

# St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

22nd 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:** lgadmin@rcaolp.co.uk  
**Deacon:** Rev. Derek Morris

Deanery website: [www.leighdeanery.co.uk](http://www.leighdeanery.co.uk)

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

<b>Psalter</b>	Week 4
<b>Readings</b>	Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) Weekdays – Week Advent part II
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY (Holyday of Obligation)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>St Stephen</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Holy Innocents</b>
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Feast of the Holy Family (A)</b>



### 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

As we approach Christmas we can be forgiven for thinking that all should be well at this time of the year. Yet many of us live in fear of so many different kinds. Life itself can be a massive challenge, even trying to get everything right for the Christmas celebrations. If we do live with fear of any kind then we can take heart and hope from the story of the first Christmas. There was lots of fear present then. In fact, all of the main characters were afraid at one time or another.

Joseph was afraid when he found that Mary was expecting a child even though they hadn't yet lived together. But an angel appeared to him in a dream and said to him, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit". Joseph, the just man, trusted God, and so overcame his fear and did what was right.

Mary was afraid on hearing the greeting of the angel Gabriel. But the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour." The angel went on to tell her that she was to conceive and bear a son by the power of the Holy Spirit, and she must name him Jesus. Mary trusted God, and so overcame her fear and said, "Yes" to all that was being asked of her.

And the shepherds were afraid. The Gospel says that when the angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, they were terrified. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy....today a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." And they trusted God, and went back to Bethlehem, visited the child, and returned to their flocks glorifying and praising God.

All of us are touched by fear at one time or another. But we must not allow our fears to stop us believing. What we have to do is move from fear to faith. Trust in God is vital to turn fear to faith. And Christmas is a great time to do this for it is the time of Good News. In Jesus, God comes to us in the form of a child because he wants to be close to us. So Christmas challenges us to enter into an intimate relationship with God, trusting that we will receive love, peace and lots more. By all means, let us do whatever we can to improve our situation. But having done that, let us leave what is outside of our control in the hands of God. Christmas awakens our deepest longings, longings which only God can fulfil. We must not allow our fears to prevent us from opening our hearts to the "great joy" announced to the shepherds, so that we too may praise and glorify him every day of our lives.

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### Psalms Response

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

### Gospel Acclamation

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

## 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**

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.

Please remember to return your responses to the second theme, "Sharing The Mission Of Jesus" as soon as possible.

Don't forget if you wish to forward your proposal online it's [www.synod2020](http://www.synod2020)

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 (Croxeth 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](http://www.synod2020.co.uk/lectures)

### **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](mailto:stmargaretcatherow@rcaol.org.uk) Emails sent to the old email address will be forwarded automatically to the new one for the time being.



Merry Christmas

## **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, 12.00 – 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.**

### **CHRISTMAS READINGS**

*Please note that some of the readings at the Christmas Masses may be slightly different. It will depend on which Mass you attend.*

#### **Vigil Mass**

##### **First Reading – Isaiah 9:1-7**

Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of a Saviour who will rescue his people from oppression is fulfilled in Jesus.

##### **Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14**

St.Paul reminds us of what is expected of us if we are to enjoy the salvation won for us by Christ.

##### **Gospel Reading – Luke 2:1-14**

We hear the story of Jesus' birth, and how the news was brought by angels to shepherds.

#### **Dawn Mass**

##### **First Reading – Isaiah 62:11-12**

The joy of the exiles returning from Babylon is a foretaste of the joy Christians experience at the birth of Jesus.

##### **Second Reading – Titus 3:4-7**

We did nothing to merit the birth of Jesus; rather God sent his Son out of compassion for us all.

##### **Gospel – Luke 2:15-20**

With Mary we are invited to ponder on the deeper meaning of the birth of Jesus so that, with the shepherds, we may be moved to glorify and praise God.

#### **Morning Mass**

##### **First Reading – Isaiah 53:7-10**

A great hymn of exultation at the return of the exiles from Babylon is also a poem of joy for our redemption.

##### **Second Reading – Hebrews 1:1-6**

The whole history of God's dealings with his people in the past was a preparation for the coming of his Son at a particular moment in history.

##### **Gospel Reading – John 1:1-18**

A great hymn to the Word of God, the source of all life, whose coming among us makes us children of God.

### 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.

### Feast of the Holy Family

There will be festive refreshments after the 9.30am Mass on 29th December at Holy Family in celebration of the church's Patronal Feast Day.

### New Year's Eve Mass

5pm at Holy Family. All welcome.

### Feast of the Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany has been transferred to the adjacent **Sunday, 5th January 2019**; usual Sunday Mass times.

### St Ambrose Barlow 200 CLUB 2020

Steve is now collecting names for this year's 200 Club. If you would like to join see Steve after Mass, contact your usual agent or ring Steve (07952 152371). For people joining for the first time the 200 Club operates as follows:

There is a one-off payment of £20. For that you will be entered in a monthly draw in January, February, March and April for a £100 and a £50 prize. Towards the end of April there will be a cabaret night in the Parish Hall (free to members) with entertainment and a buffet. At this event the big draw takes place. You could win £1000, £100, £50 or £25.

