

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

First Sunday of Advent (A)

1st December 2019

DEANERY TEAM

St John Rigby

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk
Deacon: Rev. Kenneth Holding
(Tel: 255834)

St Edmund Arrowsmith

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517 or 731280
Emails: kjmogrady@hotmail.com
stjosephs@live.com
Deacon: Rev. Dennis Vint

St Margaret Clitherow

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com
Enquiries: stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk
Deacon: Rev. Robert Hewertson

St Catherine & All Saints & St Lewis

Priest: Fr Gordon Abbs
Tel: 01942 273851
Email: lgcadmin@rcaolp.co.uk
Deacon: Rev. Derek Morris

Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 1
Readings	Sunday – First Sunday of Advent (A) Weekdays – Week 1 of Advent
Sunday	First Sunday of Advent (A)
Tuesday	St Francis Xavier <i>Day of Special Prayer for Migrants</i>
Thursday	St John Almond
Saturday	St Ambrose
Next Sunday	Second Sunday of Advent (A) <i>Bible Sunday</i>



LEIGH DEANERY

Parish of St. John Rigby

Sacred Heart

Hindley Green

Sacred Heart

Hindsford

St. Richard's

Atherton

Parish of St. Margaret
Clitherow

St. Ambrose Barlow

Astley

St. Gabriel's

Higher Folds

Holy Family

Boothstown

Parish of St. Edmund

Arrowsmith

Our Lady of the Rosary

Sacred Heart

St. Joseph's

Twelve Apostles

Leigh

Parish of St. Catherine of Siena

and All Saints

Golborne

Parish of St. Lewis

Croft

Gospel Reflection

We all know that terrible events have taken place in history, and continue to do so each day. In today's Gospel, Jesus says something about the end of the world. He is saying that, when it happens, not much will have changed: "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes." Life goes so, and good people and bad people will be sharing in the same ordinary tasks that we need to do throughout our lives, right up until the last day. Perhaps the way we live in our modern world, the way we live might seem to change radically. New technologies bring in new challenges and new temptations. We can and should live for today, but sometimes we are tempted to hoard the gifts we have in hope and sometimes expectation of a better day and a grander way of life. Yet, according to the Gospel, the time of Jesus' return could be any day soon.

Accountancy might not seem like a profession concerned with the end of all things, but actually it is the fundamental idea of accountancy. An accountant's job is, amongst other things, to measure the value of a company, a charity, or some other association involving money. The question the accountant asks is: "If this firm was to close, how much would it be worth at this time?" This is a question we could ask about our own lives and about every human institution that has ever come into being. What would it be worth when it ends? But in this case, it is not a question about the financial worth. The value we are concerned with is how much is it worth in the eyes of God. Earlier in the chapter of Matthew, from which today's Gospel Reading is taken, the warning of Jesus is this: "false prophets will deceive many and, with the increase of lawlessness, love in most men and women will grow cold". So the accountancy of life is measured by love. You notice that Jesus does not say that there will be NO love. Instead, love will grow cold, which means that it no longer reaches out to others. It is a fire that warms only a few, and is not shared with the stranger. You might also notice that it is "lawlessness" that cools our love. Love and law are not opposites, but good law is the fuel of love.

Meanwhile life goes on. We are warned against looking for signs of the Lord's return. We are called to live one day at a time and thank God for each day he gives us. Then again, it would be foolish to think that anything on this earth lasts forever. So Jesus is telling us to concentrate on the ordinary things of life, and to be at peace with one another. He will come again, but he will come in his own good time.

Psalm Response

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

Gospel Acclamation

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

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.



Synod 2020 Update

SYNOD 2020 - The Story So Far

Please make sure you take home a Synod leaflet and prayer card if you have not already done so. In his Pastoral Letter Archbishop Malcolm mentioned that over 20,000 people had responded so far in the Synod process. So we are going to continue our response by looking at the Synod themes that have emerged from all the sharing:-

- **Sharing the mission of Jesus**
- **How we pray together**
- **Building community, nurturing belonging**

In the Parish of St John Rigby

For each one of the above themes there will be a listening session and, in the Parish of St John Rigby, we will present each theme at the weekend Masses every month, where you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts and opinions. So please take one of the leaflets and one of the prayer cards home with you today. The next theme, "Sharing The Mission Of Jesus" will be shared early in December.

In the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Synod 2020 Theme 2 – Sharing the mission of Jesus

The second meeting to discuss our proposals on this theme will take place on **Wednesday 4th December** at Holy Family after 7.00pm Mass.

All parishioners are welcome to read the leaflet and fill in the proposal form and place them in the box in church.

