

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

11th February 2018

DEANERY TEAM

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: kjmgrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel: 01942 673517 or 731280
Email: stjosephs@live.com

Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson & Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith

Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
http://stmmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk



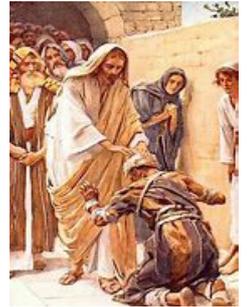
LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Wk 6

Sunday 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)
(Day of Prayer for the Sick, their carers, and the Unemployed)

Wednesday Ash Wednesday
Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Next Sunday 1st 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

Today's Gospel is a story of role reversal. Mark's version of this story follows last weekend's Gospel where Jesus is surrounded by disciples and heals many sick people. When he tried to find space on his own, Jesus' disciples tracked him down. As today's passage opens, Jesus is alone, in an unidentified town. Did Mark insert this passage in his Gospel here deliberately? Did he hide any clues that would have located the story elsewhere in Jesus' ministry? We don't know, but the way the story is told heightens the tension of the Gospel. It gets off to a bad start. Under the Law a leper was forbidden to approach anyone, but the leper in today's Gospel approaches Jesus. Perhaps he thinks he has nothing to lose. He must already think he is as good as dead. A non-person cut off from all other human contact. He approaches Jesus, drops to his knees and says, "If you want to, you can cure me." Jesus does the unthinkable and touches him, saying, "Of course I want to! Be cured!" Mark says Jesus felt sorry for him. The original Greek word means that he felt great compassion.

Many different things happen in this story. First, the man is made clean, and Jesus, conscious of what the Law required for the man to be declared free from leprosy, tells him to go and show himself to the priest, making the offering prescribed by Moses as evidence of his recovery. It's not stated what this offering would have been, but presumably once the priest had declared a leper clean, the sight of the victim offering sacrifice in the Temple proved that he or she had been pronounced cured. Jesus tells this man to say nothing about this to anyone, but just as the visible testimony of his cure was evident, so now is his verbal acknowledgement of Jesus' power testimony of God's work. The man who was recently cut off from all human contact is now publicly holding court at the heart of the community from which he was once excluded. Jesus, however, now has to stay outside the town, where there are no others. The one who cleansed the leper takes the place of the one he has healed. Role reversal indeed.

This miracle is about one person, but it has a universal implication. When Jesus cleansed the leper and took on his condition, we have the sign of what happened to humanity when the Son of God came into the human world. In the beautifully poetic creation story, God created us in his image and likeness. In the incarnation, God in Christ comes among humans in our image and likeness. In today's Gospel Jesus takes on the isolated condition of the former leper who is restored to fuller humanity. On the Cross, full role reversal takes place. Jesus pays the penalty for all sin – he exchanges places with us by dying for us. We become more fully human by Jesus' death because he has destroyed what makes us less human. If the totally innocent Jesus took on the entire burden of our sin in reaching out to us, can we ever excuse failing to reach out to a sister or brother who is dehumanized by exclusion, persecution, marginalization? The answer, of course, is that we can't. Who are the equivalent of lepers in our community today? And how do we reach out to them?

Psalm Response
Gospel Acclamation

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

HCPT Coffee Morning

There will be an HCPT Coffee Morning at Holy Family after Masses **TODAY, Sunday 11th February**. Tea, coffee and toast available in the parish hall. All welcome.

'With You Always' Programme (St.AB, St.R & SH)

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

Session One – "Come To The Water".

