

# Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

10th March 2013



Serving  
the church  
communities of

**St. Ambrose  
Barlow  
Astley**

**St. Gabriel's  
Higher Folds**

**Holy Family  
Boothstown**

**St. Richard's  
Atherton**

**Sacred Heart  
Hindsford**

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.

## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

**Priest:** Fr. Paul Seddon  
**Tel:** 01942 883395  
**Email:** paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

**Priest:** Fr. Stephen Cooper  
**Tel:** 01942 673517  
**Email:** fathercooper@btconnect.com

**Priest:** Fr. Dave Heywood  
**Tel:** 0161 790 2390  
**Email:** frdave@virginmedia.com

**Priest:** Fr. Kieran O'Grady  
**Tel:** 01942 673517  
**Email:** shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

**Deacons:** Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 4  
**Sunday** Readings - 4th Sunday of Lent (C)  
**Weekdays** Readings - 4th Week of Lent  
**Today** **Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)**  
**Sunday** **Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)**



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Ghandi once told a story of how, when he was 15, he stole a little piece of gold from his brother. However, he felt so bad about it that he made up his mind to confess it to his father. He wrote out his sin on a piece of paper, asking for forgiveness and punishment, while promising never to steal again. At the time, his father was sick in bed. Ghandi handed him the note and sat by the bedside waiting for his judgement. He father sat up in bed and began to read the note. As he read it, tears came into his eyes. Ghandi himself also cried. Instead of getting angry and punishing him, the father hugged his repentant son, and that was the end of the matter. The experience of being completely loved while he was in sin had a very profound effect on Ghandi. He said, many years later, "Only the person who has experienced this kind of love can know what it is."

This is the kind of love the younger son experienced in today's Gospel. He was welcomed back home after all his exploits abroad, spending all his father's money. There is no question that he behaved badly. Yet when he came home, his father not only welcomed him, but held a banquet to celebrate his return. In the welcome of the younger son, Jesus shows God's attitude to repentant sinners. If we are sinners, then God loves us more NOT less.

The attitude of the older son towards his younger brother is a mirror-image of the attitude of the Pharisees to sinners. They would rather have seen a sinner damned than saved. Yet they were very religious people. But what is the use of religion if it does not make you more compassionate towards those who fall? If we find ourselves sympathising with the older brother, be careful, there may be some of the Pharisee in us!

All of us, to a greater or lesser extent, are similar to the younger son, for which of us can say that we have always been good or faithful to our promises to God? Have we ever been guilty of squandering God's gifts? Which of us would like to be treated by God according to strict justice? Do we not all need more mercy than justice? It is in and through our sins that we experience the goodness and mercy of God. If we never sinned, we'd never know his forgiveness. This is not an excuse for sinning, but it's good to know that this is how God receives and loves sinners. It must surely give us hope when we fall.

**Psalms Response**  
**Gospel Acclamation**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:  
'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you'.



## Prayer for the Election of a Pope

O God, eternal shepherd,  
who govern your flock with unfailing care,  
grant in your boundless fatherly love  
a pastor for your Church  
who will please you by his holiness  
and to us show watchful care.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## PARISH NEWS

### This Week

#### Ladies Meeting

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. New members always welcome. Tea rota: Mary Evans and Mary Sharples. Raffle rota: Angela Stevenson and Norma Quinn.

#### Scripture Group

The next meeting of the Scripture Group will be held on Thursday 14th March at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Church Hall Meeting Room. Our focus will be on the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 13 - 15. Please bring along a Bible. All welcome.



#### First Reconciliation

Celebration of Reconciliation for Holy Family pupils now in Year 7 at High School on Thursday 14th March at 6.30 pm in church.

#### News from St Mary's High School

This week we focus on Simon of Cyrene and the help he gave to Jesus. Students will be encouraged to think about the help they currently offer and could offer to people who are struggling. On Tuesday it is the annual "Let's Sing" at Robins Park, with young people from across Wigan getting involved. There are many students from St. Mary's and our feeder primary schools involved in this, and we wish them all the best of luck – and, most importantly, that they have fun! Thank you to all the staff who have put time and effort into helping all our young people prepare.

#### HCPT Appeal at St Richard's

Many thanks to everyone for supporting the Appeal for HCPT, the Pilgrimage Trust, last weekend. The appeal raised a wonderful £985 – more than enough to send a child to Lourdes at Easter. Thanks for your wonderful generosity and to the appeal team, especially Dan who had to speak at all the Masses.



Along with the "With You Always" programme, there will be a Celebration of Confirmation for all Year 4 children (or older) **who have already received their First Communion**. This celebration will take place on Tuesday May 14th hopefully in St. Richard's – this depends on numbers. All the children in the Catholic schools in the area will by now have received a letter of invitation along with a Confirmation Application Form. Please bring the forms back to school or church as soon as possible.

#### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2013

The Walsingham Pilgrimage is now FULLY booked. A £5 deposit is now required. Please write your name and your contact number on an envelope and post your deposit into the letter box at St. Richards as soon as you can. We will give you more details about the Pilgrimage nearer the time.

#### Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Drawn 24 February 2013

£200 - 1035, £50 - 640, £25 - 1078

£10 Winners - 395, 349, 574, 697

£5 Winners - 677, 654, 745, 951, 1073

Thank you for your continued support

#### CHILDREN'S LIT\_GY

What's missing? U R

The Children's Liturgy Group at St Ambrose Church would like to extend a big thank you to all those who have led and assisted over the past 15 years. Due to personal circumstances, a number of our catechists have had to drop out. We are at risk of the group folding. The group is an integral part of the community. If you are enthusiastic, community minded and willing to help - we need you. Contact Alison (01942 878019) or speak to Karen, Jane or Alison after 11.00 am Mass.

