

St Margaret Clitherow & St John Rigby

Parishes In Leigh Pastoral Area

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

15th March 2020

DEANERY TEAM



St John Rigby

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Deacon: Rev. Kenneth Holding
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Deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Third Sunday of Lent (A)
Weekdays - Week 3, Lent

Sunday Third Sunday of Lent (A)
Tuesday Feast of St Patrick
Thursday Solemnity of St Joseph
Next Sunday Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
Laetare Sunday / Mother's Day

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

One theme runs through all three of the readings this weekend. It is a very important and comforting theme. It is at the very heart of the Good News. The theme is "We are loved in our sins." We see this in the First Reading from the Book of Exodus. In spite of the ingratitude and grumblings of the people, God doesn't write them off or reject them. Instead he shows his love for them by providing water for them in the desert as they journey to the Promised Land. The same message is explicitly stated in the Second Reading when Paul writes, "What proves that God loves us is that Christ Jesus died for us while we were still sinners." And we see this message in action in the Gospel when Jesus approaches the woman at the well. Jesus' approach to the outcast woman was so very gentle. He didn't force himself into her life. Had he done so she may well have rejected any conversation with him. In fact, Jesus began from a position of weakness. He began with a request for a drink of water. In this way he disposed her to receive the gift he wanted to give her. His heart was already open to her. Now she opened her heart up to him. A wonderful dialogue and a marvellous exchange took place.

He treated her with great respect. Not a hint of judgement or condemnation. Right from the start he was looking into her heart, yet he did not make her feel bad. She didn't feel judged. Rather, she felt accepted and understood. No one ever paid such close and loving attention to her before. Jesus explained her life to her more sympathetically than she had ever been able to explain it to herself. Before she realized it, she had shared with him the whole story of her sad and confused life. Jesus was able to see into her secret being, into that part of her which longed for true love, which was pure and innocent, thirsting to be seen as a person and not as an object. She was a deeply wounded woman, wounded by a series of broken relationships.

As with the Samaritan woman, so with us, Jesus meets us where we are. He says to us what he said to the lost woman at the well: "If you only knew the gift God wants to give to you." We can at times find it very difficult to admit our poverty, weakness and sins. Hence we are then unable to receive the "gift of God" Jesus wishes to give us. God doesn't love us because we are trying to be perfect. He loves us and accepts us precisely because we are sinners. Only the person who has experienced this kind of love can truly know what it is. As we think about the woman at the well in the Gospel Reading this weekend, let us pray that we can be more like her in opening our hearts up to God and to all the gifts he wants to share with us.

Psalms Response: O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts.'

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

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.

CORONAVIRUS

Updated information from the Archbishop and Trustees of the Archdiocese - 10th March

- The sign of peace is to be suspended at Mass. In order not to create confusion in the minds of the lay faithful, all priests should simply omit any reference to the offering of the sign of peace, prior to the Agnus Dei.
- Holy Communion from the chalice shall cease to be offered to the lay faithful. The practice of intinction is not to be introduced as an alternative. Priest concelebrants however may receive communion by intinction.
- When giving communion in the hand seek to ensure you place the host in the hand of the recipient in such a way that you do not touch their hands.
- The faithful should be encouraged to receive the sacred host in the hand rather than on the tongue. Their doing this represents an act of loving charity to their community.
- Holy water stoups in churches and chapels are to be emptied.
- Churches and chapels that are open daily for private prayer should continue to remain open. Care should be given to ensuring that surfaces of high contact (e.g. light switches, door handles and areas around the door) are regularly sanitised throughout the day. Ideally door handles should be cleaned before and after every Mass.
- Priests/deacons should wash and sanitise their hands before Mass. All ministers should discreetly wash and sanitise their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. Shared towels should not be used in toilet areas or the sacristy.
- Shared hymnbooks and Mass books should cease to be used. Single-use Mass sheets may be used, though these should be disposed of immediately after use.
- Ask everyone attending Mass to sanitise their hands as they come into church using sanitised gel dispensers, assuming they are available. These should be placed in porches or entrances.
- Do not pass the collection plate around; alternative methods for the collection should be sought.
- Suspend catering (teas, coffees etc) at large parish gatherings where multiple people touch mugs, utensils, biscuits etc.
- Ask anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from attending liturgy or other public events and to not attend the sacrament of reconciliation if symptomatic. They may have an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach.
- Advise those most vulnerable to refrain from large parish gatherings and stay at home.