Third Synod Talk

COMPLEX CATHOLICISM: DISCOVERING THE REALITY OF YOUNG CATHOLICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Speaker: Stephen Davies Venue: Hope Chapel.

Monday 9 December, 7.30pm. Tea and Coffee from 7pm.

Using up to date research Stephen will explore who the younger members of our Church are today. He will look at how we can reach out to young Catholics. We will hear the voice of young people speaking into the Church today.

There will be an opportunity for questions and answers with optional Night Prayer at 9pm. Hope University L16 9JD.

www.synod2020.co.uk/lectures

A reminder that you are welcome to attend any or all of the SYNOD 2020 talks. There will be more in the New Year. We will publish details of them at a later date. All talks will take place at Hope University at 7.30pm.

The text of our second Synod Talk - Faith & Theology in Later Life by Dr Ros Stuart-Buttle - is now available on the Synod Website. www.synod2020.co.uk/lectures

PARISH NEWS

New Parish Email

A new parish email has been issued by the Archdiocese. Please make use of this new address when contacting the parish office. stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk Emails sent to the old email address will be forwarded automatically to the new one for the time being.

A reminder: Please could all St MC items for the newsletter be sent to the office at Holy Family or the above email by Wednesday evening?

Christingle at Holy Family

This will be on **this Tuesday, 3rd December** and volunteers are asked to help with the building of the Christingles. If you can help with this please come to Holy Family school at 1.30pm on **Monday 2nd December**.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place **this Tuesday, 3rd December** at 2:00pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Raffle Joyce Nuttall & Susan Gaskell

RCIA

The next meeting for those looking to become Catholics in St Margaret Clitherow parish is **this Wednesday, 4th December** at 7.45pm after the Mass at Holy Family.

Rosary for the Unborn

Our final Rosary for the Unborn will take place on **Saturday, 7th December** at 10.00 a.m. in St Ambrose Barlow Church. This will conclude our twelve months of prayer. Thank you to all for your participation in this endeavour. Pat Mullaley.

Confessathon

The opportunity for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation by way of Confession during Advent will be **this Saturday, 7th December at St Joseph's Leigh between 10am and 1.30pm**. (Mass at 12noon)

Taize Prayer Evening

There will be an evening of Taize Prayer during Advent, at St. Richard's on **Wednesday December 11th** at 7.30pm. All welcome.

St Gabriel's School Baptisms

The school held the Baptisms of Jessica Mullen, Aaron and Courtney Ackers, last Friday, 22nd November during Mass. May God bless them & their families.

Advent Toy Collection

New Toy/Gift Collection for Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

As in previous years we will have this collection during Advent, **commencing this Sunday, 1st December** and ending Sunday, 15th December. The gifts are for babies going up to 18 years. The children do not always have a visit at Christmas due to travelling difficulties and having other children in the family who need consideration too. The staff aim to make their stay as lovely as possible. The gifts do need to be new and toys should bear the safety labels. Donations of wrapping paper etc are welcomed.

There will be large Christmas bags at the back of churches where you can leave your donations. This collection is so valuable and so greatly appreciated and we thank you in advance for your kindness.

Christmas Cards

HCPT Christmas Cards: A beautiful selection of cards are now on sale at the back of Holy Family Church.

Sacred Heart, Hindley Green Repository Shop - Christmas Cards are now available in the shop at the back of church. If you wish to order things from the catalogue please speak to Chris England after Mass.

TODAY'S EVENTS, Sunday 1st December

Christmas Stall and Santa's Grotto

We have booked a visit from Santa after the 11.00 Mass at St Ambrose Barlow **this Sunday, 1st December**. Santa will be in residence for about an hour after Mass and there will be refreshments on sale. Also there will be a stall selling all sorts of Brand New Christmas goods (cards, wrappings etc). To make this a success we are appealing for donations of new Christmas goods that we can sell on the Christmas Stall. If you can help just bring your items to church before the date (or even on the day).

Luxury Christmas Hamper Raffle

Tickets will be on sale to win a luxury hamper at the back of St Ambrose Church after the weekend Masses. The draw for the hamper will take place after Mass **this Sunday, 1st December**.

Sacred Heart Hindley Green Christmas Fair

This Sunday, 1st December, Christmas Fair open at 12noon

Father Christmas Grotto, Hog Roast & Mulled Wine, Christmas Jars Tombola, Cake Stall, Bottle Tombola, The Big Raffle, Various Stalls and Games, Gin Bar.

Churches Together in Boothstown

The annual ecumenical service and switching on of the lights will take place **this Sunday, 1st December at 5pm at Standfield in Boothstown**. All are welcome.

