

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

23rd February 2020

DEANERY TEAM

St John Rigby

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk
Deacon: Rev. Kenneth Holding
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St Edmund Arrowsmith

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St Margaret Clitherow

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Deacon: Rev. Robert Hewertson

St Catherine & All Saints & St Lewis

Priest: Fr Gordon Abbs
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Deacon: Rev. Derek Morris

Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
Weekdays - Ordinary Wk 7 / Lent

Sunday 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time(A)
Day for the Unemployed

Wednesday Ash Wednesday
Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Next Sunday First Sunday of Lent (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 our digital, computerized age, we may be accustomed to the verb "to configure". It means we have to arrange our new computer, or laptop, or smartphone according to a certain operating system, or network or platform. When we download a new application we have to configure it to our particular device. This configuration allows all the elements involved to run smoothly, to function well. This configuration also works well when we learn to excel at a particular sport, or craft, or any sort of work we take pride in. Carpenters, for example, have to spend many hours learning their trade, practicing their techniques, so they can produce useful and beautiful work. Teachers have to study and practice in order to become good communicators and administrators. Athletes have to practise to hone their technique in whatever discipline they perform in. All this is a sort of configuration: they are all adapting themselves to the task in hand, realizing their potential and trying to do their best. In a certain way they become the thing they are doing. They are configured to the task or job they dedicate themselves to.

In the Old Testament the Law and the liturgy were the ways that the people configured themselves to become part of God's story. The goal of their lives was to become holy, as God is holy. The Ten Commandments were the moral basis and the liturgy in the Temple the means of sharing in the holiness of God. Jesus restates this goal of being holy in his teaching, "You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect." In other words, we are called to be configured to the divine life, the eternal love that is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus also gives practical teaching about how to achieve this: love your enemies, pray for those who hurt you, break the vicious circle of violence by not fighting back. Our goodwill and our acts of love cannot be just for those we know and love but should embrace everyone, just as God creates and sustains all that there is. This can appear to be an impossible goal. With all the malice and violence in the world, how can we hope to achieve such perfection? Certainly, left to ourselves, it would be impossible. But God gives us the necessary help to configure us into the divine life. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explains that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. This is not just some pious image. It is the basic reality of our Christian life.

In order to be configured more completely to God's life we need to grow in friendship with God and allow the Holy Spirit to work within us. In the Sacrament of Confirmation we receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. If the virtues of faith, hope and charity are the operating system that configures us at a profound level to God, the Spirit's gifts are like applications that help us respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in specific areas of our lives. So to become perfect, to be configured more closely to God, to function in the best way in our life, we have the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We can ask for a greater awareness of the supernatural life which moves in us, and for a greater use of the Spirit's gifts. For this we need to be people of prayer. Receiving Jesus frequently in the Eucharist also strengthens the divine life within us, and helps us in turn to be configured more closely to the source of all life, the eternal, personal love, which is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Psalms Response: The Lord is compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation: If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
And my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

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

We are going to continue our response by looking at the Synod themes that have emerged from all the sharing:-

● Building Community, Nurturing Belonging

We will be focusing on this final theme in the next few weeks. So please take one of the leaflets and one of the prayer cards home with you. Please remember to return your responses to the final theme as soon as possible after the presentation at Mass (in St John Rigby parish).

You have the opportunity to submit your proposals as part of the parish by placing them in the box in church or, alternatively, online. Don't forget if you wish to forward your proposal online it's 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 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:

Thursday 27 February at St Joseph's, Wrightington [Unchanged].

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

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 items for the newsletter be sent to the office at Holy Family or the above email by Wednesday evening.

Coronavirus

Parishioners have asked what do we need to do in our parishes. Here are some guidelines as given by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales:

- Ask anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from taking communion from the Chalice and receive the host on the hand only. (We should be doing this anyway, every 'flu season.)
- Ensure Ministers of the Eucharist sanitise their hands before and after distributing communion. (We should be doing this anyway as a matter of course.) This can be done by washing hands discreetly before proceeding to the sanctuary or using good quality hand gel discreetly.
- There is no need, as things stand, for the Chalice to be withdrawn or the sign of peace suspended, such as was advised during the 2009 'flu pandemic. This advice would only come if we had a very serious epidemic in the UK and at the time of writing this is unlikely.



Reflect

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to reach out in love to all, even those who may be considered to be our enemy.

Pray

Teach me, O Lord, to love others as you love all people. To make time for those who are time poor; to see beyond the exterior armour to the inner person within; to nourish those who hunger both physically and spiritually. Show me your path, O Lord.

Act

Its easy to love members of our family or people close to us, but how do we love those whom we do not know, those who irritate us, those who disgust us? And yet Jesus calls us to love all we encounter, even those whom have been marginalized. It seems to be an impossible challenge, but it is in the act of striving that we can reach our goal.

Challenge

How's the recycling going? Did you know that Wigan came 68th in the 2018/19 overall performance league table for recycling? Even a small increase in effort from everybody could improve that result...

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 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.

