

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

22nd April 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 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)  
Weekdays – Easter Week 4

**Sunday** Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)  
*(World Day of Prayer for Vocations)*  
**Monday** Solemnity of St. George, Patron of England  
**Wednesday** Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist  
**Next Sunday** Fifth Sunday of Easter (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

One of the most popular images of Jesus in the Gospels is that of the shepherd who leads his large flock and protects them from harm. In the time of Jesus many herds consisted of 1000's of sheep, their sheer number requiring highly skilled men to look after them. The flocks spent most of the year on the vast open uplands, from March to mid-November, and the winter was spent under cover. Hyenas, jackals and wolves roamed the hills, as well as robbers looking to steal some of the sheep. So the shepherd was usually armed. It was a very dangerous job, and the shepherds' care and courage were sometimes legendary. When the young King David was anxious to convince King Saul that he was capable of fighting Goliath, he said:

"Your servant used to look after the sheep for his father and whenever a lion or a bear came out and took a sheep from the flock, I used to follow them and strike them down and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If he turned on me I seized him and struck him down... God who has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears will rescue me from the power of this Philistine."

Shepherding was a hazardous occupation and living outdoors was rough. During the long dry season they had to move their flocks in search of new pastures and watering places, and because they sometimes trespassed on private land they were unpopular with landowners. In common with tax collectors, they were forbidden to hold public office or give evidence in court.

In his life and death Jesus sought out the lost and the least and the last. When he wanted to speak of a tender God he told the people about a shepherd who, when he loses one of his sheep, leaves the other sheep and goes off in search of the lost one. The shepherd refuses to accept the loss of one sheep as "just one of those things". He searches for the lost sheep until he finds it, and then taking it on his shoulders he returns to share his joy with all his neighbours. This is Jesus' image of pastoral care, a search that continues until a find can be made. We know, of course, that a search is not automatically going to happen. Many losses are not even registered. Where there is no love, there is no loss. Some people are regarded as "no great loss". But all of us hope that when we are lost, someone, somewhere, will be looking for us, just like the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd therefore challenges our own way of leaving people for lost. As Jesus says, "I have come to seek out and save the lost". This is what we should do too. Probably all of us know someone who has wandered away from the Church, who has lost their sense of belonging, who feels they have no community to belong to. How will they know they are welcome back if no one tells them? How will they be helped back if no one offers to make the journey with them?

**Psalm Response** The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

**Gospel Acclamation** I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know me.

## PARISH NEWS

This Week

### Fr. Gordon Abbs

After all the talk of a shortage of priests so much recently it is good to be able to have an extra one – at least for a while! This week we are happy to welcome Fr. Gordon Abbs into the Deanery. Fr. Gordon is a Diocesan priest currently on Sabbatical. He will be staying in the area, based at Sacred Heart, Leigh, and when not away on the different courses he has to attend, or playing golf, he will be helping out in the area. He will be taking up a permanent appointment somewhere in the Archdiocese in September. He is a longtime friend of Fr. Kieran and Fr. Paul (the Big One!) and, unfortunately, he supports Manchester United! So whilst it will be great having an extra priest for a few weeks, please remember that our next step as a Deanery is to move towards having just three priests. We need to do quite a bit of work to prepare ourselves for those days ahead.

### J&P Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Deanery J&P Group will be on **Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm at St Richard's**. All are welcome.



### 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.

### Lenten Masses

The 7.30am Wednesday morning mass which took place at St Ambrose raised the sum of £67.02 for CAFOD. Many thanks to all.

### Food Bank Basket

This collection will be continued while it is needed. Four carrier bags full of food were delivered to Leigh Food Bank for Leigh / Atherton just before Easter.

Many thanks to all who donated – please do not stop!

### 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!

### CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open at Holy Family after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses next Sunday, April 29th. The Café will be in either the Parish Hall or the Meeting Room, depending on progress with the buildings demolition work at the time.

CAFOD has been in receipt of matched funding from the UK Government for its Lent Appeal. This started on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, and lasts until May 13th. As April's CAFOD Café falls within this period, proceeds will go to CAFOD's Lent Appeal – and thus be matched £1 for £1 by the Government.

Please come along – 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.

### 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](http://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.

### LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£2090.57
THOMAS	£ 346.76

*Thank you for your generosity.*

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

#### 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.

Next Week

#### Monthly SVP Collection

'SVP' stands for '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.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Scripture Union 95 Tour

Scripture Union are holding an evening of prayer and reflection in Atherton Baptist Church, Tyldesley Road, Atherton on **Tuesday May 1st**. The evening provides us with an opportunity to think about our own role in sharing the Good News with others, especially with the younger generations. The evening will begin at 7.15pm and end at approximately 9.30pm. There is no cost but please register your place at [northwest@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:northwest@scriptureunion.org.uk)

### '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](http://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.



