

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

25th February 2018

DEANERY TEAM

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

St. Margaret Clitherow Parish Enquiries- Helen

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: kjmgrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com
margaretclitherow@yahoo.com

Priest: Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel: 01942 673517 or 731280
Email: stjosephs@live.com

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 2
Readings Sunday – 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)
Weekdays – Lent - week 2

Sunday 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)
Thursday Feast of St. David, Patron of Wales

Next Sunday 3rd 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

Today's Gospel presents us with the story of Jesus' transfiguration. The voice of God takes centre stage at this event, affirming a truth that up to this point I Mark's Gospel God had revealed only to Jesus himself his true identity. This took place at his baptism when God identifies Jesus as his own beloved Son. This statement literally makes Jesus glow at the transfiguration. His disciples have at least come to the point where they are ready to hear the truth about Jesus. But their listening is only partial. As Jesus descends the mountain, he begins to help his disciples to understand the meaning of his Sonship, that he will be faithful and obedient to God the Father, even to the point of having to give up his own life. Jesus trusts God's faithfulness and ability to raise him from the dead. Yet the transfiguration occurs shortly after Peter has protested at Jesus' talk of crucifixion and resurrection. He hasn't really been listening. All Peter hears is suffering and death. And it is only after the resurrection that the disciples begin to really hear and appreciate what Jesus has been telling them.

As Christians, we believe that the transfiguration is not merely a past event but an ongoing reality. God's voice is creative – God spoke and creation came into being. God's voice is transformative. Jesus literally glowed as God affirmed him as his Son. God's voice continues to be at work in our world today, and in our lives. But like Abraham, in today's First Reading, and the disciples in the Gospel, we need to learn how to listen and perceive God's Word in our lives each day. This takes time and practice and commitment. It took both Abraham and the disciples a long time to do this. So much in our modern world goes against doing just this. So we must be patient with ourselves. It can take a lifetime but the important thing is to listen to God's Word and think of what it means in our lives each day. Through prayer God will help us. We are not alone in this task.

When we do listen in prayer – when we are able to step outside our own expectations and preconceptions and focus, like Abraham and the disciples eventually did, on the voice of God – we will find that God's voice continues to be creative and transformative. By making time each day quietly to open ourselves to the presence of God, we make room for God to affirm our dignity as God's beloved daughters and sons. And as this reality gradually deepens in our lives, we increasingly learn how to live out of this sacred space – to live as daughters and sons of God not as a moral imperative or to obey the commandments, but because that is who we know we really are at the core of our being. Being children of the loving Father is something that can shine a great deal of light from our lives – because we have learnt to listen to his voice

Psalms Response I will walk in the presence of the lord in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
"This is my Beloved. Listen to him."

PARISH NEWS

'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 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 go to the CAFOD Lent Appeal - this will be matched by funding from the Government! Every £1 given to the Appeal, up to £5m, the Government will give £1 to CAFOD's.

This year we are again seeking sponsors for each week that the CAFOD Lenten Café is operating. If you would like to sponsor a session at £35, please contact (justinesilcock@gmail.com). Thank you for your generosity.

The Traidcraft Stall will be available every Sunday in Lent, providing an excellent opportunity to buy a variety of fairtrade products to help others throughout the world gain a fairer life. The 2018 Fairtrade Fortnight is Feb 26th to Mar 11th, please try some Traidcraft goods which will support this venture.

Please come along if you can, meet other parishioners and help make a fairer world.. You will be very welcome.

In light of recent news reports you may wish to know CAFOD has a statement about safeguarding vulnerable communities on 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

Donations are now being accepted for the Memorial Flowers during Easter. Please place your donation in an envelope together with the names of those you wish to be remembered and hand it in to church or presbytery.

Over 60's Afternoon – 17th March 2018

Every year, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community welcomes persons over 60 years of age to an afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.00 pm followed by a meal and entertainment. We can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities. We will, of course extend our invitation to those who were invited last year. We do have a number of places available free this year. If you have not attended in the past please contact us to arrange invitations. As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend any Mass at St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, plus those who help at our community events on a regular basis. If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Jackie B. (01942 516619), Steve (01942 876487) or Des (07973 114365) before 20th February. Invitations then will be issued, according to the above criteria and subject to numbers

Ladies Group meeting

The next Ladies Group meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March at 2.00 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall
Raffle : Anne Lewthwaite /Joyce Speakman.

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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23 February

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day last Friday, 23 February. Please leave your Fast Day envelope in the collection at the back of church today. Thank you. 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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



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.

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 area of the Archdiocese. So an early notice that Archbishop Malcolm will be leading a Holy Hour in St. Joseph's Church, Leigh, on Wednesday May 30th at 7.30pm. All welcome. More details nearer the time.

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 Or contact the Lourdes Office at 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.

