

# St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Solemnity of the Epiphany (A)

5th January 2020

## 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  
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**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](http://www.leighdeanery.co.uk)

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 2  
**Readings** Sunday – Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)  
Weekdays – After Epiphany

**Sunday** Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (A)

**Next Sunday** Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (A)



### 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

In today's Gospel we listen to Matthew's story of the magi, a group of pagan astrologers, who together manage to find the Christ-child and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As he writes his Gospel, towards the end of the First Century, Matthew is aware of the fact that much of Judaism has rejected Jesus as the Messiah whilst many others, especially those of a non-Jewish faith, have accepted him. This is reflected in the story when we see King Herod and the Jewish leaders united in their rejection of Jesus, while the pagan travellers from far away gather to worship the new born King. The star leads the wise men to Jerusalem first of all, where their inquiry causes confusion throughout the city. King Herod is particularly nervous. He is portrayed like Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus from Egypt. The Jewish historian Josephus tells us of the ancient legend surrounding Pharaoh: he was warned by astrologers that a liberator would be born who would lead the captive Hebrews to freedom. Pharaoh responded by ordering the massacre of new-born male children to ensure the liberator would never survive. However, the father of Moses was forewarned in a dream and Moses escaped at a very young age to become the great leader of Israel.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is the new Moses and the new Israel. King Herod is the second Pharaoh whose ruthlessness leads him to massacre innocent children – though Joseph is warned in a dream to flee with the mother and the child. The magi are seeking the King of the Jews, a title that was given to Herod by the Romans. He was ruler over all the Jewish territories for forty years and was merciless when his own security was threatened. In the Gospel story, King Herod wants to know where this new king is. But Matthew knows that neither the ruling families of Judea nor the chief priests and the teachers of the Law are interested in paying homage to Jesus. In the story of the Magi, Matthew shows what Paul declares in his letter: that pagans share the promise of Christ Jesus "through the Gospel". Jesus, who was given first to the Jews as their King, is now given to all people. He is the King of all nations.

When the wise men leave their gifts with Jesus they take away a treasure that surpasses anything they brought themselves. They take away the gift of knowing who Jesus is. They are enriched by their encounter with him. They can now enrich others with the truth of their own experience. They are a summary of all those who journey in hope to Jesus and find in him their heart's desire. The wise men do not stay in Judea; they do not build a monument to mark the place of discovery. They return to their own country: faith in Jesus is not limited to any geographical boundary, but is a gift to be shared with others. Our presence together numbers us among those who seek the face of the living God. We gather together each week to celebrate our faith in Jesus as Lord. At the end of each Eucharist we are "sent" to share with others what we have experienced in the Mass. We do not have to travel the same miles as the wise men to find Jesus. We find him in the Word, in the breaking of bread and in each other. Let us celebrate his presence in our lives and enrich the lives of others with the light that has been revealed to us.

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**Psalms Response**

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do the Lord homage.

## 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.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We wish you all a very Happy and Holy New Year.  
Let us pray that 2020 will be a good one for us all.



## 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:-

- **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 third theme, "How We Pray Together" 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 (Croxtheth 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)

## PARISH NEWS



### Feast of the Epiphany

In England, Scotland and Wales the Feast of the Epiphany has this year been transferred from 6th January to the adjacent **Sunday, 5th January 2019** i.e. **TODAY**.

### Exposition at St.Richard's Church

For the time being we will not be having Exposition in St.Richard's Church on Wednesday mornings. In recent months numbers attending have dropped quite a lot. Also, with the change in the structure of the Parish and the Deanery, there are a number of other things taking place on Wednesday mornings, especially in the different schools.

We will have Exposition again during Lent along with a similar time of evening prayer in different churches once a month. We will let you have more details about this as soon as possible.

### 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 Parish Forum

A reminder that the next meeting of the Parish Forum for St.John Rigby will take place on **Thursday January 23rd** in the meeting room, "The Gordon Room", at Sacred Heart Church in Hindley Green. All welcome.



### Sacred Heart Hindley Green - CAFOD Box

Over the year of 2019 you have generously put money in the CAFOD box at the back of Church. Over the Christmas period there have been booklets from CAFOD for World Gifts, so it was decided to spend some of that money with:

- a Home for Life £192,
- Marvellous Moo Cow £150,
- Pig that Provides £65,
- 4 Goats that Gives £112,
- and 4 School Starter Packs £100.

There is a poster in the porch thanking you for your generosity of £619.

### 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.

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

### Sacred Heart Hindley Green - Mass Intentions

People have asked about Masses which have not been said. Best efforts are made to accommodate when someone asks for a specific date. With there only being a Saturday Mass at weekend it's quite hard to fit these Masses in when people only want Saturday. Now the Christmas period is over there might be a better chance for these Masses to be said.

