

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Birth of St John the Baptist (B)

24th June 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 – Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist (B)
Weekdays – Ordinary Time, Week 12

Sunday Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist (B)
Thursday St. Irenaeus
Friday Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul - *Holy Day of Obligation*
Next Sunday Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (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 we are celebrating the birth of someone who showed signs that he was a prophet even before he was born. Normally we only celebrate saints on the day of their death and, in fact, only celebrate the birthdays of three people: Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist. Why does John the Baptist merit this honour? Even at his birth his family were full of wonder as they ask, "What will this child turn out to be?" If we look at events and signs that surround his birth, we can begin to appreciate why, as Jesus said, "Of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John." Firstly, John's parents represent the righteous people of the Old Testament. Elizabeth, getting very old, was blessed with this child. Zechariah, his father, receives the news from the angel in the Temple with all its ancient rituals. The name of John is given, which breaks with tradition. John brings together the New and the Old. He is the hinge between the two testaments. And even in the womb he jumped for joy in recognition of Jesus when the pregnant Mary visited Elizabeth. Even before his birth he was the precursor of Jesus. But also in his death, beheaded by Herod, he points forward to Jesus' death under Pilate in Jerusalem. Secondly, at his birth his father Zechariah recognizes this little child as a "prophet...who will go before the Lord to prepare the way for him." Through preaching repentance he will make ready the way for Jesus and finally have the singular honour of baptizing him. John's baptism was to be in water alone and he directs our attention to Jesus' baptism, which will be in the Holy Spirit. But thirdly, John will show his humility. He knows that he is only one voice crying in the wilderness while it is Jesus who IS the Word of God. He shows that it is Christ who is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world and he, John, is unworthy to baptize him or untie his sandals. His role is clear: he must give way to Christ. "He must grow greater, I must grow smaller."

How can we celebrate this feast of John the Baptist's birthday? By celebrating Mass, of course, but most importantly by living out his words and putting into practice the lessons of his life. If we are going to recognize Jesus for what he is, then we must see him against the long history of the Old Testament. We cannot appreciate the new without knowing what came before. We can then appreciate how Jesus fulfils what the prophets foretold. Once we have recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, then we too need to repent and confess our failings so that he can heal us. And finally, as Christians who have been sent to evangelize and to point the way to Christ, we need the humility of John. For all Christians, we are called to be sure that we are pointing to Christ and not to ourselves. We are also here to prepare the way for his coming. For from now on, after midsummer day, the days will start getting shorter until Christ comes at Christmas and the light starts to increase once again in our lives. So, too, we are called to decrease and let him increase.

Psalm Response I thank you for the wonder of my being.

Gospel Acclamation As for you, little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him.

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Feast of St Peter & St Paul, Friday 29th June

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses in churches and schools are listed in the Mass Table on the back page.

Masses in St Edmund Arrowsmith Parish, Leigh are listed in their newsletter on the web site: www.leighdeanery.co.uk/newsletters.

Summer Mass Schedule - starts next Sunday

This year we will operate the reduced Mass times for the whole of **July and August**. This allows us to once more try this out for when we have fewer priests. The Mass times will be **8.45am Holy Family, 10.00am St Richards, 11.15am St Ambrose Barlow**.



St Margaret Clitherow Walk to Mass

Did you Walk to Mass today? If so, well done and please record the total number of miles walked by you/your family/group on a sheet at the back of church. Thank you. The total mileage walked by our parish will be recorded and sent to CAFOD. Don't forget, every little counts! If everyone at Mass walked half a mile, think how many hundreds of miles we'd have walked in total!



Share the Journey
#sharejourney

(Share the Journey is a global campaign, launched by Pope Francis, to stand up for the rights of refugees and migrants. In support of this, CAFOD is aiming to walk the circumference of the earth - 24,900 miles -

many times and is asking us all to take part by each walking a short distance and then totalling up the number of miles walked. This is not a fund raising activity, it's an act of solidarity to Share the Journey with our global neighbours who have had to flee their homes.)

Please take a card giving you more information and actions as you leave church today. Thank you.

Parish Forum - Tuesday

The next meeting of the Parish Forum takes place **this Tuesday, June 26th at 7.45pm in Holy Family Church**. The Forum is open to anyone who would like to come along and get more involved in Parish life.