National Eucharistic Congress - Liverpool

Many of you may be aware that Liverpool Archdiocese are hosting the National Eucharistic Congress in September this year. Since this is a national event tickets for the Congress are strictly limited. The Congress takes place between September 7th-9th in different venues in Liverpool city centre. Anyone who wishes to go do not have to attend the whole weekend. In fact, this would be rather difficult due to ticket availability. Each Deanery have been allocated just five tickets for the Friday event. We have been allocated 36 tickets for the Saturday – this includes tickets for priests and deacons. Sunday is a celebration of two Masses at the Cathedral (see below) so this is a little more flexible, although you will still need tickets for this event too. Venues and approximate times are as follows:-

- **Friday September 7 th – ACC Convention Centre, Liverpool between 10.00 am -5.45 pm.**
 - **Saturday September 8 th – ACC Echo Arena, Liverpool between 9.30 am -5.00 pm.**
 - **Sunday September 9 th – Mass in Liverpool Cathedral at 9.30am & 11.30am.**
- Outdoor Eucharistic Procession at 1.00 pm.**

If you would like to volunteer to represent the Deanery at the National Eucharistic Congress then please contact Fr. Paul (the Elder) as soon as possible. You will be provided with a booking form which you will need to fill in as part of your booking. First come, first served.

Reflect:

The Transfiguration is always an inspiring read. The impact of the experience on Peter, James and John is difficult to comprehend, but they were clearly amazed by what they saw. Have there been times in our own lives when we have had such an experience? If so, recall how you felt and the impact it had on you, was your attitude to life changed? Do you still manage to recall the sense of wonder and awe you experienced?

If you have never had such an experience, take the time to sit quietly with the Lord and allow him to speak within you heart.

Pray:

Creator of the stars, of light and darkness, out of the darkness of injustice, bring new hope to birth;

Out of the labouring and longing of all creation, teach us to fashion the wholeness and integrity that is your dream for creation.

Mary Grey

Act:

Now is a good time to make plans for the future! Have you got a spare patch in you garden where you could grow your own veg this year? If not, try planting up some pots. Beans are always an easy option and courgettes are relatively straightforward too.

Challenge:

There are several websites and apps offering support in your prayer life. Find one to accompany you on your Lenten journey. Some examples are:

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-Calendar>

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/daily-disconnect-a-daily-carmelite-prayer-podcast>

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 Easter Cards to the Holy Land

Once again this year we have the opportunity to send Easter cards to our fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

Easter cards, produced as usual by the Carmelite Sisters at Maryton, together with an information leaflet giving the names and addresses of the different parishes in the Holy Land, are available at the back of church today at 50p each.. Please do not post these but instead return signed and addressed cards to church by 11th March so that they can all be posted together in time for Easter. Some of these communities feel isolated and beleaguered and a simple greeting and message of hope means a great deal to them.

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

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick



John West
 Agnes Pilkington
 All Cancer Patients
 Anne Broad
 Arthur Leggett.
 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 (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
 Michelle Gannon
 Thomas Lardner.
 Michael Skiffington.
 Patricia Birchall.
 Thomas Newby.

Week Beginning 25th February	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's
SUNDAY	9.00 am Paddy Furey 11.00 am Eileen Burton	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mykola Batrak 11.00 am Annie Murphy & Edward Murphy	(Sat) 6.00 pm Eddie Leach 9.30 am Fred Croft
MONDAY			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Eileen McNulty
WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Madelaine Sighe	7.30 am Smith Family	9 - 10 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	Funeral Mass Michelle Gannon 10.00am		9.15 am A Special Intention
FRIDAY	6.30 am Anthony Dermody <i>Mass in Holy Family Church</i> 10.00 am Ruth O'Neill <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		9.15 am Lily & Martin Connolly & Shaun Pendlebury 10.00 am – Funeral Service for Thomas Lardner
SATURDAY	10.00 am Anthony Walsh	6.00 pm John Burke	6.00 pm John Haslam
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Madelaine Sighe 11.00 am Bernadette Doherty	11.00 am Ellen Hounslea	9.30 am Kevan, Greg & Sam

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

Offertory £1938.42
 Church Action on Poverty £ 342.75

Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTIONS Today

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?

Next Week HCPT

Lourdes has been a place for pilgrimage since 1858. Today over five million people per year visit the town. HCPT founder Dr Michael Strode first visited in 1951 and saw the potential to organise a pilgrimage for disabled children at the school where he was working. HCPT itself was founded in 1956. It revolutionised the way that disabled people enjoyed a trip to the famous shrine.

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 Third Sunday of Lent (B)

First Reading *Exodus 20:1-17.*
 The Ten Commandments – indicators of where genuine human fulfilment is to be found

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:22-25.*
 The Christian paradox: Christ crucified is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Gospel Reading *John 2:13-25.*
 In cleansing the Temple, Jesus declares that he, through his death and resurrection, is to replace the Temple worship.

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
 from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Mark 9:7