

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Second Sunday of Advent (A)

8th December 2019

DEANERY TEAM

St John Rigby

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

St Edmund Arrowsmith

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
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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: lgadmin@rcaolp.co.uk
Deacon: Rev. Derek Morris

Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Readings Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent (A)
Weekdays – Week 2 of Advent

Sunday **Second Sunday of Advent (A)**
Bible Sunday

Friday St Lucy
Saturday St John of the Cross
Next Sunday **Third Sunday of Advent (A)**
Gaudete Sunday



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

Astronauts were the first human beings to see the earth from space. As they gazed down from space, they realized as never before that we are one family with the Earth as our common home. One of them later said, "The first day in space, we all pointed to our own countries. The second day, we pointed to our continents. By the third day, we were aware of only one earth." The Old Testament prophets had the same kind of high and wide vision, a vision of how things could be. They could see, as we can today, how terrible our world can be. History is full of wars, and wars, and still more wars. Yet they still longed for a day – as hopefully we do – when everyone will live together in peace and harmony. It would be easy, watching the news each day, to think that this is impossible. If there is disunity in our families and in our communities then we might think what chance have we for peace in the world? It seems as though justice and peace are a million miles away. And yet they correspond to the deepest longings of the human heart, and point to God's ultimate goal for us. These visions of peace and justice offer us hope when we are close to despair, and courage when we feel tempted to give up on everything.

The prophets lived in the real world, and were just as dismayed by its horrors and injustices as we are. Yet they had a dream of a new world, a world free from injustice and war. Through faith in God they were able to rise above their fears. What saved them from despair was their messianic vision and their sense of the need for people to repent. The marvellous vision of the peaceful Kingdom, in which all violence has been overcome and all people live in loving unity with nature, calls for its realization in our daily lives. Instead of being an escapist dream, it challenges us to anticipate what it promises. Every time we forgive a neighbour, every time we make someone smile, every time we show compassion to a person who is suffering, every time we take care of animals, prevent pollution, and work for peace and justice in any way we can, then we are playing our part in turning this vision into reality. So we need to keep Isaiah's vision before us. Then it will give us new energy to live it out right where we are. Instead of encouraging us to escape from real life, this beautiful vision of Isaiah summons us to get involved.

We must open our hearts to the dream which the prophets cherished of a world rid of evil by every human effort and the grace of God. Jesus had a name for this new world. He called it the "Kingdom of God." He introduced this Kingdom to those around him and through them to us today. He wants us to involve ourselves in building up this Kingdom here on earth by being kind, truthful, honest, just, loving, and compassionate. Even though it is a struggle we may not win on our own, the struggle is still good for us. It awakens everything that is best and precious within us. Isaiah's vision lives on in our midst as a task for today and a promise for tomorrow.

Psalm Response

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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.

The first presentation will be **this Saturday after Mass** and the second meeting for this Theme is on the **Thursday 19th December** at 7pm. Tea and Coffee will be served.

All parishioners are welcome to read the leaflet and fill in the proposal form, then place them in the box at the back of Church.

Don't forget if you wish to forward your proposal on line it's

www.synod2020

In the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Synod 2020 Theme 2 – Sharing the mission of Jesus

Two meetings have been held to discuss our proposals on this theme. 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?

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass times on this side of the Deanery are as follows:-

Christmas Eve

5.00pm – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.

6.00pm – Holy Family, Boothstown.

6.30pm – St.Richard's, Atherton.

8.00pm – St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley.

11.30pm – Holy Family, Boothstown.

Christmas Day

9.30am – St.Richard's, Atherton.

9.30am – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.

9.30am – Holy Family, Boothstown.

11.00am – St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley.

RCIA

The next meeting for those looking to become Catholics in St Margaret Clitherow parish is **this Wednesday, 11th December** at 7.45pm after the Mass at Holy Family.

Taize Prayer Evening

Please come along and join us in prayer this week as we gather together for an evening of Taize Prayer. This will take place in St.Richard's Church on **Wednesday December 11th at 7.30pm**. All welcome.

Festival Carol Service

Sunday 15th December 3pm at Holy Family. All welcome.

St John Rigby Parish Over-60's Christmas Party

A Christmas Buffet for the over-60's will take place in Sacred Heart Parish Centre in Hindley Green on **Monday December 16th**. The party will take place after Mass. If you would like to go then please fill in one of the forms at the back of Church.

St John Rigby Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is available to visit the sick and say the Rosary if requested, also at the Chapel of Rest. Approach myself Susan Mines (07952822440) or any member of the Legion.

Sacred Heart Hindley Green Church Decorations

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas please leave them in the Gordon Room from next week. Thank you.

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.

MISSIO Red Mission Boxes



The latest collection from the red mission boxes in Holy Family amounted to £486.96p. Many thanks to all who collected and contributed. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

St. Richard's 500 Club December Winners

£100.00	357	J.M.Cropper
£50.00	432	V. Birchnall
£25.00	221	J. Hankinson
£15.00	13	C. Farrimond
£15.00	261	M. Gaskell

Thank you for your continued support.

