

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Third Sunday of Easter (B)

15th April 2018

DEANERY TEAM

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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 3
Readings Sunday – Third Sunday of Easter (B)
Weekdays – Easter Week 3

Sunday Third Sunday of Easter (B)
Monday St. Bernadette
Saturday St. Anselm
Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)
(World Day of Prayer for Vocations)



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

There are times in life when it takes courage to stand up and bear witness to the things that we believe to be true. When Jesus told his disciples, "You are witnesses to this," regarding his resurrection, they may not have been entirely delighted to be chosen for that role. In New Testament Greek, the word for "witness" is the same as that for "martyr". The early Christians would have been aware that those who were appointed as witnesses to Christ might well be called upon to follow his example and lay down their lives for him. So many of the early disciples did exactly this – St. Stephen, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. James, to name only a few, did in fact die a martyr's death in the early days of the Church, and many more have done so over the centuries, in many different countries around the world. And it's still a danger that people face in some parts of the world even in our own day. To what, exactly, did the disciples bear witness? They witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. It was not necessary to bear witness to his crucifixion. That was common knowledge. Indeed, some of those to whom Peter preached had themselves been instrumental in having Jesus crucified. In today's First Reading Peter relates the crucifixion as an undoubted fact, but goes on, "God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are witnesses." On another occasion, recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, speaking before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, Peter said, "By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and Saviour...we are witnesses to all this."

We are all called to be witnesses to Christ Jesus. Will we also be called to be martyrs? It may not seem likely in this country, in our time; but even if we do not have to face persecution of this kind, we may very well have to face opposition, ridicule, contempt, discrimination. A woman recently fought a case for unfair dismissal, having been sacked for wearing a crucifix. Are we prepared to give open and visible evidence of our faith, even if it gets us into trouble? We are not eyewitnesses to the resurrection, as Peter and the disciples were. We can only bear witness that we accept what has come down to us from the disciples, and what we have experienced in our own lives. This may seem a relatively safe way to be a witness. However, many witnesses in criminal trials may have wished that they had not been so aware of what was going on, that they had been looking the other way, that they had not been so sharp-eyed. Perhaps we may come to wish that we had not heard the Lord calling in the night, that we had not recognized Jesus in the stranger on the road, that he had not opened our minds to understand the scriptures, that our hearts had not burned within us as we read about him in the Gospels. Then we would not have been called to be his witnesses. But we did hear him, we did recognize him, and we are his witnesses in the world today. That is his calling to each one of us.

Psalm Response Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.
Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

PARISH NEWS



200 Club Grand Draw and Cabaret Evening



The draw for £1000 and other cash prizes will take place at a cabaret evening on **Friday 27th April** in Saint Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall at 8.00pm (doors open at 7.30). There will be a buffet supper and entertainment will be provided by Peter Sarsfield. There is no bar, so bring your own drinks. 200 Club Members wishing to claim their free tickets for this event should see Steve Cooper at the back of church after Mass - or call him on 07952 152371.

St. Richard's 500 Club Winners for April 2018

£100	425	P. Litherland
£50	79	T. Thompson
£25	207	M. Hancock
£15	151	R. Gregory
£15	293	W. Croughan

Thank you for your continued support.

Craft Groups

The Craft Group at Holy Family meets **every Wednesday afternoon** between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. Admission £3.50 including all materials. All welcome.

The Craft Class in St. Richard's Parish Centre meets on **Thursdays** between 10.00am-12noon. All 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.



Tesco Tokens

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 where 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.

Holy Family Car Park

As the sale of the land around the old Scout Hall has gone through **we are no longer able to use the land for parking or access to the school**. Building works are due to commence in the coming weeks involving the demolition of both halls in preparation for our new centre.

Thank you for your patience as there will likely be some disruption during this process, but the future is bright!

Meru Women's Garden Project

Atherton Churches Together have agreed to help Soroptimist International, Leigh & District Club, raise money for a unique project which has been set up in Meru, a region of Kenya. The project aims to help 194 women create vegetable gardens which will not only feed their families but also allow them to sell any surplus to raise money and send their children to school. To do this we are collecting old, broken, perfect and not so perfect jewellery that can be exchanged for cash by weight. So the more we collect the more money we make for the project. We have no objection if the odd gold, silver or diamond item gets in there but we are not expecting to find any treasures.

A box for the donated items will be placed at the back of St. Richard's Church for the next few weeks. The entire Parish is invited to take part. Please help if you are able to do so. Further information can be found at meruwomen.org Or you can contact Josie Carter on 07845973353.

This is a Soroptimist International, Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) project working with the charity child.org.

Pope Francis Tweets, April 2018

I wish to re-propose the call to holiness: "Rejoice and be glad".

The Lord calls each of us to holiness, you too.

Are you called to the consecrated life?

Be holy by living out your commitment with joy.

Are you married?

Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church.

Do you work for a living?

Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters

Are you a parent or grandparent?

Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus.

Are you in a position of authority?

Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2023.08
Catholic Blind Services	£ 295.55
Holy Places	£ 41.00

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

THOMAS

THOMAS stands for "Those on the Margins of a Society".