- **St.Richard's Church – Tuesday, 13th February at 5.30pm.**
- **St.Ambrose Barlow Church – Thursday, 15th February at 6.00pm.**

'With You Always' Programme (St.G and HF)

The next session is this week:

- **St Gabriel's School – Tuesday, 13th February at 2.30pm.**
- **Holy Family Church – Thursday, 15th February 3.45pm or 6.30pm.**

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins this **Wednesday, February 14th**. The priests of the Deanery will be busy that day distributing Ashes in the schools and also during the following Mass times for Ash Wednesday:-

- **St.Ambrose Barlow @ 7.30am**
- **St.Richard's @ 12noon**
- **Holy Family @ 7.00pm**

CAFOD Lenten Café

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **next Sunday, February 18th and then every Sunday during Lent**. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, a wonderful array of home-made cakes and delicious snacks - including bacon butties - will be available. Proceeds from these will go to the CAFOD Lent Appeal – which this year will gain matched funding from the Government! *So for each £1 given to this Lent Appeal, up to £5 million, the UK Government will also give £1 to CAFOD's nutrition work.*



The Traidcraft Stall will also be available every Sunday during Lent. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to buy a variety of fairtrade products and so help our brothers and sisters throughout the world gain a fairer life.

Please come along if you can, meet other parishioners and support these ventures. You will be very welcome.

St. Richard's 500 Club - Winners for February 2018

£100.00 240 A.Baxter
£50.00 182 M.Hodson
£25.00 158 J.Grundy
£15.00 334 A.Baxter
£15.00 301 L.Sandelands

Thank you for your continued support.

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.



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

Anyone willing to lead the Stations please sign up at the back of church. Booklets and versions of the Stations are available from the parish office.

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.

Exposition during Lent

Exposition in **St.Richard's** on **Wednesdays at 9.00am.**

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** 21st, 28th February; 7th, 14th and 21st March.
- Holy Family at 7.45pm (after 7.00pm Mass) on **Wednesdays** 7th and 21st March.

Ecumenical Lenten Talks

Ecumenical Lenten Talks in **Atherton Independent Methodist Church** on **Thursdays at 7.00pm.**

Holy Hour during Lent

Where possible, unless any funerals clash, there will be Holy Hour on the **Fridays of Lent between 3.00pm and 4.00pm** with the opportunity for individual Confessions. However, there will be no early Mass or Holy Hour on Friday 23rd February as Fr Paul G is away.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



CINeworld Live Screening

There is another good looking Live Screening at Cineworld for those who would like to join us. We can meet in the ticket area at Cineworld and watch the live screenings together for all those who are interested.

The next one is:-

**“Twelfth Night” from the RSC Stratford
Wednesday February 14th at 7.00pm.**

Family Quiz Night

at St Stephen's School, Astley

There will be a quiz for all the family at St Stephen's on **Friday 16th February** from 7.30pm. Tickets £4 or £10 for a family - includes refreshments (but bring your own booze). Please ring Jenny on 01942 876310 or Margaret on 01942 870851 to book your place (for catering numbers). You can pay on the door.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23rd February

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **Friday 23rd February** can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity?



And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed.

Please collect your Fast Day envelope from church next week and return it the following weekend, February 24th/25th. Many thanks.

St Patrick's Eve Singalong Night

Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford

Friday 16th March

Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start
finish soon after 11.00pm

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 guest singers with popular songs from the 1960's onwards. Sing along with all the songs you know - chorus sheets will be provided.

Over 60's Afternoon – 17th March 2018

Every year, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community welcomes persons over 60 years of age to an afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.00 pm followed by a meal and entertainment. We can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities. We will, of course extend our invitation to those who were invited last year. We do have a number of places available free this year. If you have not attended in the past please contact us to arrange invitations. As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend any Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, plus those who help at our community events on a regular basis. If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Jackie B. (01942 516619), Steve (01942 876487) or Des (07973 114365) before 20th February. Invitations then will be issued, according to the above criteria and subject to numbers.

