

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

First Sunday of Lent (A)

1st March 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
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: lgcadmin@rcaolp.co.uk
Deacon: Rev. Derek Morris

Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Readings First Sunday of Lent (A)
Weekdays - Week 1, Lent

Sunday First Sunday of Lent (A)
Friday Women's World Day of Prayer
Lent Fast Day (CAFOD)
Next Sunday Second 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

The writer of the Book of Genesis tells us a profound truth about sin and its effects. Because of sin there is disunity everywhere. Nothing is as it was planned to be. It means that we cannot always be completely open with God or with each other. In the Genesis story, God has to come searching for Adam and Eve. So the first question of God in the Bible is the everlasting one: "Where are you?" And if salvation is a matter of being "found" by God, that question is the root of all biblical questions. When God finds Adam and Eve he expels them from the garden into the wasteland. The first human beings are the first refugees. Banished from the garden they must make do in a world where they will have to struggle for survival; a world where human relationships will be fragile; a world where fidelity to God's Word will always be a challenge. Genesis tells us that sin enters the world through disobedience to the Word of God. But there is a promise of salvation which leaves room for hope. As Paul tells us in the Second Reading, as sin entered the world through one man's disobedience, so salvation enters the world through one man's obedience. That one man is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus comes in the name of God himself. Like God in the Garden of Eden, he comes to look for those who have hidden themselves from God: "I have come to seek out and save the lost." Jesus is the one who comes seeking us out, calling us by name, knocking on the door, asking to be let in.

The Mission of Jesus is to save. Of all the verbs that describe what Jesus does, the verb "to save" is the most important. Saving is the verb of God. Jesus is the Saviour but his mission to save is not free from trial. He is tempted to abandon trust in his Father and go the way of power and prestige and public display. Before his mission gets under way the Gospel shows him in the wasteland facing a series of temptations, the same kind of temptations that the people of Israel faced in the desert. Jesus is seen to face temptation with the power of the Word of God to help him. He does not argue himself. He simply uses God's Word to defeat temptation. He lives by the Word of God and he feeds on that Word. Obedience to God's Word will take him through trial and temptation to the Cross itself, the great sign of our salvation. In Jesus' obedience to God's Word we are saved. At Easter we will celebrate the resurrection, the most important feast in the Christian year. As we begin Lent we are invited to let God find us where we are. He has the same question to ask each one of us: "Where are you?" During Lent this year let us take time to look at where we are in our lives and discover God's presence anew. We are challenged to make time to listen to his Word. We are invited to let him get close to who we are and how we are. Traditionally Lent is a time when we give up some things. Perhaps this year let us try to make that extra time for God and to listen to his Word. The Word comes to question who we are; it comes to support that kind of people we could be. So let's try to make extra time – perhaps five or ten minutes each day – to let God's Word transform us as it transformed Jesus. May it influence everything we do or say. Let the Word of God find us so that we can emerge from our hiding places into the peace of his everlasting presence.

Psalm Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

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 this Saturday at Sacred Heart Hindley Green).

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.

The **Synod Talks** on **9 March** and **20 April** will now be held at LACE (Croxtheth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA) [Moved from Liverpool Hope University].

The final **Reflective Evening** will be on **Wednesday 4 March** at Our Lady Help of Christians Portico (L34 2QT) [Moved from St Philomena's].

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.

St Ambrose Barlow

The Pantomime "DICK WHITTINGTON"

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

Last Performance: **Saturday 29th February 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.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

Rosary/Exposition is held every Saturday at 10.00 am at St. Ambrose Barlow Church.



Reflect

In today's Gospel, Jesus resists the temptations he is faced with by recognising that it is God alone whom we should worship.

Pray

Lord, there is temptation all around us. In the magazines we read, in the websites we visit, in the situations we find ourselves in, even in the work we do. Guide our steps, Lord, that we live our lives only according to your way. Give us the strength to be true to you. And when we do fall, help us to pick ourselves up and start again, knowing that your love for us is strong enough to overcome all evil.

Act

It is easy to follow the herd, to go with the flow, to take the easy way out. But this week, consider what is in the best interests of others, what it means to be a follower of Christ and follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit as he calls you to live a life centred in Christ.

Challenge

Litter – the amount of litter on our streets seems to be increasing all the time. Do your bit and take your litter home with you. You might like to take that extra step and take a bag with you when you go out to collect any litter you may come across. Don't forget to protect yourself by wearing gloves or using a litter picker.

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://stmmaryschs.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	£1,252.88
Church Action on Poverty	£ 77.47
Survive Miva	£ 5.00

St John Rigby

Offertory	£1,221.09
Church Action on Poverty	£ 151.50
CAFOD Box	£ 10.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

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.

Next Week

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

See the item on the CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day for details.

PARISH NEWS



Lenten Services

Every year during Lent 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 – Holy Family, Boothstown.
- Friday at 6.30pm, before Mass – Sacred Heart, Hindley Green.
- Friday at 7.00pm - St Ambrose Barlow

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

- Wednesday at 9.00am – St.Richard's, Atherton.
- Saturday after 10.00am Mass – Holy Family, Boothstown.