#### St Richard's 500 Club March Winners

|      |     |             |
|------|-----|-------------|
| £100 | 31  | B Brundrett |
| £50  | 414 | I Grundy    |
| £25  | 346 | M Baxter    |
| £15  | 170 | H Knotman   |
| £15  | 428 | M Ellams    |

#### Fairtrade Fortnight

25th February - 10th March 2013

For further information:

[www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



#### PARISH NOTES

##### Newsletter

Please ensure items for the newsletter are sent in by Wednesday morning.

##### Clergy Addresses

**Fr Paul Seddon**

St Richard's Presbytery, Mayfield Street, Atherton, Manchester M46 0AQ

**Fr Dave Heywood**

Holy Family Presbytery, 208 Chaddock Lane, Boothstown, Worsley, Manchester M28 1DN

##### Finance

The monies for the five church communities of the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow are now held in one account. So please make all cheques payable to **St Margaret Clitherow** (Please note the spelling of 'Clitherow'). Thank you.

##### Pastoral Area Website

[www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk](http://www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk)

##### Catholic School Websites

[www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk)

[www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk](http://www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk)

[www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk)



## LENT 2013

This Lent, we are marking the 50th Anniversary of CAFOD through various fundraising activities and liturgies.

### Wardrobe De-clutter Sale

Many thanks to all who supported the sale last Sunday. On the day, a magnificent £1077.66 was made for CAFOD. A special thank you to the Youth SVP for all their help during the sale and to all who helped before, during and after the event.

### CAFOD's Stations of the Cross

The Youth SVP will lead a set of Stations of the Cross from CAFOD on Friday 15th March at 7.00 pm at Holy Family.

### CAFOD Coffee Morning

There will be a Bring & Buy Coffee Morning in St. Richards Parish Centre on Thursday March 21st to raise funds for CAFOD. The Coffee Morning will begin about 10.00 am until lunchtime. Tickets, priced at £2, include a drink and a cake. If you would like to help, then please phone 874928 or 884893. *Please note:* during Lent, the proceeds from the Sunday Coffee Mornings at St. Richard's will also go to CAFOD.

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

### St Richard's Easter Flowers

If you wish to have the names of your loved ones displayed amongst the flowers in St. Richard's Church this Easter, then please write their names on an envelope and post it through the letter box at St. Richard's as soon as you can. Closing date is Palm Sunday. A donation towards the cost of flowers would be most appreciated.

### St Gabriel's & Holy Family Easter Flowers

A number of people have said that they prefer to buy flowers for the church in memory of their loved ones who have died, rather than buying flowers to leave at a cemetery. So, if you would like to make an offering towards the Easter Flowers in memory of loved ones who have died, please complete one of the forms at the back of church and hand it in at the Presbytery or sacristy with your offering. All the names will be displayed in church throughout the Easter Season.

### Easter Triduum Lists

Those who will be attending the Easter Triduum at St Ambrose Barlow, St Gabriel's and Holy Family are invited to sign the lists at the back of church for the celebrations on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please have a look at the lists and see if you could help in some way. Many thanks.

### Chrism Mass

If you would like a place on the coach going to the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral on Wednesday 27th March at 7.30 pm, please sign the list at the back of church. The coach will be leaving around 5.45 pm.



Paolo Dale (from Holy Family) will be taking part in this year's London Marathon on 21st April. He is raising funds for Breast Cancer Care and would be most grateful if you would consider sponsoring him. Paolo has created a web page:

[www.justgiving.com/Paolo-Dale](http://www.justgiving.com/Paolo-Dale)



### Early Morning Masses

#### Wednesdays

7.30 am at St Ambrose Barlow

#### Fridays

6.30 am at Holy Family

### Stations of the Cross

#### Fridays at 7.00 pm

St Richard's, St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family

#### Saturdays at 5.30 pm

St Gabriel's

### Taize Prayer

Thursday 14th March at 7.30 pm

St Richard's

### Services of Reconciliation

Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm

Holy Family, Boothstown

### "Confessathon"

(Individual Confession)

Saturday 16th March at St Joseph's

10.00 am - 2.30 pm

(except during Mass at 12.00 noon)

### Churches Together Lenten Talks

Each week during Lent, Christians from the different churches in Atherton are gathering together for Lenten Talks in the Salvation Army Chapel, George Street, Atherton, at 7.30 pm. Please come along and join us in prayer.



### Holy Family Car Park

There will be roadworks taking place on Chaddock Lane which will severely restrict access to Holy Family car park this coming Friday, 15th March, 10.00 am - 12.30 pm.

## LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Holy Family                    | £ 843.91        |
| St Ambrose Barlow              | £ 256.19        |
| St Gabriel's                   | £ 185.27        |
| St Richard's & Sacred Heart    | £ 685.35        |
| <b>Total Parish Collection</b> | <b>£1970.72</b> |

## SECOND COLLECTION

### Lenten Alms

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| St Ambrose Barlow           | £ 52.58  |
| St Richard's & Sacred Heart | £ 125.47 |

### Annual Mission Appeal

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Holy Family  | £ 415.72 |
| St Gabriel's | £ 227.93 |

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

