

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

29th April 2018

DEANERY TEAM

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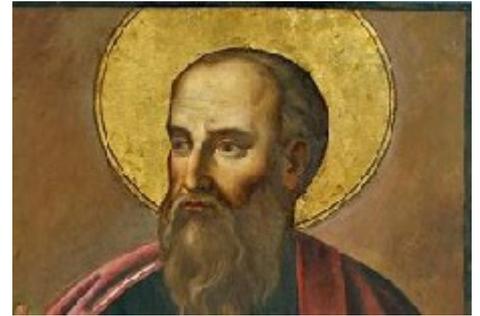
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Deacons: Rev. Robert Hewertson & Rev. Anthony Arrowsmith
Schools: www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk – www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk – saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk - saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/ – **Deanery website:** www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings Sunday – Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Weekdays – Easter Week 5

Sunday Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Tuesday St. Joseph the Worker
Wednesday St. Athanasius
Thursday Feast of St. Philip and St. James
Friday Feast of the English Martyrs
Next Sunday Sixth 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

In Syria there is a small village called Deraya which stands on the ancient road between Damascus and Jerusalem. Like 1000's of other rural settlements, it looks remarkably unimpressive. Many of the Syrian inhabitants are not sure why their village is called Deraya. In Arabic the name Deraya means "the vision". Something that happened on the road gave the village this name. For it was there, according to tradition, that the persecutor Saul encountered Christ Jesus. The small Catholic chapel in Deraya stands as a memorial to the most significant conversion in the early Church, when the man who went out of his way to hunt down Christians was confronted by the God who went out of his way to meet his persecutor. Saul believed that his vocation from God was the persecution of the Christian community. As he declared:

"I once thought it was my duty to use every means to oppose the name of Jesus. This I did in Jerusalem. I myself threw many of the saints into prison, acting on authority from the chief priests, and when they were sentenced to death I cast my vote against them." (Acts 26)

Whatever actually happened on the road to Damascus, Paul dates his new beginning from this experience. He never claimed that his change was just an afternoon episode: his conversion began on the Damascus road and continued throughout his life.

Paul's story is picked up in today's First Reading. He escapes to Jerusalem where he tries to join the disciples. However the disciples are all afraid of Paul. They simply cannot believe he has changed. Given Paul's punishing back record, the disciples' suspicion seems all too reasonable. By his own admission, Paul had signed the death warrants of Jerusalem Christians. Now he wants to become one of them. Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement", takes charge of the new arrival. He introduces Paul to the apostles, telling them the story of his conversion and recent preaching. Even though he causes a storm Paul refuses to go into hiding or retire from his new career as an evangelist, despite the floggings and the days in jail and the many threats against his life. He cannot do this because he believes that he has been appointed by God to be an apostle and a missionary. No matter how good he is the burden of the past never seems to leave him completely. He is always anxious to prove that he is as good as the other apostles, that he preaches the same message, has been chosen by the same Christ, and that he suffers more than they do for the sake of the Gospel.

Paul remains a great example of authentic humanity. He is sensitive, impulsive, obstinate, moody, thoughtful, demanding, driven, caring. His idealism is tempered by his sense of realism, and his own struggle always serves to educate his spirituality. Above everything Paul's great lesson to us is his abiding love. He was a man who longed for friendship and the affection of others. His great hymn of love to the Corinthians is testimony to this. Above all Paul's story reminds us of the great love of God. If he can change Paul from the great persecutor to the great evangelist, he can change us too, from sinners to saints.

Psalm Response You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.
Gospel Acclamation Make your home in me, as I make mine in you, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

PARISH NEWS

This Week



CAFOD Café

The CAFOD Café will be open at Holy Family after the 9.00am and 11.00am Masses **TODAY**, Sunday, April 29th. The Café will be in either the Parish Hall or the Meeting Room, depending on progress with the buildings demolition work. Please come along – you will be very welcome.

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.



Tesco Tokens

Sacred Heart School, Hindsford THE LAST WEEK!

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 - so Monday is the last day!** The more tokens they get, the more money we will receive. Please help the school as much as you can.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on **Tuesday May 1st at 2.00pm** in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Raffle: Mary Evans & Barbara Smith.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of the Parish Forum takes place this coming **Tuesday, May 1st, at 7.45pm in Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall.** The Forum is open to anyone who would like to come along and get more involved in Parish life.