LAST WEEK'S PARISH COLLECTIONS

St Margaret Clitherow

Offertory	£1,067.08
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes	£ 83.73
Survive Miva	£ 30.00

St John Rigby

Offertory	£1,233.12
Survive Miva	£ 335.70
CAFOD Box	£ 10.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

Church Action on Poverty

Church Action on Poverty is an ecumenical charity, based in Manchester, committed to tackling poverty in the United Kingdom. CAP works in partnership with churches and with people in poverty themselves to find solutions to poverty, locally, nationally and globally. Website: www.church-poverty.org.uk

Next Week

Monthly SVP Collection

'SVP' stands for 'St Vincent de Paul'. There is an SVP Group in most Catholic parishes whose sole purpose is to reach out to those who are struggling and in need in the community in which we live. The monthly SVP collection assists us in this ministry. Thank you for the support you give consistently throughout the year. It really does help to change lives.

PARISH NEWS



Ash Wednesday

Please note that we begin Lent this week as we receive ashes on Wednesday. Most of the Junior School children in the area will be receiving Ashes in school during special services, but Mass times for this side of the Deanery are as follows:-

- **9.15 am – St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley**
- **10.00 am – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green**
- **12.00 noon – St.Richard's, Atherton**
- **7.00 pm – Holy Family, Boothstown**

Ashes in schools: Sacred Heart Hindley Green 9.00am, St Ambrose 10.00am (after 9.15am Mass), St Gabriel's 11.00am, Holy Family 2.00pm, Sacred Heart Hindsford & St Richard's tbc. Parishioners are welcome.

Lenten Services

Every year we try to offer different devotions and services for people to attend so that together we can prepare for the great Feast of Easter. Please try your best to do something extra during Lent and make time for God and for more prayer.

Stations of the Cross:

- Tuesday at 7.00pm – St.Richard's, Atherton.
- Wednesday at **6.30pm, before Mass** (corrected time) – Holy Family, Boothstown.
- Friday at 6.30pm – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

- Wednesday at 9.00am – St.Richard's, Atherton.
- Wednesday at 6.30pm – Holy Family, Boothstown.

Early Morning Lenten Masses:

- Wednesday at 7.30am – St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley.
- Friday at **7.30am** (corrected time, as decided at Parish Forum Meeting) – Holy Family, Boothstown.

Lent "CAFÉ" Meetings at Sacred Heart

During Lent there will be a series of CAFÉ Meetings at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green. The meetings are designed to help us think about our faith during Lent and involve discussion groups, DVD presentations, and prayer. They will take place in the meeting room at Sacred Heart on the following Saturday afternoons at 2.00pm – **March 14th, March 21st, March 28th** – with the final session taking place on **Sunday April 3rd** at 2.00pm. Please try your best to come along if you can.

CAFOD Lenten Reflections

Once again this year we will be having our CAFOD Lenten Reflections. Each week we will look at a different theme, relating to the Gospel of the weekend and the writings of Pope Francis and use reflections provided by CAFOD from all the places throughout the world that they try to help. Please try your very best to join us every Wednesday during Lent in St.Richard's AFTER Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Lent Stations and Early Mass at Holy Family

Sign up sheets are at the back of church for anyone willing to lead Stations on a Wednesday, or read or minister at the early Friday Masses.

Lent Uplifted – Churches Together in Atherton

Churches Together In Atherton are organizing a series of gatherings in the different churches of the area to focus on Lent and on sharing our faith with each other. The gatherings, which will include reflections and prayers, will take place every Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm. More information regarding dates and venues next week.

CAFOD Family Fast Day

There will be a Family Fast Day on **Friday 6th March** for CAFOD. CAFOD Fast Day Envelopes are available at the back of church. The retiring collection will be after Masses on 7th/8th March.

40daysforlife Campaign

On Ash Wednesday another 40daysforlife campaign begins at Fallowfield abortion clinic. Anyone who wants more information can go online or call 07434113100.

PARISH NEWS

St Ambrose Barlow

The Pantomime "DICK WHITTINGTON"

The St Ambrose Barlow Players are happy to present this fairytale for your pleasure and enjoyment!!!

Performances: **Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th February at 7.30pm PLUS**

Saturday 29th February, Matinee at 2.30pm and Evening Show at 7.15pm

Tickets: Adults £6.00, Seniors £5.00 and Primary School Children £4.00
The GREATEST SHOW in town - Don't miss it!!!

Tickets are available by contacting Des on 07973 114365.

Ladies Group

The next Ladies Group meeting will take place on **Tuesday 3rd March** at 2.00pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Raffle: Doreen Henderson and Teresa Hayman.

RCIA

The next meeting for those preparing to become Catholics in St Margaret Clitherow parish is on **Wednesday 4th March** at 7.45pm after the evening Mass.

Over 60's Afternoon – 21st March 2020

Every year, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community welcomes persons over 60 years of age to an afternoon commencing with Mass at 2.00pm followed by a meal and entertainment. We can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities. We will, of course, extend our invitation to those who were invited last year. We do have a number of places available free this year. If you have not attended in the past please contact us to arrange invitations.