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.

Sun. 15th March 2pm. Sacred Heart Church Synod Meeting

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 the final **Synod 2020 Talk** on **20th April**, which will be held at LACE (Croxtheth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA).



Reflect

The Gospel reading about Jesus and the woman of Samaria reminds us that Redemption is for all and can be found in the most unexpected places, as long as we open our hearts to that possibility.

Pray

As the deer longs for running streams, so I long, so I long, so I long for you. A-thirst my soul for you the God who is my life! When shall I see, when shall I see, see the face of God?

As the deer longs for running streams, so I long, so I long, so I long for you. Echoes meet as deep is calling unto deep, over my head, all your mighty waters, sweeping over me.

As the deer longs for running streams, so I long, so I long, so I long for you. Ps 42/43 'As the Deer Longs' Bob Hurd lyrics

Act

This week, consider the ways in which you may satisfy the thirst of those who are seeking for the Truth in their lives.

Challenge

Water is essential for life and yet many people in the world do not have easy access to it, having to walk miles each day to find a clean source to meet their needs. Thankfully, organizations such as CAFOD make it easy for us to support such communities in their need. Consider purchasing a World Gift of Water for a Family at a cost of £33?

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.

Newsletters

Please note that digital versions of all the deanery newsletters are available for download from the front page of the deanery website: www.leighdeanery.co.uk

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	£1,168.49
CAFOD	£1,050.27
Lenten Alms	£ 10.20

St John Rigby

Offertory	£1,129.18
CAFOD	£ 756.87

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Today

HCPT

The Pilgrimage Trust is a UK based charity which takes children with special needs on pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter. Website: www.hcpt.org.uk

Sacred Heart Hindley Green: This weekend's retiring collection is for **Lenten Alms**. This is a traditional work of charity during Lent as we "give something up". The Bishop uses the money to provide for the poor and the needy. (Elsewhere, the Lenten Alms collection will be on 29th March.)

Next Week

Nugent Care

Nugent Care is one of the leading charities in the North West, caring for children, disabled and disadvantaged people of all ages. It fulfils a major social welfare role by acting as both service provider and major employer. The scale of work is immense and ranges from care homes to special schools, adoption services to volunteer work and community groups.

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.

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 Parish Centre on the following Saturday afternoons at 2.00pm – **March 21st, March 28th** – with the final session taking place on **Sunday April 5th** 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 15th – St.Richard's Church.
- Sunday 22nd March – St.Philip's Church.
- Sunday 29th March – Atherton Baptist Church.
- Sunday 5th April – Salvation Army Chapel.

Easter Weekend Service Times

An early notice concerning the times and venues for the celebration of the Lord's Passion and Masses over the Easter weekend:-

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday 9th March in St.Richard's Church & St.Ambrose Barlow Church at 7.30pm.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Friday 10th March in Holy Family Church & St.Richard's Church at 3.00pm.

The Easter Vigil

Saturday 11th March in St.Ambrose Barlow Church & Sacred Heart Church at 8.00pm.

Easter Morning Mass

Sunday 12th March in Sacred Heart Church, St.Richard's Church & Holy Family Church at 9.30am & St.Ambrose Barlow Church at 11.00am.

PARISH NEWS

St Margaret Clitherow SVP

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18th March** at 7.45pm in Holy Family after the 7.00pm Mass. This is for all members so please come along if you can.

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 - Postponed!

We have received further advice from the Archbishop's Office recommending the suspension of "catering" within the Parish setting where multiple people are involved with food preparation and serving. Also to avoid gatherings where people with a vulnerability to the Covid-19 virus are brought together.

In the light of this information with regret we have decided to postpone our "Over 60's" event for the present time and we will re-arrange this for later in the year.

RCIA

The next meeting for those preparing to become Catholics in St Margaret Clitherow parish is on **Wednesday 25th 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.

With You Always

A reminder to all parents and children who are preparing for First Holy Communion that the next session at St.Richard's will take place on **Wednesday, April 1st**, at 5.30pm in St.Richard's Church. This session is entitled "Following Jesus", as we consider how God calls us to follow his Son in a special way. Please keep all the children in your prayers at this special time.