Reflect:

Today's healing of the leper in St Mark's Gospel challenges in several ways. The leper has a deep faith that Jesus can heal him – how deep is our own belief that we can be healed of the things that trouble us. In asking Jesus to heal him the leper is asking to be accepted as he is with all the ugliness and horror of the illness with which he is touched – can we accept our own ugliness, the parts of our own being that we would rather hide away and do not want anyone else to see? Jesus's response to the leper is pure positivity 'Of course I want to! Be cured'. Can we believe that God loves us so much that he accepts us just as we are? Can we share this same acceptance in our encounters with others?

Pray:

Lord, let my faith not be swamped by horror at the misery and hopelessness of so many in our world, in Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere. Instead, I ask your blessing on those who devote themselves to compassionate care of the needy. They are the unsung champions of your love today. I ask the grace to be numbered among them.

Act:

Recognise and accept the areas of your life which need to be healed. Place them before the Lord to do with as he will.

Challenge:

As Christians we are called to heal others. Spend time this week being sensitive to the needs of others you encounter, allowing God's Holy Spirit to work through you to bring healing to those who need it.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The Padre Pio Group has resumed its weekly prayer meetings in St Ambrose Barlow Church.

Easter Cards to the Holy Land

Once again this year we will have the opportunity to send Easter cards to our fellow Christians in the Holy Land. Some of these communities feel isolated and beleaguered and a simple greeting and message of hope means a great deal to them.

Further information will be given and the cards will be available on the weekend **February 24th/25th**. Please return signed cards to church by 11th March so that they can all be posted together in time for Easter. Thank you.

Parish Administrator at Holy Family

In addition to the priests being contactable by email, Helen the parish administrator at Holy Family is now contactable for enquiries and booking of baptisms on margaretclitherow@yahoo.com

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
Anne Broad
Baby George
Baby Luke
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 (age 9)
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
Thomas Higgins
Thomas McLoughlin
Wyn Wright
Yvonne Mellin

Those who have died, especially

Eileen McNulty
Margaret Smith
Michael Skiffington

Week Beginning 11th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Madelaine Sighe 11.00 am Kathleen Roddy	(Sat) 6.00 pm Special Intention 11.00 am John & Kate McLaughlin	(Sat) 6.00 pm Georgina Ruddy 9.30 am Joni Horton
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Eric Vincent Whiteside	9.15 am Geraldine Baker
ASH WEDNESDAY (Day of fasting & abstinence)	7.00 pm Una Bartley Furey	7.30 am Joan Clegg	12noon Michael Herko
THURSDAY	10.00 am Funeral Mass for Margaret Smith		9.15 am Malcolm Griffiths
FRIDAY	10.00 am Stephen Hampson <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		10.00 am Leonard & Virginia Beach
SATURDAY	10.00 am Martin & Betty Neary	6.00 pm Bette Grundy	6.00 pm Eileen McNulty
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Mary Sharples 11.00 am Mr William Burke	11.00 am Sam & Mary O'Kane	9.30 am A Sick Person

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £2061.80
Survive Miva £ 323.46

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today
H.C.P.T.

HCPT – The Pilgrimage Trust is a UK based charity which takes children with special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. Website: www.hcpt.org.uk

Next Week

Church Action on Poverty
Church Action on Poverty is an ecumenical charity, based in Manchester, committed to tackling poverty in the United Kingdom. CAP works in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to find solutions to poverty, locally, nationally and globally. Website: www.church-poverty.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family and 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 First Sunday of Lent (B)

First Reading *Genesis 9:8-15*
God us the rainbow as a sign of God's everlasting covenant with his people.

Second Reading *1 Peter 3:18-22*
God's will is to save us all. Baptism is God's pledge to us of this desire.

Gospel Reading *Mark 1:12-15*
After being tempted in the wilderness by Satan, Jesus begins his proclamation of the Good News from God.

BAPTISM

We welcome into our family of Faith

Lenny Miles

May God bless him & his family.

Pope Francis Tweets

4 Feb: Jesus wants to be found by those who look for Him. But to look for Him we have to get up and go out.

3 Feb: A life of faith means wanting to be with the Lord, and that means constantly searching for Him wherever He is.