

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

11th March 2018

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 Lent (B)
Weekdays – Lent - week 4

Sunday 4th Sunday of Lent (B)

Saturday Feast of St. Patrick, Bishop
Patron of Ireland

Next Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent (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

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 scene a Pharisee talks to Jesus about God. Nicodemus has arrived under cover of darkness, and he misunderstands what Jesus, the Light of the World, is saying to him. This gives Jesus the opportunity to clarify his meaning, so he declares: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." God's supreme gift was given out of love, not out of desire to humiliate or condemn the world. If God's basic attitude to the world was one of divine contempt or detachment then he would not have sent us his only Son. If God is greedy for anything it is for people's acceptance of his love. There is a divine hunger for human love – which is why God sent his only Son. Hopefully there is human hunger for divine love – again, this is why God sent his Son. In the person of Jesus, two hungers meet and are satisfied.

The Gospel today expresses the hope that if we really believed God loved us we would surely emerge from our selected darkness. In the dark it is difficult to see God. It is difficult to even think about him. We tend to think of God into our own image and likeness. Perhaps we would choose to come into the light more often if we truly believed that the light we are entering is not the light of condemnation. If some of us are afraid of the dark, then many more are afraid of the light. We are afraid of standing in a place that is over-lit, exposed and defenseless. But this is a "dark" image of God. God is not waiting outside the door from the dark, ready to humiliate us with the light of truth. The purpose of the light is to enlighten, not to blind us. God wants to see us in the light. After all, as today's Second Reading tells us, "We are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it."

Most of us would have difficulty in imaging ourselves as God's work of art. It takes less effort to see ourselves as God's mistake. This may be the image for ourselves, as it is for many Catholics, but this is no reason for ascribing the same view to God. It is part of the central message of the Gospel that we are created in God's love, that we ARE his work of art. We have to begin imagining ourselves as God sees us. Works of art should not be left to rot away in the dark, neglected and unseen. If they have been abandoned for a long time they will need sensitive restoration to be saved and brought to life again. Lent gives us the opportunity to think again about the task of restoration and allow God to bring out the best in us. Like all restorers, God needs light to do his work. Who knows, we might even begin to value God's work ourselves. And if this happens, then we might just recognize God's art in other people

Psalm Response O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not.

Gospel Acclamation God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

PARISH NEWS

CAFOD Lenten Café

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses today and every Sunday during Lent. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, a wonderful array of home-made cakes and delicious snacks. Proceeds go to the CAFOD Lent Appeal Every £1 given to the Appeal, up to £5m, will be match funded by the Government. This year we are again seeking sponsors for each week that the CAFOD Lenten Café is operating. If you would like to sponsor a session at £35, please contact (justinesilcock@gmail.com).

The **Traidcraft** Stall will be available every Sunday in Lent, providing an excellent opportunity to buy a variety of fairtrade products. The 2018 Fairtrade Fortnight is Feb 26th to Mar 11th, please try some Traidcraft goods which will support this venture. Please come along if you can, You will be very welcome.

Help Required

We are looking for additional help to maintain the grounds at St Ambrose Barlow in Astley. If you feel you can spare an hour or two on a regular basis or would like more information please contact Peter Mellin, Des Deignan or Steve Cooper for further details.

Easter Flowers

Donations are now being accepted for the Memorial Flowers during Easter. Please place your donation in an envelope together with the names of those you wish to be remembered and hand it in to church or presbytery of your choice.

500 Club St Richard's

The March winners were:
£100 183, H. Grundy
£ 50 106, W. Croughan
£ 25 008, P Pendlebury
£ 15 190 E. Cooke
£ 15 033 S. Longworth

St. Patrick's Eve Singalong Night Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford Friday 16th March

Doors open 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start
Finish soon after 1.00pm
Admission free



Hot pasties on sale at the interval

An evening of mostly Irish, Country and Traditional songs led by The Cambridge Crew (from Liverpool) plus guests singers with popular songs from the 1960's onwards. Sing along with all the songs you know - chorus sheets will be provided.



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

The Chrism Mass Liverpool Cathedral

This year takes place on Wednesday March 28th at 7.00pm. If you would like to go we have booked a coach to take us.

Please sign the sheet at the back of Church asap.

Parish Trip to York

A few people have mentioned that they would like to go on a trip to York later in the year. It has been a few years since we last had a Parish Trip to York. It is the birthplace of our patron saint, Margaret Clitherow, so it is something that we should always do from time to time. We will try to book a coach for December which coincides with the Christmas Markets, so that would be a good time to go again. We will let you know the date as soon as we can.

Services During Lent

Once again there will be a number of devotions and services taking place during the Season of Lent. Please try to do something extra as we walk with the Lord through the desert.