Early Morning Lenten Masses:

- Wednesday at 7.30am – St.Ambrose Barlow, Astley.
- Friday at 7.30am – Holy Family, Boothstown.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day

CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day on Friday 6 March is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for sixty years, is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please collect your Family Fast Day envelope this week (available at the back of church) and give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe - continue their vital work. Collections after Masses next weekend.

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.

Lenten Day Retreat

A Lenten Day Retreat has been organized by the people from Sacred Heart, Hindley Green. The Day Retreat will take place at Sacred Heart Church, on Swan Lane, Hindley Green on **Thursday March 19th**, the feast of St.Joseph, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. The cost for the day – which includes lunch – will be £6 per person. Please see the poster at the back of Church. If you would like to go then please contact Susan on 07952822440.

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 as follows:

- Sunday March 1st – St.Michael's Church.
- Sunday March 8th – Independent Methodist Church.
- Sunday March 15th – St.Richard's Church.
- Sunday 22nd March – St.Philip's Church.
- Sunday 29th March – Atherton Baptist Church.
- Sunday 5th April – Salvation Army Chapel.

PARISH NEWS

With You Always

St Margaret Clitherow: the next sessions for St Gabriel's and Holy Family will be: Tuesday 3rd March at 2.30pm in St Gabriel's School; Thursday 5th March at either 3.45pm or 6.00pm in Holy Family Church. **If any children missed the service for First Reconciliation in December they will receive this Sacrament after the session this week.**

St John Rigby: a reminder to all parents and children who are preparing for First Holy Communion that the first session at St.Richard's will take place this Wednesday, March 4th, at 5.30pm in St.Richard's Church. The first session will be about baptism and is entitled "Come to the Water". Please keep all the children in your prayers at this special time.

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.

Please pray for those from our area who are preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter.

The three candidates will celebrate the Rite of Election at the Cathedral this Sunday afternoon with the Archbishop.

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.

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.

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.

Easter Flowers at St Richard's

Names and donations for the Easter memorial at St Richard's may now be handed in to the flower ladies or posted through the letter box of the Presbytery. Closing date for inclusion of names in the list is Palm Sunday.

St Margaret Clitherow 200 CLUB - February winners

£100 won by Kevin Miles - number 64

£50 won by Maureen Simpson - number 133

Margaret Ross

Margaret's family would like to thank everyone who donated to Leigh and Wigan Hospice in Margaret's memory. The amount collected amounted to £1031 which has been passed on to the hospice.

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.

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.


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 1st March	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 + Additions this week Phil & Christine Costello</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am Evelyn Sheridan	(Sat) 6.00 pm Kathleen Gilmartin 11.00 am Yvonne Mellin	(Sat) 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury, Lily Connolly 9.30 am Emma Newton	(Sat) 5.00 pm Leonard Sandelands	
	MONDAY					7.00 pm Patricia Robinson
	TUESDAY			9.15 am John Burke	9.15 am Len Sandelands <i>7.00 pm – Stations of the Cross</i>	9.15 am Private Intention (V)
	WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm – Stations of the Cross	7.00 pm Laura Moss	7.30 am Christine Coyne	9.00-10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00 am – CAFOD Lenten Reflection	10.00 am Bridie & Tim Littler (sick)
	THURSDAY		10.00 am Deceased Members of the Furey Family		9.15 am Kevan, Greg & Sam	No Service
	FRIDAY	7.30 am George & Caroline Smallshaw <i>Mass in Church</i> 10.00 am Parishioners <i>Mass in St Gabriel's School</i>		7.00 pm – Stations of the Cross		6.15 pm – Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Tom & Lila Owens, Tom Owens Jnr. Bridie & Christy Donohue 7.30 pm Confessions
	SATURDAY	10.00 am Bob Sighe (Birthday) <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (during confessions after Mass)</i>		(Sat) 6.00 pm Karen McCaffrey	(Sat) 6.30 pm Austin Foy	(Sat) 5.00 pm Margaret Delaney
	NEXT SUNDAY		9.30 am Teresa Unsworth	11.00 am Private Intention	9.30 am Arthur Leggett	

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.

BAPTISMS
We welcome into our family of Faith:
Sadie Thomas
Shea Edwards Halliwell
Maisy Rose Brooks
May God bless them and their families.


LATELY DEAD
Please pray for those who have died recently:
Doreen Smith
Leonard Sandelands
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
Second Sunday of Lent
First Reading – Genesis 12:1-4
 Abraham is called by the Lord to leave his home and travel to a new land where he and his descendants will be blessed.
Second Reading – 2 Timothy 1:8-10
 St. Paul had to bear hardships for the sake of the Gospel, relying on the power of God. Are we willing to do the same?
Gospel Reading – Matthew 17:1-9
 Jesus is transfigured in heavenly glory, along with the prophets Moses and Elijah.

Anniversaries *(Sacred Heart, Hindley Green)*
 Peter Baldwin, Stan Simpson, Molly Hooton, David O'Halloran, Sean Grainey, John Flanagan.