### 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 - Peru Donation

Please read the letter on the notice board from Peru; thanking the parishioners for their kind donations of £560.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### 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.

### 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.



### Reflect

Joseph and Mary show us that to trust in God is to become a part of his plan for the world. In trusting God they show us that in being real servants of God and in living our lives true to his word we reveal God to the world.

### Pray

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

### Act

Over the next few days as we celebrate the season of Christmas we consider the reality of the phrase 'The Word was made flesh and lived among us'. Search for ways in which the Word can be made flesh in your own life – through the way we behave; the way we interact with others; the way we put our trust in God; the way we cherish the presence of God in our world.

### Challenge

It's a real challenge at this time of the year to live sustainably when we are bombarded with media encouraging us to buy more, eat more, drink more. This year, try to buy only what you need, not to overindulge and recycle whatever you can.

## LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

### St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory	£1339.66
2nd Collection	£ 13.70

### St John Rigby

Offertory	£1207.97
CAFOD Box (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)	£ 25.00

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

### Today & Next Week

No Second Collection

**Crib Offerings & Food Bank Donations**

## Holiday Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter for **Sunday 29th December** will be a shorter edition comprising just two pages. Deadline passed!

St MC parish items for the newsletter for **Sunday 5th January 2019** should be sent to the office at Holy Family or email [stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk) **by Friday, 27th December.**

Thereafter, 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](mailto:stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk) by Wednesday evening as usual?

## 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](http://www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk](http://www.saintambrosebarlow.co.uk)  
[www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk](http://www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk)  
[www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.Hindleygreensacredheart.co.uk](http://www.Hindleygreensacredheart.co.uk)  
[http://stmaryschs.org.uk/](http://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 22nd December	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's	Sacred Heart Hindley Green	
 <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">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> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Bridie Phillips Doreen Smith Eileen McAlister Eileen Watkinson Elsie Byron Jean Culkin Jean Rafferty Jedd Balmer Joan Baines Joan Cave John Atkins Joyce Gorton Leonard Sandelands Martin Culkin Maureen Blears Michael Gallagher Nora Smith Robert Barron</p>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.30 am Eileen Coates	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vincent Carey  11.00 am Philip Smith & Kay Paterson, Bernard Hughes	(Sat) 6.30 pm Brian & Brenda Southern  9.30 am Alexandry Herko	(Sat) 5.00 pm Tony Sutton	
	<b>MONDAY</b>					7.00 pm Mrs E Flynn (Int)
	<b>TUESDAY CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	6.00 pm Christmas Intentions 11.30 pm Carols & Readings 12.00 Midnight Mass – Christmas Intentions	<i>No morning Mass</i>  8.00 pm Joe & Joan Rigby	6.30 pm Christmas Mass Intentions	5.00 pm Marcus Reid	
	<b>WEDNESDAY CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	9.30 am Christopher Tickle, Harry & Kathleen Knight, Christmas Intentions	11.00 am Steven Blears, John Evans, Graham Jones	9.30 am Christmas Mass Intentions	9.30 am Gordon & Michael Halliwell	
	<b>THURSDAY</b>	12 noon Annie and Joseph Callan				10.00 am Margaret Vose
	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<i>No Mass today</i>			11.00 am Funeral Mass for Bridget Healy	7.00 pm Vincent Moore <i>Confessions</i> 7.30pm
	<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Pat Alexander		(Sat) 6.00 pm John Burke	(Sat) 6.30 pm Bernadette Sproston	(Sat) 5.00 pm William & Winifred Denton
	<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.30 am Teresa Unsworth & Veronica Marsden		11.00 am Deceased Members of the Delargy Family	9.30 am Keith Boulton, Eileen Boardman	

### BAPTISMS

*We welcome into our family of Faith*

**Emily Hellemons  
Holly Jean Glover**

*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.

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

#### Feast of the Holy Family

**First Reading** – *Ecclesiastes 3:2-6, 12-14*

We are reminded of one of God's commandments to honour your father and your mother.

**Second Reading** – *Colossians 3:12-21*

St. Paul describes the atmosphere which should reign in a Christian community and a Christian household.

**Gospel Reading** – *Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23*

Matthew casts the Holy Family as displaced persons and homeless refugees.

### Anniversaries *(Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)*

Anthony Sutton, Andrea Robinshaw, Vincent Moore, Ruby Milba Jones, John Hilton, Mary Price, Joan Huelin, Joan Young, Constance Duckworth, Kathleen Horan, Michael Kennedy

### LATELY DEAD



*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

**Fred Rothwell  
Bridget Healy  
Joan Doyle  
Margaret Dawson  
Jimmy Rafferty  
Wyn Wright**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*