- **Tuesday at 7.00pm** – Stations of the Cross in St. Richard's.
- **Wednesday at 7.30 am** – Early Morning Lenten Mass in St. Ambrose Barlow.
- **Wednesday at 9.00 am** – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Richard's Church.
- **Wednesday at 10.00am** – CAFOD Lenten Reflections in St. Richard's.
- **Wednesday at 6.30 pm** – Stations of the Cross in Holy Family Church.
- **Thursday at 7.00 pm** – Ecumenical Lenten Talks in Atherton Independent Methodist Church.
- **Friday at 3.00 pm** – Holy Hour, with the opportunity for individual Confession, in Holy Family Church.
- **Friday at 7.00 pm** – Stations of the Cross in St. Ambrose Barlow Church.

Please come along and join us in prayer.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Tuesdays: 7.00pm at St. Richard's
Wednesdays: 6.30pm at Holy Family,
before the evening Mass.
Fridays: 7.00pm at St Ambrose Barlow

Early Morning Mass during Lent

Wednesdays: 7.30am at St Ambrose Barlow
Fridays: 6.30am at Holy Family
Sign up sheet for readers and ministers at back of Holy Family.

Lenten Reflections

"On the Altar of the World. Praying with the Gospels, stories from our time and Laudato Si"

will be taking place across the area this Lent. All are welcome to attend. The times and venues of the sessions are:

- St Richard's Parish House at 10.00am (after Exposition) on **Wednesdays** 7th, 14th and 21st March.
- Holy Family at 7.45pm (after 7.00pm Mass) on **Wednesdays** 7th and 21st March.

Sacred Heart School, Hindsford

Sacred Heart Primary School in Hindsford, has been selected for "Tesco Tokens!" If you shop at Tesco in Atherton or Leigh please collect as many tokens as you can for the school – the little blue tokens were you are invited to support the charity of your choice on your way out of the store. The school's allocated time is from March 1st to April 30th. The more tokens they get, the more money we will receive. Please help the school as much as you can.



Food Hamper

During Advent a hamper was placed in the porch at St Ambrose to collect food items which were then taken to the local food bank for distribution at Christmas. Several items have been donated since the

Christmas period, therefore it has been decided to continue collecting until further notice. All donations will be taken to the food banks on a regular basis, so if you have anything you would like to donate, please place it in the hamper in the porch at St Ambrose Barlow Church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



'With You Always' Programme

Dates, venues and times for the next "With You Always" preparation program for Year 4 children attending St. Ambrose Barlow School, St. Richard's School and Sacred Heart School, Hindsford, are available either through school or at the back of Church. The next sessions will take place this Tuesday and Thursday:-

St. Richard's School, Atherton – March 13th at 5.30pm.

St. Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall – March 15th at 6.00pm.

Liverpool Synod 2020

Following on from the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter before Christmas, Liverpool Archdiocese are embarking on a three year project aimed towards a General Synod in 2020. As part of the preparations we will be holding a number of Holy Hours very soon as we focus on prayer for the first year. The Archbishop will be leading some of these Holy Hours in the different area of the Archdiocese. So an early notice that Archbishop Malcolm will be leading a Holy Hour in St. Joseph's Church, Leigh, on Wednesday May 30th at 7.30pm. All welcome. More details nearer the time.

Archbishop's Letter - Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Following last weekend's letter from Archbishop Malcolm, please find below contact details if you are interested in going on or helping out with the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. We are awaiting more information leaflets too but you could still email or phone the Archdiocese independently if you like. If anyone is interested in travelling to Lourdes please phone 07484911623. To volunteer for any of the support teams visit the website at liverpool-lourdes.org.uk

Or contact the Lourdes Office at lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk

National Eucharistic Congress - Liverpool

Many of you may be aware that Liverpool Archdiocese are hosting the National Eucharistic Congress in September this year. Since this is a national event tickets for the Congress are strictly limited. The Congress takes place between September 7th-9th in different venues in Liverpool city centre. Anyone who wishes to go do not have to attend the whole weekend. In fact, this would be rather difficult due to ticket availability. Each Deanery have been allocated just five tickets for the Friday event. We have been allocated 36 tickets for the Saturday – this includes tickets for priests and deacons. Sunday is a celebration of two Masses at the Cathedral (see below) so this is a little more flexible, although you will still need tickets for this event too. Venues and approximate times are as follows:-

- **Friday September 7 th – ACC Convention Centre, Liverpool between 10.00 am -5.45 pm.**
- **Saturday September 8 th – ACC Echo Arena, Liverpool between 9.30 am -5.00 pm.**
- **Sunday September 9 th – Mass in Liverpool Cathedral at 9.30am & 11.30am.**

Outdoor Eucharistic Procession at 1.00 pm.

If you would like to volunteer to represent the Deanery at the National Eucharistic Congress then please contact Fr. Paul (the Elder) as soon as possible. You will be provided with a booking form which you will need to fill in as part of your booking. First come, first served.

Booking forms need to be received BEFORE March 15th at the very latest.