With the recent changes to Mass times we are welcoming many more people to the church so please make yourself known if you wish to attend this very enjoyable afternoon. Please contact Jackie B. (01942 516619), Steve (01942 876487) or Des (07973 114365) **before 10th March**. If we are oversubscribed, names will be drawn in a lottery and invitations then issued.

H.C.P.T.

St Margaret Clitherow have raised a wonderful amount of £780.00 for HCPT, exceeding all expectations. The total is from private donations and the raffle last Sunday. Any further donations are welcome this Sunday. Thank you for your kind generosity. Children will pray for our Parish in the grotto at Easter.

St John Rigby Parish Forum Meeting

The next meeting of the St.John Rigby Parish Forum will take place on Thursday **March 19th** at 7.00pm in the Parish House at St.Richard's, Atherton. All welcome.

Archdiocese Trip to Lourdes

Anyone interested in going to Lourdes with the Archdiocese, **24th - 31st July**, can book online at joewalstours.co.uk or call 0151 909 2871 for more information.

Parish Trip to Stratford

Tickets are for theatre trip to Stratford are now completely SOLD OUT. There are still three places on the coach for those who are not bothered about going to the theatre – if you do want one of these places then please leave your name and contact number for Fr.Paul at St.Richard's. We will share further details concerning transport and pick-up times and places after Easter. The cost for the coach will be £10 per person.

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Centre

Quiz Nights, Thursdays, doors open at 8.00pm for a 8.30pm start.

Friday & Sunday evening is Bingo Night, eyes down 9.00pm.

Function room available for Birthdays, Baptisms, Bereavements, meetings, Kids Parties etc. Ring: 07932 404556 or 01942 882464.

There will be a meeting at Sacred Heart parish centre on **Friday 28th Feb** for anyone concerned about **litter levels in Hindsford** and who'd consider getting involved in doing something about it; meet in the games room between 8 and 9.30pm.

Sacred Heart Hindley Green Club (Behind the Church)

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Function room available for hire.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick	Week Beginning 23rd February	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 Iyla Faith Baby Luke Bernard O'Donnell Bill Burke 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 Wall Mary Bird Mary Tiernan Maureen Halliday Maureen Kelly Michael Wright Rev Jim Melia Sandra Jones Shelagh Welsby Stephen Howell Terence Flanagan Terry Barlow Thelma Humble Theresa Stanley Thomas McLoughlin</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am Ernest & Ena Thompson	(Sat) 6.00 pm Deceased Family and Friends of McGrath Beresford Family 11.00 am Tony Bousfield	(Sat) 6.30 pm Joan Doyle 9.30 am Len Sandelands	(Sat) 5.00 pm Frank Ingram	
	MONDAY				7.00 pm Margaret Barlow (LD)	
	TUESDAY			9.15 am Adelina Polito	12noon Funeral Mass for Len Sandelands	9.15 am James Molyneux
	ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fast & Abstinence		7.00 pm Pat Morgan	9.15 am Sean Fanning	12noon Emma Newton	10.00 am Private Intention (AV)
	THURSDAY		10.00 am Margaret & George Baybutt		9.15 am Wedding Anniversary (A&J)	11.00 am Requiem Mass for Bridie Phillips
	FRIDAY		7.30 am Martin & Betty Neary 10.00 am Parishioners <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>			7.00 pm Golden Wedding Michael & Ann Gallagher <i>Confessions 7.30pm</i>
	SATURDAY		10.00 am Joyce Haywood	(Sat) 6.00 pm Kathleen Gilmartin	(Sat) 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury, Lily Connolly	(Sat) 5.00 pm Leonard Sandelands (LD)
	NEXT SUNDAY		9.30 am Evelyn Sheridan	11.00 am Yvonne Mellin	9.30 am Emma Newton	

Bernadette Boardman
 Eileen McAlister.
 Eileen Watkinson.
 Elsie Byron.
 Jean Culkin.
 Jean Rafferty.
 Jedd Balmer.
 Joan Baines.
 Joan Cavey.
 John Atkins.
 Joyce Gorton.
 Martin Culkin.
 Maureen Blears.
 Michael Gallagher.
 Nora Smith.

Padre Pio Prayer Group
 Rosary/Exposition is held every Saturday at 10.00 am at St. Ambrose Barlow 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 Susan Mines (07952822440) or any member of the Legion.


LATELY DEAD
Please pray for those who have died recently:

**Doreen Smith
 Leonard Sandelands
 Patricia Hughes
 Bridie Phillips**

*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 10.00 am Mass at Holy Family and after 6.00 pm Mass at St Ambrose & 6.30 pm Mass at St Richard's.

Friday Confessions, 7.30 pm at Sacred Heart, Hindley Green

Confession also available where possible by request / appointment.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND
First Sunday of Lent

First Reading – Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7
 Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God.

Second Reading – Romans 5:12-19
 By his obedience to God, Christ won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 4:1-11
 Jesus was tempted by the devil, but unlike Adam and Eve, he did not give in.

Anniversaries (*Sacred Heart, Hindley Green*)
 Michael Duffy, Thomas Cooke, Margaret Ellison, Lynn Marie Chapman, Dorothy Stevenson, Mary Jane Young.