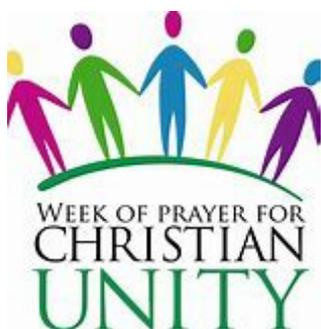
### St John Rigby Legion of Mary

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.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### 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.



### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Very soon in the New Year we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Churches Together In Atherton are organizing a special prayer service to mark the week. This will take place in St. Richard's Church on **Sunday January 19th** at 4.00pm. Please come along and join us in prayer.

### Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Centre

#### Quiz Nights - Every Thursday

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.



### Reflect

The Maji visited Jesus as a baby and in doing so we are shown that salvation is for all mankind. Whatever our path in life, wherever we live, whatever we do, whether we act for the good of others or live self-centered lives, caring only for ourselves - Jesus was born to redeem us all.

### Pray

Lord, open our eyes to the wonder of your love for us. May we recognise that you love us just as we are, O Lord, with all our faults and failures. Even when we fall you are there to pick us up and set us on the right path again.

### Act

Consider those who must travel from the home of their birth to find lives of safety and security. How can you show care and consideration to them?

### Challenge

It is crucial that mankind takes action to protect our planet this decade. Work out what your carbon footprint was for 2019 and take steps to reduce it by the end of 2020. Look at footprint.wwf.org.uk to find a footprint measure.

### LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

#### St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory £ tba

#### St John Rigby

Offertory £ tba

CAFOD Box (Sacred Heart, Hindley Green) £ tba

*Due to early newsletter deadlines during the holiday period the collections had not been counted in time for publication.*

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

#### Today

This weekend SHHG will have a retiring collection for the Crib. Some people have already put envelopes in the basket for this collection, which have been saved until this collection was taken. This is for Nugent Care.

Elsewhere, no second collection: **Crib Offerings & Food Bank Donations**

#### Next Week Monthly SVP Collection

### Newsletter Deadlines

Please send all St Margaret Clitherow parish items for the newsletter to the office at Holy Family or email [stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk)  
[www.boothstownholymfamily.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.boothstownholymfamily.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/>

### 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 5th January	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>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.30 am Evelyn Sheridan	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ronnie Butler  11.00 am Christine Coyne	(Sat) 6.30 pm Brian Tomkins  9.30 am Michael Herko	(Sat) 5.00 pm Thomas & Elizabeth Cooke	
	<b>MONDAY</b>					7.00 pm Derek Wilson
	<b>TUESDAY</b>			9.15 am Joan Clegg	9.15 am Elizabeth Kirwin	9.15 am Rita Benthom
	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.00 pm Paul Goggins			<i>No Exposition this week</i>	10.00 am In Thanksgiving (AV)
	<b>THURSDAY</b>	10.00 am John Sheridan			9.15 am Fred Rothwell	<i>No Service</i>
	<b>FRIDAY</b>	10.00 am Tony Hampson <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>				7.00 pm Winifred Sherlock <i>Confessions 7.30pm</i>
	<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Lloyd Hacker		(Sat) 6.00 pm Mary McHugh	(Sat) 6.30 pm Hilda Grundy	(Sat) 5.00 pm Margaret & Thomas Morris
	<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.30 am Peter Gavin		11.00 am Tony Williams	9.30 am The Donelan Family	

Bridie Phillips  
 Doreen Smith  
 Eileen McAlister  
 Eileen Watkinson  
 Elsie Byron  
 Jean Culkin  
 Jean Rafferty  
 Jedd Balmer  
 Joan Baines  
 Joan Cavey  
 John Atkins  
 Joyce Gorton  
 Leonard Sandelands  
 Martin Culkin  
 Maureen Blears  
 Michael Gallagher  
 Nora Smith  
 Robert Barron  
**+ Addition this week:**  
 Bernadette Boardman

**BAPTISM**

*We welcome into our family of Faith*

**Emmeline Royle**

*May God bless her & her family.*

 **LATELY DEAD**

*Please pray for those who have died recently:*

**Joan Doyle**

*Eternal rest grant unto her,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon her.  
May she 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  
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

**First Reading – Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7**  
 The prophet Isaiah offers a beautiful description of the Messiah, who comes to serve the cause of right and bring healing to all God's people.

**Second Reading – Acts 10:34-38**  
 St.Peter tells a Roman soldier, whom he baptized, how Jesus had gone about doing good and healing people.

**Gospel Reading – Matthew 3:13-17**  
 Jesus, at his baptism, receives the Holy Spirit and is proclaimed to be God's beloved Son.

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

Michael John Finan, Roy John Crompton, John Kelly, Winifred Sherlock, John Middlehurst, Mabel Wetherby, Martin Owens, Irene Rosbotham