### Parish Trip to York - 11th December 2018

We have now booked a coach for a day trip to York for **Tuesday, December 11th**. If you would like to go then we will put up lists at the back of the different churches. 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. More details about the day and pick up times and places will be published in the autumn.



### Sacred Heart Club

Quiz Night

Cash Prizes

Every Thursday

Doors open 8.00 pm for 8.30 start.

### Prayer in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress 2018 and for Synod 2020

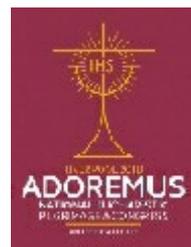
We thank you Father  
For the love you have shown us  
In the gift of Jesus, your Son.  
Keep us grateful each day  
For the blessings that surround us.

As we are fed by you,  
So now send us out  
To share what we have received  
With our hungry brothers and sisters.

We humbly ask your help to become the Church  
That you are calling us to be:  
A community that listens, that trusts,  
That lives with courage  
And that puts out its nets into new waters.

May the gentle presence of Christ in our hearts  
Be a source of healing, of new life  
And a deeper trust in you.  
We ask this in faith  
Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.



#### Reflect:

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the differences between the good shepherd and the hired hand – in the degree of commitment and responsibility, the depth of relationship, the time and care, and even love, that is given – differences that set Jesus apart from false prophets, but that might also prompt me to question *myself*. What does the image of the good shepherd and the hired hand say about *my* commitment, the depth of my relationships, the time and care and love that I give?

#### Pray:

Through our lips, let Christ speak.  
Through our hands, let Christ act.  
Through our hearts, let Christ love.  
And through our sharing, let Christ work.

Amen

Annabel Shilson-Thomas CAFOD

#### Act:

The Good Shepherd **chooses** to make sacrifices for his sheep. Find ways this week to make positive choices for the good of others.

#### Challenge:

Plan meals around what you already have. Once you've planned your week's meals, only buy what you need.

#### 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](http://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  
 Kathleen Lyth  
 Kathy Kenyon  
 Maisie Sweeney (age 9)  
 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

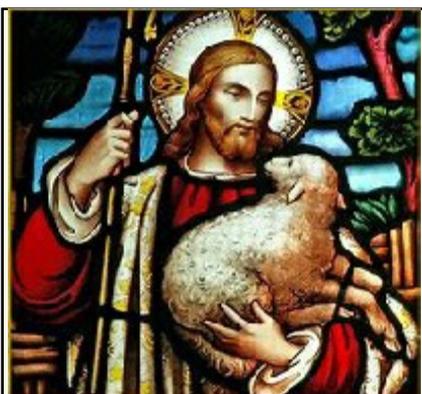
Week Beginning 22nd April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am John West  11.00 am Mr J Silcock	(Sat) 6.00 pm Helen Shearer  11.00 am Joan Rigby	(Sat) 6.00 pm Martin Alwill Patricia Shaw  9.30 am Jack Hadcroft
<b>MONDAY</b>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am <i>Mass in St Ambrose Barlow</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>No Evening Mass</i>		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10.00 am Jim Gillespie		10.00 am <i>Mass in Holy Family</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	10.00 am Lawrence Byford <i>(Mass in St Gabriel's School)</i>		1.30 pm Funeral Mass for James Moran
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Sr Teresa Walsh  12.00 noon First Communion (St Gabriel's)	6.00 pm Winnie Nelson	6.00 pm Bob James & Family
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Margaret Smith  11.00 am Michelle Gannon	11.00 am Jim Twomey	9.30 am Catherine & John Price



*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

James Moran  
 Lauren Watson  
 John Retford  
 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.

## READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

**First Reading** *Acts 9:26-31*  
 We listen to Saul's first attempt to join the disciples after his conversion to Christianity.

**Second Reading** *1 John 3:18-24*  
 Those who keep God's commandments live in God, and God lives in them.

**Gospel Reading** *John 15:1-8*  
 In the imagery of the wine and the branches we are given a beautiful depiction of the intimate relationship between the Father, Jesus and his followers. We can be confident of the Lord's continuing presence in the world.

*God asks us little and gives us a lot. He asks us to open our hearts and to welcome Him and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. (Pope Francis tweet, 17th April 2018)*