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

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Please remember all the children who are making their First Holy Communion in the next few weeks. They have been attending all the "With You Always" meetings. Please keep them and their families in your prayers at this special time.

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.

HCPT Appeal

Next weekend some of our friends from HCPT will be at some of the Parish masses to make an annual appeal for help in sending children to Lourdes at Easter. They will be with us at St.Richard's (Saturday 6pm & Sunday 9.30am) and Ambrose Barlow (Sunday at 11am). Please make them very welcome. They have a wonderful message to share with us.

Food Bank Basket

This collection at St. Ambrose Barlow 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!

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.

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.

Atherton Pentecost Service

Churches Together In Atherton are holding a special Pentecost Service outside Atherton Parish Church on **Sunday May 20th at 3.00pm**. The service will consist of a few hymns and readings to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which came upon the apostles at Pentecost.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory	£1826.46
Priests' Training Fund	£ 963.74

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

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.

Next Week

HCPT Appeal

Next weekend some of our friends from HCPT will be at some of the Parish Masses to make an annual appeal for help in sending children to Lourdes at Easter. They will be with us at St.Richard's (Saturday 6pm & Sunday 9.30am) and Ambrose Barlow (Sunday at 11am). Please make them very welcome. They have a wonderful message to share with us.

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.

Eucharistic Assembly Liverpool

We have just 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 0151-52201047 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



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

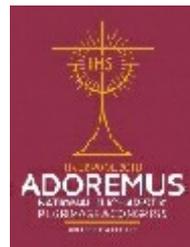
We thank you Father
For the love you have shown us
In the gift of Jesus, your Son.
Keep us grateful each day
For the blessings that surround us.

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 reading Jesus describes himself as a vine, and God, his loving Father, as the vine-grower. In order to grow strongly, abundantly, drooping with bunches of grapes, the vine requires looking after. It needs to be cared for, protected, gently pruned. Jesus keeps repeating how carefully the vine is treated in order that it will be fruitful. He tells us again and again that being closely grafted into the true vine, abiding in him, enables us to be fruitful. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished through the Eucharist. And it is through the Eucharist that Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

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 that your love goes round and we all become the best people we can be.

Amen

Annabel Shilson-Thomas CAFOD

Act:

To take the analogy of the Gospel reading more literally, now is a good time to tend and nurture any seedlings planted earlier in the year to ensure a bountiful crop.

Challenge:

Strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus by taking action to love others in deed and in truth this week - feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor.

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



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 (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 McLoughlin
 Wyn Wright
 Yvonne Mellin
 + additions this week:
 Jamie Robbins
 John Sleeman

Week Beginning 29th April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Smith 11.00 am Michelle Gannon	(Sat) 6.00 pm Winnie Nelson 11.00 am Jim Twomey	(Sat) 6.00 pm Bob James & Family 9.30 am Catherine & John Price
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Rigby	9.15 am Mr. Ratcliffe
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Rex Baxter		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Betty Neary		9.15 am Madeleine McCann
FRIDAY	10.00 am Marion Burice (Reddish) <i>(Mass in St Gabriel's School)</i>		9.15 am A Successful Operation
SATURDAY	10.00 am Billy Fearick 12.00 noon First Communion (St Gabriel's)	6.00 pm Dr. John Wood	6.00 pm Jamie Robbins
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Robert Grady 11.00 am Patrick McCafferty	11.00 am Mary Howe	9.30 am Jean Neary



Please pray for those who have died recently:

James Moran
Thomas Higgins

R.I.P.

Pope Francis Tweets April 2018

God alone can give us true happiness. It's useless wasting time looking for it elsewhere: in wealth, pleasure, and power. (26th April)

Authentic Christians are not afraid of opening up to others, of sharing their living spaces and transforming them into places of solidarity. (25th April)

Life only fully makes sense when it is given as a gift. It becomes tasteless when it is lived for itself alone. (24th April)

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 Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

First Reading *Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48*
 Peter, preaching at the house of Cornelius, declared that the Holy Spirit has been sent to everyone.

Second Reading *1 John 4:7-10*
 John declares that God IS Love.

Gospel Reading *John 15:9-17*
 Jesus tells his disciples that a person can have no greater love than to lay down their life for their friends.

Alfie Evans - Pope Francis Tweet 23rd April 2018

Moved by the prayers and immense solidarity shown little Alfie Evans, I renew my appeal that the suffering of his parents may be heard and that their desire to seek new forms of treatment may be granted.