Liverpool Synod 2020 - Holy Hour - Wednesday

Please try your very best to come along to the Holy Hours in the Deanery over the next few weeks. The Holy Hours are part of the preparations for the Archdiocesan General Synod in 2020. The next two Holy Hours in our Deanery will take place on the following dates and venues:-

- **Wednesday June 27th at 7.30pm – St.Ambrose Barlow Church, Astley.**
- Wednesday July 18th at 7.30pm – Sacred Heart Church, Leigh.

Parish Trip to Stratford -Thursday

Don't forget that the Parish trip to Stratford takes place **this Thursday, June 28th**. The coach will be leaving **St.Richard's Church, Atherton, at 9.00am** and will then stop outside **St.Joseph's, Leigh, at 9.15am**. Please make sure that you are there on time since we will have to leave straight away in order to get to Stratford in good time. The coach will leave Stratford in the evening at 7.00pm, allowing us a lovely day out together and hopefully a good experience in the theatre in the afternoon watching "Macbeth".

St Ambrose Barlow School Summer Fayre

This year's Summer Fayre will be held in the school grounds on **Saturday 30th June** from 12 noon-4.00pm. Please come down and support this fantastic family day, featuring a variety of stalls and entertainment including a 'Bake-off' Competition, pony rides and Emergency Service Vehicles. A grand raffle will be drawn on the day with a first prize of £100 up for grabs as well as a selection of other prizes including bottles and chocolates.

Tickets for the raffle will be available *after 11.00am Mass at St Ambrose Barlow this Sunday* priced at £1 a book, so everyone can join in even if you can't attend on the day.

Thank you for your support with this important event, all proceeds from which will go straight into supporting our school and children.

Craft Group Move

Due to building demolition work the Craft Group that was based at Holy Family is moving to St Ambrose Barlow. Same time, 1.00pm to 3.00pm Wednesday afternoon. We will finish for the summer when the schools finish.

Children's Liturgy

It has been some while since this has been possible at Holy Family and once more I extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in helping to run this as part of a team (ie not having to do it every week). It would be wonderful for our children to have the opportunity to encounter the Scriptures within their own liturgy. Anyone interested please speak to Fr Paul G.

Thank You From Guides

Alzheimers Cupcake Day - 14th June

A very big Thank You to all who attended, made cakes, donated or bought raffle tickets for this event. We raised a grand total of £521.64. We are overwhelmed by the support for this event but not surprised as you are all so very generous. Thank you again, Delia, Bernadette, all the leaders and guides.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1673.60
Day for Life	£ 510.39

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Peter's Pence

Peter's Pence is a collection taken in every Catholic Church in the world on or near the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul. The money is sent to the Pope who uses it to help those in most need.

Next Week

CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner City Kids)

CHICKS stands for 'Country Holidays for Inner City Kids'. CHICKS offers free week-long respite breaks for underprivileged children from across the UK. Many of the children live in severe poverty, are being neglected, bullied, abused or live in care. Others have been be-reaved or are full time young carers. The one thing they all have in common is that without CHICKS they would not get any respite from their home situations.

Website: www.chicks.org.uk

Deanery Pilgrimage to Rome

A number of people from the Deanery were in Rome on Pilgrimage last week.

One of them sent back this photograph.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Margaret Clitherow SVP

Our next meeting will be held at Holy Family on **Wednesday, 4th July** at 7.45 p.m. after the 7.00 p.m. Mass. This is for all members so please come along if you can.

St Gabriel's School Summer Fayre

The St Gabriel's School Summer Fayre will be on **Saturday 7th July** 11.00am-2.00pm in school with activities, stalls, food and a bouncy castle. All welcome to come along.

Bag2school Clothing Collection

St Ambrose Barlow Guides are holding their annual clothing collection on **Monday 9th July**. Please start collecting your old clothes/shoes/bags/belts/bedding (not quilts), towels and soft toys. Bags are available in the back of church, however any bin bags are accepted. Please drop off your bags at St Ambrose Barlow church on or before Sunday 8th July. You can also drop off at Guides every Thursday night up to and including 5th July. If you would like your bags to be collected, please contact Delia on 07753 929476. Thank you for your continued support with this event, it is so easy for us all to do and raises around £150 for unit funds. Delia and Bernadette

Catholic School Governor Training

Governors from Catholic schools in the area are warmly invited to attend a training session 'Governance in a Catholic School'. This will be held at St. Joseph's Primary School, Mather Lane, Leigh, WN7 2PR on the evening of **Monday 9th July** from 6.00-8.00pm. The session covers material which is specific to the governance of a Catholic school and will not deal with matters common to governors of all schools. It is therefore particularly important that governors who may not be Catholic and have never before attended any 'Catholic' governor training are particularly encouraged to attend. There is no charge. Bookings please to i.beck@rcaol.co.uk or to f.coldicutt@rcaol.co.uk or telephone 0151 522 1071.

