

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Third Sunday of Advent (A)

15th December 2019

DEANERY TEAM

St John Rigby

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Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent (A)
Weekdays – Week 3 of Advent (Advent II from 17th)

Sunday **Third Sunday of Advent (A)**
Gaudete Sunday

Next Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)**
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers



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

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

John the Baptist had prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He believed that Jesus was that Messiah. But now, locked up in a dark dungeon with the threat of death hanging over him, he began to doubt. John's idea of a Messiah was that of a stern, uncompromising judge who would execute a fiery judgement on the people. But Jesus wasn't living up to that image. Instead of acting like a judge, he was acting like a Saviour, and a very loving, compassionate Saviour at that. His radiant friendliness contrasted sharply with the severity of John's message. John was an ascetic, who lived apart from the people. But Jesus mixed with the people, eating and drinking with sinners. John prophesied the judgement of God; Jesus prophesied the salvation of God. Knowing that his life was about to end, John wanted to know for sure, so he sent two of his disciples to question Jesus. When the two asked Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus might have replied with a straight forward, "Yes, I am." But he didn't. There is a well-known saying: Actions speak louder than words. So, instead of trying to convince John's messengers with words, Jesus pointed to the works he was doing. These works were exactly the kind that Isaiah had spoken of in today's First Reading, "the blind see again, the deaf hear...." Jesus was quite happy to let his actions speak out for him. Yes, Jesus was "the one who was to come". But where can people find him today?

One day a group of salesmen were attending a sales convention. They had assured their families that they would be home in time for dinner. But the meeting ran overtime so they had to run for the train. Tickets in hand, they dashed along the platform. One of them knocked over a table supporting a collection of fruit and vegetables. But neither he nor any of his companions stopped to help the young boy who was selling the fruit and vegetables. All of them reached the train and boarded it with a sigh of relief. But then one of them had a twinge of compassion for the boy whose stand they had knocked over. The fruit and vegetables were all over the floor. He immediately decided to help and returned to the scene of the accident. He was glad that he did so. He discovered that the young boy was blind. The salesman began to gather up as much of the fruit and vegetables that he could. As he did so he noticed that some of them were ruined. He took out his wallet and handing the boy some money he said, "Here, take this for the damage we did. I hope we didn't spoil your day." As he started to walk away, the bewildered young boy called after him and asked, "Are you Jesus?" the salesman wasn't really Jesus, of course, but he did act like Jesus. So where is Jesus to be found today? In the hearts of those who believe in him. In the lives of those who live out his Word. In his disciples here on earth today. Blessed are we, the Gospel reminds us, if we do not lose faith in Jesus. And twice blessed are we if, like Jesus, we are able to show our faith in everyday deeds of love and compassion. If we do this then people will encounter Jesus in us.

Psalms Response

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.



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 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 online 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.

A reminder that you are welcome to attend any or all of the SYNOD 2020 talks.

A Message from The Synod Office Team

Dear friends,

Having reflected on the experience of both our Synod Talks at Hope and the Reflective Evenings led by Irenaeus on the Synod Themes, we have made the following venue changes for these events in 2020.

Our **Synod Talks** on 13 January, 17 February, 9 March, and 20 April will now be held at LACE (Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA) [Moved from Liverpool Hope University].

The **Reflective Evenings** will now be as follows:

Tuesday 21 January and Thursday 27 February at St Joseph's, Wrightington [Unchanged].

Wednesday 29 January and Wednesday 4 March at Our Lady Help of Christians Portico (L34 2QT) [Moved from St Philomena's].

Full details of these changes are on the Synod Website.

Best wishes,

Fr Philip, Fr Matthew, Jacqui, and Matt
The Synod Office Team

Note: 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

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 – Carols & Readings, 12pm – Midnight Mass, 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.

Festival Carol Service

TODAY!

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

St John Rigby Parish Advent Service & Over-60's Christmas Party

There will be an Advent Service at 6.30pm by some of the school children before Mass at Sacred Heart Hindley Green on **Monday night, 17th December.**

After which, the party for the over-60's in the club. Have all your invitations been handed in?

Reconciliation Service

St Benedict's Church Hindley at 7pm on **Wednesday, 18th December.**

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. stmargaretcatherow@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?