Booking forms available from the Parish Office

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me:

**e.lalley@rcaol.co.uk or
formation@rcaol.co.uk. or
Eleanor Lalley 0151 522 1047**

Reflect:

This Sunday's Gospel reading makes an offer of life and light, and a warning about judgement and darkness. We all want to be on the side of light. We all, at times, veer towards the dark. Often we're in a half-light, like at dusk. But Lent is more about dawn than dusk. As the days lengthen, Lent offers a springtime of the heart. Open your heart to that hopeful call.

Pray:

Lord,

We pray that we may be the light of Christ to others, revealing the transforming power of your love, challenging the injustices we encounter bringing hope to those living in darkness. Amen

Act:

The theme of the Crucifixion runs through the reading. We aren't far away from Holy Week now, and this Sunday is often seen as a break from the rigours of fasting. How is your Lent going? Have you made progress or change in the way you wanted to?

Challenge:

Are there any deeds of darkness you want to confess to the God of love? How have you cooperated with the God of light in the last day or two? How is Jesus wanting to bring you a little more into the light today? Spend some time talking with the Lord about how you can come closer to the light as we continue through Lent. Reflections taken from 'Pray As You Go'

Easter Cards to the Holy Land

Once again this year we will have the opportunity to send Easter cards Easter Cards to the Holy Land

Once again this year we have the opportunity to send Easter cards to our fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

Easter cards, produced as usual by the Carmelite Sisters at Maryton, together with an information leaflet giving the names and addresses of the different parishes in the Holy Land, are available at the back of church today at 50p each.. Please do not post these but instead return signed and addressed cards to church by 11th March so that they can all be posted together in time for Easter. Some of these communities feel isolated and beleaguered and a simple greeting and message of hope means a great deal to them.

Thank you.

HCPT Golf Day

HCPT are running their annual Golf Day on Thursday May 24th at Westhoughton Golf Club. Fr. Paul has been asked to get together a couple of teams for the "shotgun start" golf day, which begins at 1.00 pm. If you would like to please contact Fr. Paul as soon as possible – strictly on a first come, first served basis. Price is £30 per person including competition prizes and hot food.

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



Arthur Leggett.
 Agnes Pilkington
 All Cancer Patients
 Anne Broad
 Baby George
 Baby Grace
 Baby Luke
 Bernadette Bates
 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
 Hannah Delargy
 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 Wall
 Marjorie Price
 Mary Tiernan
 Maureen Halliday
 Michael Wright
 Patricia Wilson
 Rev Jim Melia
 Sandra Jones
 Shelagh Welsby
 Sr Megan Haisley
 Ted & Harriet Langin
 Thelma Humble
 Thomas Higgins
 Thomas McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright
 Yvonne Mellin

Week Beginning 11th March	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am David Pickering 11.00 am Martin Furey	(Sat) 6.00 pm David Hughes 11.00 am Rachel Hall & Lance Kesson on their wedding day	(Sat) 6.00 pm Maria Conneely 9.30 am Peter David Long
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	10.30am Funeral Service for Stephen Bailey	9.15 am Ray Hilton	9.15am Eileen & Eammon McNulty 10.00am Funeral Service for Joanne Stradins
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm John and Alice Regan	7.30 am Joan Clegg	9 - 10 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00am Anne Freeman		9.15 am John Pearson
FRIDAY	6.30 am Alice & Frank Giron-Conland <i>Mass in Holy Family Church</i> 10.00 am Mr & Mrs Caroline Smallshaw <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		10.00 am Funeral Mass for Peter Quinn
SATURDAY	10.00 am Jean Royale	2.00 pm Older & Infirm Parishioners 6.00 pm Vincent Topping	6.00 pm The Geraghty Family
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Madeleine Sighe 11.00 am Seamus McNulty	11.00 am Michael Skiffington	9.30 am Andrea & Rufino Kinamot

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £ 1928.13
 HCPT: £ 390.90
 Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Monthly SVP Collection

'SVP' 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. Thank you for the support you give consistently throughout the year. It really does help to change lives.

Next Week

Lenten Alms/ HCPT

Each year, during Lent, the second collection goes to a charity of the Archbishop's choice. to distribute to those most in need.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions on Saturday - *Subject to change see newsletter*
 Following the 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family
 following 6.00 pm Mass at St Ambrose and St Richard's.
 Also available where possible by request or by appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

First Reading *Jeremiah 31:31-34.*
 The Lord plants his new covenant deep within his people's hearts.
Second Reading *Hebrews 5:7-9.*
 Christ becomes the source of eternal salvation through the obedience of his suffering.
Gospel Reading *John 12:20-33.*
 Jesus is glorified in his act of self-abandonment on our behalf.

BAPTISM

Please remember in your prayers the families of
**Isla Grace Hulme and
 Daniel Gerbery**
 who are being baptised into the Parish this weekend

Those who have died,

**Peter Quinn.
 Adrian Paul Gibson.
 John Brady.
 Patricia Shea.
 Joanne Stradins
 Stephen Bailey**

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to
Amy Crowe & Daniel Canavan
 who were married at St. Richard's Church this weekend.