Eucharistic Assembly Liverpool

We have been informed that there are now some **extra places available for the National Eucharistic Assembly**, also known as "Adoremus" (**7-9th September**). Tickets are available for the Saturday of the Congress but you will need to book them directly from the Archdiocese. The contact person is Eleanor Lalley on 0151-522-1047 and she will send you a booking form which you will need to return immediately. Or you can download the booking form from e.lalley@rcaol.co.uk or formation@rcaol.co.uk.

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

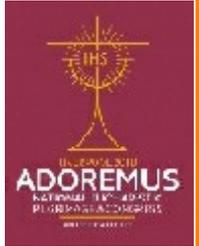
We thank you Father
For the love you have shown us
In the gift of Jesus, your Son.
Keep us grateful each day
For the blessings that surround us.

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, we read of the Birth of John the Baptist and how his name reveals the role he has to play in being the forerunner of Jesus. God calls each one of us in a particular way. He called John the Baptist; he called Mary; more recently he has called well-known figures like Oscar Romero and Mother Teresa, and many other people we've probably never heard of. How does each of us feel about this idea of being personally called by God? How do I feel about God's personal love for me, and God's personal call to me? What might that call be?
(Taken from *Pray as You Go*)

Pray: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
For he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives,
Sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free,
To proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
(Luke 4.18-19)

Act: Some supermarkets have started to react to the call of the consumer to be more environmentally friendly. Take advantage of the opportunities provided to limit your use of plastic wrapping and extra packaging. This will help to encourage supermarkets to do even more.

Challenge: Think about your own friendships, acquaintances and experiences. God has put you in touch with a unique network of people and places. How can you live out his call to bring his light to others? Ask for God's help in living out his calling.

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.

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
 Eddie Shaw
 Edward Leach
 Emma Oldham
 Enid Kenwright
 Eugenie Cheetham
 Fon O'Hara
 Freda Peake
 Gerald Hackett
 Guy Ryan
 Hannah Delargy
 Irene Burke
 Irene McIntyre
 Jamie Robbins
 Jean Tchibukdjan
 Jess Garrett
 Joan Wilkinson
 John Neary
 John Sleeman
 John Wall
 Kathy Kenyon
 Maisie Sweeney (10)
 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
 Steve Clorston
 Ted & Harriet Langin
 Thelma Humble
 Thomas McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright
 Yvonne Mellin

Week Beginning 24th June	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Ann Callan 11.00 am J.B. Griffin	(Sat) 6.00 pm Clara Brierly 11.00 am Graham Smith	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ken Gorse 9.30 am Anne Holt
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		No 9.15 am Mass 11.30 am Funeral Mass for Mildred Hughes	10.00 am Funeral Mass for Tom Murray
WEDNESDAY	2.00 pm Funeral Service for Stephen Clouston 7.00 pm John Burke	7.30 pm Holy Hour for Synod 2020	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	No Mass today		No Mass today
FRIDAY Feast of Ss Peter & Paul HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION	10.00 am Vocations <i>(Mass in St Gabriel's School)</i> 11.15 am Karen McMenamin <i>(Mass in Holy Family Church with school)</i>	7.00 pm Pilgrims Everywhere	9.30 am People of the Parish <i>(Mass In Sacred Heart School, Hindsford)</i> 12.00 noon Shirley Leggett
SATURDAY	10.00 am Ann Callan	10.00 am <i>Exposition and Rosary</i> 6.00 pm John Lee	6.00 pm Kevin Hesketh
NEXT SUNDAY <i>Summer Mass Times start</i>	8.45 am Maureen Mitchell	11.15 am Thomas Higgins	10.00 am Mary & Dominic Curtis

BAPTISMS
 We welcome into our family of Faith

Ayda Mae Bakir
 Ela Rose Bakir

May God bless them and their family.



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Peter Burke
 Tom Murray
 Mildred Hughes
 Stephen Clouston

R.I.P.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

First Reading *Wisdom 1:13-15;2:23-24*
 Death is not of God's making, nor does God rejoice in the destruction of the living.

Second Reading *2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15*
 As you are rich in every respect, may you abound in charity, remembering that Jesus became poor so that we might become rich.

Gospel Reading *Mark 5:21-43*
 Jesus brings good health to a woman who, for twelve years, has suffered from a haemorrhage, and restores to life a young girl, just twelve years old.