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 - Cards are now available in the shop at the back of church.

Food Bank Collections

Please think about the many families that will go hungry at this time and give generously this Christmas. Thank you for your support.

St Ambrose Barlow 200 CLUB 2020

This week Steve will be starting to collect names for this year's 200 Club. More details will be published soon.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Centre

A **Christmas Quiz Night** will take place at Sacred Heart, Hindsford, on **Thursday 19th December**.

**£100 Jackpot
"Festive Buffet"**

Doors open at 8.00pm for a 8.30pm start.
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.



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 7.45pm. 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.

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

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that those who follow in his footsteps and become part of the Kingdom of God are even greater than John the Baptist as they have prioritised what is truly important in life – to know and love God and to love their neighbour.

Pray

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

Act

The priorities of followers of Jesus are humility, gentleness and love. Look for signs and evidence in the world around you of God at work in our world, often through the work of those who hope and trust in him.

Challenge

Today is also called Gaudete Sunday - we are reminded to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord. What can you do to bring joy into the lives of those around you and into this troubled world of ours?

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory	£1123.76
2nd Collection	£ 30.33

St John Rigby

Offertory	£1201.65
CAFOD Box (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)	£ 34.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

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 TODAY, 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.

Next Week

No Second Collection

Crib Offerings & Food Bank Donations

Please could all St Margaret Clitherow parish items for the newsletter be sent to the office at Holy Family or email stmarquetclitherow@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 15th 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 Hilda Almond Irene McIntyre Jack Rothwell Jean Tchibukdjian Jennifer Langin Jess Garrett Jessie Lucas Joan Wilkinson John Neary John Wall Kathy Kenyon Margaret Case 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</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am Maureen & Thomas Broadie	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mary Fulton 11.00 am Intentions and health of the Morley Family	(Sat) 6.30 pm Ken Birchall Fred Rothwell 9.30 am Jean & Ken Gorse	(Sat) 5.00 pm Eric Gaskell	
	MONDAY					7.00 pm Edward Fox
	TUESDAY			9.15 am Christopher Postlewaite	9.15 am Terry & Audrey O'Keeffe	9.15 am Peter Harrison
	WEDNESDAY	7.00 pm Gladys Waring			9.00 - 10.00 am <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	10.00 am Private Intention (AV)
	THURSDAY	10.00 am Deceased Members of the Maude & Taylor Families			9.15 am Emma Newton 12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Margaret Dawson	<i>No Service</i>
	FRIDAY	10.00 am Private Intention (PF) <i>Mass in Holy Family Church with children from St Gabriel's School</i>			9.30 am Christmas Mass in Sacred Heart School (Hindsford) 10.00 am Funeral Service for Winnifred Murphy	7.00 pm Marie & Neil Burrows <i>Confessions 7.30pm</i>
	SATURDAY	10.00 am Muriel Nishihama		10.00 am <i>Exposition & Rosary</i> (Sat) 6.00 pm Vincent Carey	(Sat) 6.30 pm Brian & Brenda Southern	(Sat) 5.00 pm Tony Sutton
NEXT SUNDAY	9.30 am Eileen Coates		11.00 am Philip Smith & Kay Paterson, Bernard Hughes	9.30 am Alexandry Herko		

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
**Fabio Rea
 Riley Feeny**
May God bless them & their families.

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.

 **LATELY DEAD**
Please pray for those who have died recently:
**Fred Rothwell
 Elizabeth Kirwin
 Wyn Wright
 Winnifred Murphy
 Margaret Dawson
 David Paul Graham**
*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND
Fourth Sunday of Advent
First Reading – Isaiah 37:10-14
 Isaiah foretells the birth of a very special child – a child who will be called Emmanuel, that is, God-with-us.
Second Reading – Romans 1:1-7
 The opening lines from St.Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome draw attention to the human and divine "roots" of Jesus.
Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25
 The prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in the person of Jesus.

Anniversaries (*Sacred Heart, Hindley Green*)
 Ann Brown, Kathleen Hunter, Michael Grainey, Elizabeth Allison, Henry Tootill, Anne Morris, Rita Doherty, Patrick Hoare, Peter Harrison