Results of the Grand Draw

This was held at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall on Friday 29th November and prize winners list is available on the notice at the back of Church. Please contact Des on 07973 114365 to arrange collection.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

The hamper was not claimed last week. The winning number is YELLOW 637 (serial number AC726722). If you have the winning ticket see Steve after the 11.00 Mass or call him on 07952 152371 to arrange collection.

Sacred Heart Hindley Green Christmas Fair

Thanks to all who helped and attended the Christmas Fair last Sunday. We made £1820 divided between Church and school. There are plenty prizes left from the Fair. Look on the notice board at the back of Church for the list of unclaimed prizes.

St Ambrose Barlow 200 CLUB 2020

Next week Steve will be starting to collect names for this year's 200 Club. Full details will be in next week's Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.

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

A reminder to all those who put their names down that the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at St. Mary's High School takes place **this Tuesday** at 12noon (until 2pm). Please get there early as you will need to sign in at the School Reception. Have a great time!



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.

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 Mary's Catholic High School Advent Lunchtime Masses

St Mary's would like to invite local parishioners to the second of our two Advent Masses, on **Friday 13th of December**. The Mass 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.

St Gabriel's School Christmas Markets

Friday 13th December from 3pm. All welcome.

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 in the club for the last **Wednesday, 11th December**, starting at 8-30pm. to win Turkeys, Chickens, Whiskey or Wine.

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.

Burns Night 2020

Friday 17th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink – £7.50. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.



Reflect

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist appears in the wilderness. The word 'wilderness' has rich biblical overtones. There are wilderness places in our lives, communities and in the world at large. Places of loneliness, broken relationships, failure. But there is still room for grace to plant its seed within us. We respond to John's call to repentance by reforming our lives through repentance, in preparation for the coming of Our Lord.

Pray

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

Act

This week sees the Election of a new government. Exercise your right to vote, make sure you use your vote wisely.

Challenge

Search out the wilderness areas in your life. Renew these areas by planting seeds of love and caring.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory	£1116.15
2nd Collection	£ 15.53
Animate (Youth Sunday) (additional)	£ 2.00

St John Rigby

Offertory	£1229.53
CAFOD Box (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)	£ 24.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today & Next Week

Advent Toy Collection

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

As in previous years we will have this collection during Advent, 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.

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.boothstownholysfamily.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 8th December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's	Sacred Heart Hindley Green	
 <p>All Cancer Patients Anelyse Lewis Anne Broad Arthur Leggett Baby George Baby Grace Baby lyla Faith 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 Tchibukdjian 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 Thomas McLoughlin Yvonne Mellin + Addition this week: Hilda Almond</p> <p>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</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am Anastasia Giblin	(Sat) 6.00 pm Thomas McLoughlin 11.00 am Margaret, Jackie & Steven Monks	(Sat) 6.30 pm Pat Shaw 9.30 am Terry & Dorothy Bibby, Emma Newton	(Sat) 5.00 pm The Docherty Family	
	MONDAY					7.00 pm John Fairhurst
	TUESDAY			9.15 am Teresa Young - Special Intention	9.15 am Christina Pritchard	9.15 am Elizabeth Slazenger
	WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Martin & Mary Furey	12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Betty Kirwin	9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	11.00 am Leonard Grundy	
	THURSDAY	10.00 am Mrs Anne Sharples <i>Holy Family Whole School Mass in Church</i>		12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Fred Rothwell	No Service	
	FRIDAY	10.00 am Parishioners <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>			7.00 pm Pat McGuinness <i>Confessions 7.30pm</i>	
	SATURDAY	10.00 am Delaray Terlablanche	10.00 am <i>Exposition & Rosary</i> (Sat) 6.00 pm Mary Fulton	(Sat) 6.30 pm Ken Birchall Fred Rothwell	(Sat) 5.00 pm Eric Gaskell	
	NEXT SUNDAY	9.30 am Maureen & Thomas Broadie	11.00 am Intentions and health of the Morley Family	9.30 am Jean & Ken Gorse		

BAPTISMS

We welcome into our family of Faith

Daisy Abberley
Jasmine Abberley
Ellie Church
Apria Church
Amelia Smith
Phoebe Hoather
Tarah-Jayne Smith
Elliot Hoather

May God bless them & their families.

LATELY DEAD



Please pray for those who have died recently:

Anne Murphy
Fred Rothwell
Elizabeth Kirwin
Wyn Wright

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

Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading – Isaiah 35:1-6,10

God is the hope of his people who are crushed by misfortune.

Second Reading – James 5:7-10

St. James urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 11:2-11

We see Jesus at work, and hear his words of praise for his imprisoned cousin John.

Anniversaries (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)

Vicky Bridges, Thomas Cunliffe, Bradley Thomas Walls, Robert Coote, Alice Rosbotham, James Carney