It is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme, set up by a Catholic Priest in Blackburn, and offers people the opportunity to rebuild their lives by finding a solution to the problems of addiction. It does wonderful work. Have a look at their website: www.thomasonline.org.uk

Next Week

Priests' Training Fund

Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The second collection will be the annual collection for the **Priests' Training Fund** which is the chief source of income that enables the Archdiocese to train our future priests. It takes six or seven years to train a priest and costs approximately £100,000.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



'Orpheus In The Underworld'

The Three Towns Operatic Company are staging a production of Offenbach's "Orpheus In The Underworld" in St. Joseph's Hall, Leigh, **from Tuesday 15th to Saturday 19th May**. Tickets are priced at £11 & £13, with concessions available. For more details and to book tickets please contact 01942-605369 or 01942-676594 or visit www.thethreetowns.net

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 areas of the Archdiocese. So an early notice that the Holy Hours in our Deanery will take place on the following dates and venues:-

- **Wednesday May 30th** at 7.30pm – St. Joseph's Church, Leigh. (Led by Archbishop Malcolm)
- **Wednesday June 27th** at 7.30pm – St. Ambrose Barlow Church, Astley.
- **Wednesday July 18th** at 7.30pm – Sacred Heart Church, Leigh.



Sacred Heart Club

Quiz Night

Cash Prizes

Every Thursday

Doors open 8.00 pm for 8.30 start.



Parish Trip to York - 11th December 2018

We have now booked a coach for a day trip to York for **Tuesday, December 11th**. We will probably begin with Mass in one of the Churches at 9.00am and depart straight after that, returning early evening, perhaps leaving York at about 6.30-7.00pm. If you would like to go then we will put up lists at the back of the different churches very soon. First come, first served. York is the birthplace of our patron saint, Margaret Clitherow, so it is something that we should always do from time to time. We will also be able to go to the Christmas Markets in York, if of course they are on this year.

Stratford Trip - 28th June 2018

All the theatre tickets for Stratford are now sold out. If you are going, don't forget the date!

Reflect:

In today's reading we are reminded that out of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection comes our mission to proclaim reconciliation with God through Jesus to the whole world. God's Kingdom is being realised when people go through the process of radical conversion and change of life which brings about a deep reconciliation of each one with God, with all those around them and with themselves. When fear and hostility are replaced with caring love for each other. It is for each one of us today to ask how, given the circumstances of our own lives, we can most effectively get that message across to the people around us. It means proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom among us.

Pray:

We ask, Lord Jesus,

That the gifts we have may become the treasures we share

And the blessings we receive become the riches we give,

So we may reflect the light you bring into the darkness of others.

Act:

Now the weather is warming up, it's the ideal time to plant some vegetable seeds for harvesting later in the year.

Challenge:

All round us there are people who have never heard that message of unconditional love, or who have only heard a distorted version of it.

Yet the constant pursuit of money and goods, of power and status, the constant escape into drugs, nicotine, alcohol and the high incidence of suicides, especially among young people, all point to people who are looking for meaning, peace and happiness in their lives.

All need to hear that greeting: "Peace with you" and to experience the peace that only Jesus can give. Will I be the one to carry that message today to even one other person?

Reflect and Challenge Adapted from 'Sacred Space' website

Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick Ordained Seventh Bishop of Lancaster

The Episcopal Ordination of the Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick as the seventh Bishop of Lancaster took place at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on Monday, 9 April 2018. The Lancashire-born priest has been a priest of the diocese for over 35 years, including 15 years missionary service in Zambia, For more information see: <http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/New-Bishop-of-Lancaster>

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.sacredheartrchindsford.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
 Mildred Hughes
 Patricia Wilson
 Rev Jim Melia
 Sandra Jones
 Shelagh Welsby
 Sr Megan Haisley
 Steve Clorston
 Ted & Harriet Langin
 Thelma Humble
 Thomas Higgins
 Thomas McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright
 Yvonne Mellin
 + addition this week
 Kathleen Lyth

Week Beginning 15th April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Bill & Mary Freeman 11.00 am William Burke	(Sat) 6.00 pm Agnes Manfredi 11.00 am Sheila Swift	(Sat) 6.00 pm Eddie Leach 9.30 am Teresa & Michael Cleary
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Catherine Yates 10.30 am Funeral Service for John Retford	9.15 am Kevin Hesketh
WEDNESDAY	<i>No evening Mass – Funeral Mass at St Ambrose Barlow</i>	1.30 pm Funeral Mass for Joan Rigby	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Madeleine Sighe		9.15 am Eileen Boardman
FRIDAY	10.00 am Sheila Christianson <i>(Mass in St Gabriel's School)</i>		9.15 am Gilbert Parsons
SATURDAY	10.00 am Annie & Michael Walsh	6.00 pm Helen Shearer	6.00 pm Martin Alwill Patricia Shaw
SUNDAY	9.00 am John West 11.00 am Mr J Silcock	11.00 am Joan Rigby	9.30 am Jack Hadcroft



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Lauren Watson
 John Retford
 Eileen Boardman
 Joan Rigby
 Eileen Ward
 Hazel Young

R.I.P.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday Confessions after 10.00am Mass at Holy Family and after both 6.00pm Masses in St Ambrose Barlow and St Richards. Confession also available where possible by request or by appointment.

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our family of Faith
 Maya Robakowska
 Maximilian Robakowski
 Lucas Fetherston
May God bless them and their families.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

Peter explains that the healing he has performed was only possible because it was done in the name of Jesus.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

We shall one day see God as he really is.

Gospel Reading

John 10:11-18

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for his sheep so that they may be united in one fold.