

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

First Sunday of Lent (B)

18th February 2018

## DEANERY TEAM

**Priest:** Fr. Paul Seddon  
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**St. Margaret Clitherow Parish Enquiries- Helen**

**Priest:** Fr. Kieran O'Grady  
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**Priest:** Fr. Colin Fealey  
**Tel:** 01942 673517 or 731280  
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**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 1  
**Readings** Sunday – 1st Sunday of Lent (B)  
Weekdays – Lent - week 1

**Sunday** 1st Sunday of Lent (B)  
**Thursday** Feast of the See of St. Peter The Apostle

**Next Sunday** 2nd 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

St. Mark begins his Gospel with a flurry of witnesses to the truth of Jesus and his mission among us. His account of Jesus in the wilderness is very short in comparison to the other Gospels. There are no details of the individual temptations Jesus undergoes. There is a sense of urgency and power. The Holy Spirit, who has descended on him in the form of a dove at his baptism, immediately drives him into the wilderness. This desert is not just a place of individual testing. It is where the wild beasts hold sway. It is where the battle takes place between good and evil. Jesus is not left alone in this warfare, for he has the protective shield of the angels. Throughout his public life of preaching and healing, Jesus will appear as a strong and active person, very much in charge of his destiny. At the end of his life, once Judas has handed him over to his executioners, he will be once again in the wilderness, and he will be totally passive as he is cursed and maltreated by his persecutors. As he begins his public ministry, we gain a hint of this possibility, as he begins his proclamation at the very point his forerunner, John the Baptist, has been arrested. Jesus now becomes his own witness. The time has come for all the prophecies to be fulfilled. God through Jesus is once again asserting authority in the world.

We live out the battle between good and evil against the wider landscape of our world and society. We also fight the same battle within ourselves. Living amongst other people we have a multitude of distractions, and the battle gets displaced into blaming others and being hurt by their actions. In solitude we learn to identify the true sources of evil in ourselves and in our world. Modelling ourselves on Jesus, we also hope that we too have the support of God's angels. Our capacity to deal with sin and evil is strengthened by the way solitude helps us to unburden ourselves of anything that is unnecessary in our lives so that we can focus on God more and more. As we make ourselves more insignificant we become more free to focus directly on what needs to change, again within ourselves or in our world. We can become less afraid, less anxious, less sensitive to our own needs and more in tune to the real needs of others. The journey into the wilderness with its experience of solitude begins our Lenten journey. It equips us to repent and believe the Good News and to proclaim the Kingdom of God in our own lives. Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are the three practices we are advised to use as we attempt this mixture of purification and growth. They are not ends in themselves but the means whereby we become more open to the life of God's Spirit working in and through us.

**Psalms Response** Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

**Gospel Acclamation** Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God

## PARISH NEWS

### This Week



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

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 now available, either through school or at the back of Church.

The next sessions will take place on **March 6th & 8th**

### **CAFOD Lenten Café**

The CAFOD Lenten Café will be open in Holy Family Hall after the 9am and 11am Masses **today** 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.

### **CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23 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 23 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 today and return it next weekend, February 24th/25th. Many thanks. *In light of recent news reports you may wish to know CAFOD has a statement about safeguarding vulnerable communities on [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Copies are available in the CAFOD Lenten Café.*

### **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 at St. Richard's**

Donations are now being accepted for the Memorial Flowers during Easter at St. Richard's Church. Please place your donation in an envelope together with the names of those you wish to be remembered and give it to the flower ladies, Team JCB, or post it through the letter box at St. Richard's Parish House.

### **Parish Trip to York**

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. Last time we went in December which coincided with the Christmas Markets, so that would be a good time to go again. If you are interested please let one of the priests know so that we know that there is enough interest, then we will sort out a date and a coach.

### **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.  
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 - Holy Family 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



## 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.

## Holy Family - Lenten Services

There will be the early Mass on the Fridays of Lent at 6.30am – sign up sheet for readers and ministers at back of Holy Family. Stations of the Cross this year at Holy Family will be at 6.30pm on Wednesdays 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.

Lent. Where possible unless any funerals clash, there will be Holy Hour on the Fridays of Lent between 3 and 4pm 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.

## Eucharistic Ministers - Holy Family

There are copies of the St Paul Missal available for Eucharistic Ministers in Holy Family. Please collect from the office for use visiting the sick and housebound.

## Thank You

A very special thanks to everyone from Holy Family for making my 21st birthday so special. For all the beautiful cards, gifts and sentiments; it meant so much. Thank you! God bless you all. Katie

## 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](http://liverpool-lourdes.org.uk)

Or contact the Lourdes Office at [lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk)

## 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.

**Note:** 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](mailto:margaretclitherow@yahoo.com)

## Reflect:

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

## Pray:

Loving Creator

Transform our hearts so that we. Walk more humbly. Live more simply. And become the change we wish to see in the world.

*Kieran O'Brien*

## Act:

Have you given up something for Lent? Give the money you have saved to charity.

## Challenge:

What tempts each of us in our lives today? When do we find ourselves turning away from the Lord? It is easy to feel overwhelmed at times by the temptations we encounter, but God is with us.....This week concentrate on one particular area of temptation, speak to God about the difficulties you encounter trying to deal with it and ask God to help you overcome what is tempting you.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Grace  
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  
Jozef Godzinski  
Eileen McNulty  
Michael Skiffington  
Patricia Birchall  
Thomas Newby

Week Beginning 18th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Mary Sharples  11.00 am Mr William Burke	(Sat) 6.00 pm Bette Grundy  11.00 am Sam & Mary O'Kane	(Sat) 6.00 pm Eileen McNulty  9.30 am A Sick Person
<b>MONDAY</b>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.15 am Fanning Family	<i>Mass at St. Ambrose Barlow</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.00 pm Clifford Taylor		9 - 10 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Mass at St Richards</i>		11.00am Funeral Mass for Patricia Birchall
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<i>No Mass today</i>	12noon Funeral Mass for Michael Skiffington	<i>Funeral Mass at 12noon St. Ambrose Barlow</i>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>No Morning Mass or Confessions</i>	6.00 pm Mykola Batrak	6.00 pm Eddie
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Paddy Furey  11.00 am Eileen Burton	11.00 am Annie Murphy & Edward Murphy	9.30 am Fred Croft

## LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £ 1918.67  
H.C.P.T. £ 1147.44

Thank you for your generosity.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

### 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](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

Next Week

### CAFOD's Lent Fast Day

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?

## 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

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

**First Reading** *Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18.*  
Abraham's faith is tested. God showers blessings on him.

**Second Reading** *Romans 8:31-34.*  
God our Father has given us all that is most precious by sending us his Son. We stand acquitted – God is on our side.

**Gospel Reading** *Mark 9:2-10.*  
At the transfiguration, the identity of Jesus is revealed. But the meaning of his identity is something the disciples still struggle to grasp.



## BAPTISM

We welcome into our family of Faith

Edward Makin  
Liam McAlinden

May God bless them & their families.