Easter Flowers

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.

If you wish to add the name of a loved one to the list to be displayed in St. Ambrose or Holy Family church please fill in the form at the back of church and tick which church you would like the name to be added. Any money with these forms will be taken as offerings for floral decorations for Easter. If you wish to have Mass celebrated please give name and offering in an envelope marked 'Mass Intention'.

Easter Cards to Parishes in the Holy Land

Parishes in the Holy Land have commented on how supported they feel when they receive cards from our parishioners. A selection of cards, produced by the Carmelite Sisters, together with information sheets which include details of four parishes, is available in St Margaret Clitherow parish this week.

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, Wednesday 8th April

Please sign the list at the back of church if you wish to go on the coach asap. Time and places of pick up TBC.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2020

For those who have booked on the pilgrimage this year all remaining balances are now due. Please contact Teresa Thompson on 07780064502.

The Pilgrim Mass this year will be held at 9.00am on Easter Monday at St Richard's Church Atherton prior to departure for Walsingham.

Archdiocese Trip to Lourdes

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

Special Thanks

The family of our good friend Len Sandelands have been in touch to say thank-you to everyone for their prayers, cards and good wishes after Len passed away a few weeks ago. They especially want to thank everyone for the donations towards Cancer Research, in Len's memory, which raised £395. Thanks everyone.

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are Sick	Week Beginning 15th March	Holy Family	St. Ambrose Barlow	St. Richard's	Sacred Heart Hindley Green	
 <p>All Cancer Patients Anelyse Lewis Anne Broad 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 Jack & Doreen Travis 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 Phil & Christine Costello Rev Jim Melia Sandra Jones Shelagh Welsby Stephen Howell Terence Flanagan Terry Barlow Thelma Humble Theresa Stanley Thomas McLoughlin</p>	SUNDAY	9.30 am Amelia Webb	(Sat) 6.00 pm Anne Freeman 11.00 am Margaret Ross	(Sat) 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury 9.30 am Fred Rothwell, Les Corner	(Sat) 5.00 pm John & Maureen Blears (60 Yrs Wedding Anniversary)	
	MONDAY				7.00 pm Brendan Gormley	
	TUESDAY			9.15 am Sean Fanning, Alice & John Regan & family	9.15 am Austin Foy 12.00noon Funeral Service for Eric Selfe 7.00 pm – Stations of the Cross	9.15 am Joseph Reid
	WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm – Stations of the Cross 7.00 pm Bridie Philips		7.30 am Ray Hilton	9.00-10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00 am – CAFOD Lenten Reflection	10.00 am In Thanksgiving (V)
	THURSDAY		10.00 am Alice & Frank Giron – Conland		9.15 am Joseph Lyons	10.30 am till 3.30 pm Day Retreat
	FRIDAY	7.30 am Clara Brierley <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 Francis Rigby 7.30 pm Confessions
	SATURDAY		10.00 am David Smith <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (during confessions after Mass)</i>	(Sat) 6.00 pm Fr Rigby	(Sat) 6.30 pm Brian Tomkins, Maureen Fido	(Sat) 5.00 pm John, Dorothy & Marjorie Meakin
	NEXT SUNDAY		9.30 am Bridie Philips	11.00 am Yvonne Melling	9.30 am Len Sandelands, Aniela Koryl	

Bernadette Boardman
Eileen McAlister.
Eileen Watkinson.
Elsie Byron.
Jean Culkin.
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:

**Lily Jackson
Theo James Shepherd**

May God bless them and their families.

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.



LATELY DEAD

Please pray for those who have died recently:

Eric Selfe

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

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND
Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading – 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7
God chose David, the least of Jesse's sons, to be king of Israel. While people look at appearances, God looks at the heart.

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:8-14
Paul tells the people of Ephesus that now that Christ has enlightened them, they must adopt a lifestyle in keeping with their new state.

Gospel Reading – John 9:1-41
Jesus, the Light of the World, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually blind.

Anniversaries (*Sacred Heart, Hindley Green*)
Mary Frances Harrison, Magdalen Robinshaw, Ruth Price, Harry Holden, Robert Green, Geoffrey Harrison.