

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Second Sunday of Easter (B)

8th 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 2
Readings Sunday – Second Sunday of Easter (B)
Weekdays – Easter Week 2

Sunday Second Sunday of Easter (B)
(Day of Divine Mercy)
Monday The Annunciation of the Lord
Wednesday St. Stanislaus
Next Sunday Third 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 today's Gospel the disciples are gathered in a locked room. The recent violence has made them security conscious. They have become runaways from a society they fear to be hostile, so they lock themselves in what they hope is a safe house. For all their defensiveness, however, they cannot keep out the pressing love of the Risen Jesus. He appears amongst them. His greeting is peace. Their response is joy. For the evangelist John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Jesus. The disciples breathe in and the Spirit becomes part of them. But one of their number, Thomas, is missing. When he arrives he refuses to believe the disciple's story. Thomas is part of the apostolic group, but he is also a very independent person. He cannot be loyal to the group while being disloyal to his own inner self. This would render his loyalty worthless. For Thomas honesty is more important than loyalty. So he refused to become part of this company of believers, for it is not enough for him to shelter in a faith that he cannot credit for himself. He may want to believe, yearn to accept as true what the others say, but his wish cannot turn into faith. Doubt cannot be transformed into faith simply by willing it. After all, the other disciples only come to believe in the Risen Jesus because they actually see him. The insistent honesty of Thomas is what makes him doubt. For Thomas to say he believed would be like play-acting and make-believe. For Thomas it was more important to believe rather than go along with everyone else just to feel part of the group.

We learn from the Gospel that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples – that is, when he sees the Lord for himself. We can appreciate, however, that the character of Thomas is larger than the apostle Thomas: he represents all those who have not seen the Lord but are asked to believe in him. The story of Thomas leads to the beatitude aimed at the generations of people who will not see the Risen Lord: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." It is not that we are asked to do what the apostle Thomas could not do – believe in Jesus simply on the testimony of others. Thomas was not gifted by the Spirit, and no one can believe in Jesus without the Spirit of God. As we hear in today's reading from one of St. John's letters: the principal witness to the Risen Jesus is the Spirit, "since the Spirit is truth." We can only pray "My Lord and my God" because we allow the Spirit of God to pray in us. In the grace of the Spirit we proclaim Jesus our Lord. If faith is one of the principal gifts of the Spirit, it is also a form of life that has to be nurtured, helped to grow, loved into maturity. It is not a precious stone to be locked in a vault. Faith is a life, and like any life it can wither if forgotten or overlooked. Faith can die from a lifetime's neglect. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, live the life of our faith. Faith demands our action. That does not mean that we will never have doubts but, if like Thomas, we care about what we believe in, that care in time will bring us into the presence of the Risen Lord.

Psalms Response Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Gospel Acclamation Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

PARISH NEWS

This Week



Divine Mercy

This is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter on 8th April, i.e. **TODAY**. There will be the 'Hour of Grace' at Holy Family which is a Holy Hour beginning with the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with the opportunity for individual Confessions. The hour will begin at **3.00pm** and conclude with Benediction.

Ladies Group

The next Ladies Group meeting will be on **Tuesday 10th April** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose church hall. Raffle - Anne Lewthwaite / Joyce Speakman.

The Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony

The Acies ceremony will be held at **Sacred Heart church, Leigh** on **Tuesday 10th April 2018**. The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 7.00pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7.30pm.

Active and Auxiliary members will make their annual consecration to Our Blessed Lady during Mass. Please come and join us on this special occasion. Light refreshments will be served after Mass.

RAF CENTENARY DANCE

As many of you will be aware the RAF are celebrating their Centenary this year. The Leigh branch of RAFA are holding a special Centenary Celebration Ball in **St. Joseph's Hall**, Chapel Street, Leigh, on **Saturday April 14th**. For details of tickets please contact Marion on 07856364265.



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!

Editor's Note:

Apologies for errors in last week's newsletter:

- the Tuesday Mass at St. Richard's should have been listed for the usual time of 9.15am, not 9.15pm.

- the Wednesday Mass at Holy Family should have been listed for the usual time of 7.00pm, not 7.30pm.

Apologies to anyone who arrived at the wrong time as a result.



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.

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.

Eucharistic Ministers

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.



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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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.

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:

It is now over a year since we started the initiative to try to attain the liveSimply award for the deanery. Consider the changes you have made in your life which may have moved us closer to attaining the award.

Can you make renewed efforts inspired by this season of Easter when we celebrate Christ's resurrection and as we see the changes around us as the earth brings forth the new life of Springtime?

Pray:

God of creation, make us ever mindful that the choices we make and the actions we take have repercussions for our brothers and sisters around the globe. Give us wise minds and generous hearts that we may share the riches of your creation according to each other's needs and not according to our greed.

Act:

Check your lightbulbs – are they energy efficient?

Challenge:

Do you have bulky items that you no longer want but are still in a decent condition? One way to do your part to prevent the spread of waste culture is to get other, like-minded people involved. Websites like [Freecycle](#) and [Gumtree](#) are extremely useful community-based platforms to find and get rid of unwanted items of any description in your local area.



Conference to celebrate almost half a millennium of pioneering Catholic Education

Ushaw College is marking the 450th anniversary of its predecessor institution - the

English College at Douai - with a special conference to celebrate the extraordinary, pioneering Catholic education that it has provided over the centuries.

With the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, Ushaw is hosting an anniversary conference titled '450 Years Pioneering Catholic Education: Past, Present, Future' from Monday 30 April to Tuesday 1 May 2018.

Rather than simply presenting an institutional history of the English College, Douai, the conference will place its achievements in a wider context, highlighting how the college has adapted to a changing world whilst pioneering innovative educational formation and contributing to Catholic life.

For more information see www.catholicnews.org.uk

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
 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

Week Beginning 8th April	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Veronica Walsh 11.00 am Josef Godzinski	(Sat) 6.00 pm Special Intention 11.00 am Michael & Beryl Skiffington, Angela Valentine, Eileen Bond and William & John Skiffington	(Sat) 6.00 pm Catherine O'Connor 9.30 am Kathleen Oaks
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Eileen Boardman
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Deceased members of McGrath, Reilly & Beresford families		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Patrick & Nellie Dunlevy		9.15 am Eileen McNulty
FRIDAY	10.00 am Michael & Ann Donellon <i>(Mass in Holy Family Church with St Gabriel's School)</i> 2.30 pm Funeral Mass for Eileen Ward		9.15 am Jack Hadcroft
SATURDAY	10.00 am Mary & Martin Neary	6.00 pm Agnes Manfredi	6.00 pm Eddie Leach
SUNDAY	9.00 am Bill & Mary Freeman 11.00 am William Burke	11.00 am Sheila Swift	9.30 am Teresa & Michael Cleary

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £3113.27
 Friends / Holy Land £ 241.47
 Holy Places £ 320.27
 Easter Gift (St AB) £ 173.76

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Catholic Blind Services

The Catholic Blind Services assist the Church in her ministry with people who are blind or have a visual impairment. One aspect of their work is to prepare the large print Mass sheets that are available at the back of church.

Next Week

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

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

Third Sunday of Easter (B)

First Reading Acts 3:13-15,17-19
 God stated through the message of the prophets that the Christ would suffer.

Second Reading 1 John 2:1-5
 If anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just.

Gospel Reading Luke 24:35-48
 It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.



Please pray for those who have died:
 Martin Alwill
 Eileen Boardman
 Joan Rigby
 John Paul Daly
 Eileen Ward
 Hazel Young

R.I.P.