Atherton Advent Carol Service

Churches Together In Atherton are organizing an Advent Carol Service in St. Phillip's Church **this Sunday, December 1st** at 6.30pm. Please come along and join us in prayer as we begin this important time of the year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Party Invite from Students at St. Mary's Sixth Form Tuesday, 10th December 2019



St. Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite the senior members of our parishes to their annual Christmas party, at St. Mary's on **Tuesday, 10th December** between 12:00pm and 2:00pm, in the school's Conference Centre. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo.

If you would like to attend please add your names to the list at the back of the church **by Sunday 1st December**, or email j.knight@smchs.org.uk so we can cater for numbers appropriately. **This is the last chance to sign up, so please do so if you would like to go.** Please also inform us of any special dietary requirements, or if you will need a parking space. Looking forward to seeing you there.

St Ambrose Barlow Primary School Open Day

The Open Day takes place **this Tuesday, 3rd December** and is open to all. There are two time slots for people to visit the school at 10:30am and 2:30pm.

St Mary's Catholic High School Advent Lunchtime Masses

St Mary's would like to invite local parishioners to our two Advent Masses on **Friday 6th and 13th of December**. They will begin at 1.15pm and will last approximately 20 minutes and will be held in the Conference Centre. Refreshments will be provided after Mass.

Astley Churches Together - Carols on the Car Park

This year's carol singing will be in the car park of Astley Christian Fellowship church, Manchester Road, Astley at 6.30 on **Monday 9th December**. You are welcome in church afterwards for refreshments.

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Centre

On **Tuesday December 10th** the **Rotary Club Santa and Sleigh** will be on the car park at Sacred Heart Parish Centre, in Hindsford, from 7pm until 8.30pm. The Parish Centre will be open for refreshments.

Also a **Christmas Quiz Night** will take place at Sacred Heart, Hindsford, on **Thursday 19th December**, which includes a £100 jackpot and a "Festive Buffet". Doors open at 8.00pm for a 8.30pm start. All welcome.

St Gabriel's School Christmas Markets

Friday 13th December from 3pm. All welcome.

CAFOD Fun Run

Friday 27th December 2019

Run or walk with family and friends! 5K / 2.5K run or 2K walk.

12.00pm Registration; 1.00pm Start. £5 Children, £10 Adults, £20 Family
Where? Wavertree Athletics Centre, Liverpool L15 4LE (Mystery Playground)

Contact: liverpool@cafod.org.uk

Sponsorship Forms available at St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family churches.

Sacred Heart Hindley Green Club (Behind the Church)

Bingo: Tues + Sun at 9:00pm Concerts every Saturday

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Function room available for hire.

Christmas Bingo - you could win Turkeys, Chickens, Whiskey, Wine

- Wednesday 4th December 8.30pm.
- Wednesday 11th December 8.30pm.

Post Office Prayer!

God our Father

May everything we do be First Class

Imprint your own Post Code upon our hearts

so that we may never go astray.

Provide in your gracious providence

Special Handling for those of us who are fragile
and keep us in one piece.

And when our days draw to a close
and we are marked 'Return to Sender'

be there to greet us at heaven's door

so that nobody may ever say

"unknown at this address".

Bishop Raymond Boland, former Bishop of Kansas City, composed this while waiting in line at a Post office.



Reflect

Thinking about the end of the world can be scary and, with the issues the world faces today, can seem imminent at times. But none of us knows when the second coming will be. We need to remember when reading today's Gospel that we love Jesus and want to be faithful disciples. Ask the Lord for the grace needed to be a faithful and loving servant, ready and waiting at his return.

Pray

O Wisdom, Lord and Ruler, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Rising Sun, King of the Nations, Emmanuel - Come, Lord Jesus.

Act

One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading each other to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians.

Challenge

Appearances can be deceptive. We are often quick to judge people by how they look, but in doing so miss the essential uniqueness of each individual. Take time this week to see others in the light of Christ and, in doing so, accept them just as they are. In this season of frenetic buying, step back and consider what it is that those you love really need....often it is recognition for the person they are, time to talk and share memories, an understanding that they are loved. Can these be your gifts this year?

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory £1168.83
Animate (Youth Sunday) £ 380.10

St John Rigby

Offertory £1133.12
Animate (Youth Sunday) £ 253.07
CAFOD Box (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green) £ 16.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Christmas Greetings Card Campaign 2019

Our annual opportunity to send cards to prisoners of conscience will take place **today**. Cards, in stamped envelopes, together with information about the prisoners and advice on how to send the greetings, will be available after all Masses next weekend. A donation of £1.50 per card is requested to cover all the costs including postage. Please support our campaign again this year and send a message of hope this Christmas. Thank you.

