlton 6.30 pm Bernadette Sproston

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Caitlin Bradbury
Niall Dearnaley
Margaret Owen
Simon, grandson of B & N Atkinson

Those who are sick, especially:

Emma Oldham	Pat O'Neill
Kathy Kenyon	Rev Jim Melia
Guy Ryan	Anne Broad
Shelagh Welsby	Margaret Case
Derek Maude	Joan Wilkinson
Catherine Jones	Margaret Smith
Michael Wright	Irene McIntyre
Agnes Pilkington	Susan Phillips
Margaret Hurley	Neil Hurley
Thomas McLoughlin	Margaret Ross
Marjorie Price	Eugenie Cheetham
Jean Tchibukdjian	Freda Peake
Ann Mellin	Leonard Beach
Margaret Dawson	Fon O'Hara
Maureen Halliday	Thomas Higgins
Enid Kenwright	Betty Rostern
Bernard O'Donnell	Nancy Heaton
Mary Tiernan	Wyn Wright
Ted & Harriet Langin	Bridie Molyneux
James Pickering	Marjorie Hesketh

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

No Confessions at Holy Family on Saturday this week.
 After 6.00pm Saturday Mass at St. Richard's.
 Confession also available by request or by appointment.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our Family of Faith
Zachary Daniel Kinnen
Harvey Craig Keith Miles
 May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Pentecost Sunday (A)

First Reading *Acts 2:1-11*
 Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the effect it had on them.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 12:3-7*
 The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, for the good of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Gospel Reading. *John 20:19-23*
 The Risen Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples and inaugurates the mission of the Church.