This Week, Next Week & Week After

Advent Toy Collection

Details under Parish News.

Please could all St Margaret Clitherow parish items for the newsletter be sent to the office at Holy Family or email stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk by Wednesday evening?

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


Schools

www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk
www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk
www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk
www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk
www.hindleygreensacredheart.co.uk
http://stmaryschs.org.uk/

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	Week Beginning 1st December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's	Sacred Heart Hindley Green	
 <p>All Cancer Patients Anealyse Lewis Anne Broad Arthur Leggett Baby George Baby Grace Baby Luke Bernard O'Donnell Brenda Southern Bridie Molyneux Catherine Jones Christopher Browne Clare Barlow Clifford Browne Eddie Shaw Elizabeth Hulmes Elizabeth Levien Emma Oldham Enid Kenwright Freda Peake Gerald Hackett Guy Ryan Hannah Delargy Irene McIntyre Jack Rothwell Jean Tchibukdjan Jennifer Langin Jess Garrett Jessie Lucas Joan Wilkinson John Neary John Wall Kathy Kenyon Margaret Case Margaret Dawson Margaret Ross Margaret Wall Mary Bird Mary Tiernan Maureen Halliday Michael Wright Rev Jim Melia Sandra Jones Shelagh Welsby Stephen Howell Terence Flanagan Terry Barlow Thelma Humble Theresa Stanley Wyn Wright Yvonne Mellin + <i>Recent Additions</i> Baby Iyla Faith Thomas McLoughlin</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am John Walton	(Sat) 6.00 pm Alice O'Gorman 11.00 am George Daniel Love	(Sat) 6.30 pm Connie Seddon 9.30 am Dennis Yates	(Sat) 5.00 pm Thomas & Margaret Delaney & Winnie Foster	
	MONDAY					7.00 pm Dorothy Dunn
	TUESDAY			9.15 am <i>NO MASS</i> 10.30 am Funeral Mass for Anthony Bousfield	9.15 am Doreen Swanson	9.15 am Dorothy & Ron Hickman
	WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm John Pickup			9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	11.00 am Requiem Mass for Anne Murphy
	THURSDAY	10.00 am John Brian Griffin			9.15 am Peter Koryl	<i>No Service</i>
	FRIDAY	10.00 am Parishioners <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>				7.00 pm Anne (Sick) <i>Confessions 7.30pm</i>
	SATURDAY	10.00 am Danny Williams		10.00 am <i>Exposition & Rosary</i> (Sat) 6.00 pm Thomas McLoughlin	(Sat) 6.30 pm Pat Shaw	(Sat) 5.00 pm The Docherty Family
NEXT SUNDAY	9.30 am Anastasia Giblin		11.00 am Margaret, Jackie & Steven Monks	9.30 am Terry & Dorothy Bibby, Emma Newton		

Bridie Phillips
 Doreen Smith
 Eileen McAlister
 Eileen Watkinson
 Elsie Byron
 Jean Culkin
 Jean Rafferty
 Jedd Balmer
 Jimmy Rafferty
 Joan Baines
 Joan Cave
 John Atkins
 Joyce Gorton
 Leonard Sandelands
 Martin Culkin
 Maureen Blears
 Michael Gallagher
 Nora Smith
 Robert Barron

BAPTISMS
We welcome into our family of Faith
Aaron Ackers
Courtney Ackers
Jessica Mullen
Charlie Atherton
Albert Mitchell
George Nixon
*May God bless them
 & their families.*

LATELY DEAD

*Please pray for
 those who have
 died recently:*
Agnes Gater
Alan Price
Anthony Bousfield
Anne Murphy
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon
 them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
 Saturday Confessions after 10.00am Mass at Holy Family and
 after 6.00pm Mass at St Ambrose & 6.30pm Mass at St Richard's.
 Friday Confessions, 7.30pm at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green
 Confession also available where possible by request / appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND
Second Sunday of Advent
First Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10
 The Spirit of the Lord will rest of the offspring of Jesse, and he will
 judge the wretched with integrity.
Second Reading – Romans 15:4-9
 Christ came to bring salvation to all, pagans as well as Jews.
Gospel Reading – Matthew 3:1-12
 John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way for the Lord through
 baptism and repentance.

Anniversaries (*Sacred Heart, Hindley Green*)
 Terence Raymond Bates, Bill Smith, James Yates, Robert Paul Dickinson,
 Annie May Smith, Mary Elizabeth Chapman, Maria Derbyshire