

# Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

The Ascension of the Lord (C)

12th May 2013



## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

<b>Priest:</b> Fr. Paul Seddon	<b>Priest:</b> Fr. Dave Heywood
<b>Tel:</b> 01942 883395	<b>Tel:</b> 0161 790 2390
<b>Email:</b> paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk	<b>Email:</b> frdave@virginmedia.com
<b>Priest:</b> Fr. Stephen Cooper	<b>Priest:</b> Fr. Kieran O'Grady
<b>Tel:</b> 01942 673517	<b>Tel:</b> 01942 673517
<b>Email:</b> fathercooper@btconnect.com	<b>Email:</b> shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

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

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

<b>Psalter</b>	Week 3
<b>Sunday</b>	Readings - The Ascension of the Lord (C)
<b>Weekdays</b>	Readings - 7th Week of Easter
<b>Today</b>	<b>The Ascension of the Lord (C)</b> <i>(World Communications Day)</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday (C)</b>



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's feast of the Ascension marks God's closeness to us, not, as one might think, God's leaving us. Jesus seemed to leave the world on the day he died, and his disciples were devastated. They felt that the adventure was over, and this cruel world had done its worst. But the day of the resurrection tells us that God lives, and because God lives, we too shall live with God. For many days, Jesus appeared to his friends so that they would know for sure that he is truly risen, and so that they would be witnesses to the resurrection. Jesus also wanted to teach his followers the meaning of his life, and why everything happened the way it did. This way of life will now become the pattern of the disciples' own lives. It is the way of the crucified and risen Lord of life. As God lives and loves us all, so we are called to live with and love one another. This may sometimes involve suffering, as we come face to face with our own weaknesses, and when we encounter the world's sorrows and sins. The way of life that Jesus has shown us is a conversion of our hearts to God, so that forgiveness may come our way and so that, by going there before us, Jesus makes a pathway for us to God the Father.

When Jesus was lifted up from the earth at his ascension, he did not go into some far away part of the sky. He went to "sit at God's right hand". And so, through Jesus, God is close to us always. So too is Jesus himself: "I am with you always, until the end of time." At the moment of his ascension, Jesus promised to send his Spirit to dwell within us, to strengthen us and to be our guide. Jesus left his disciples in one form in order to return in another. He has not left us as orphans, as the song declares. The disciples continue to look up into the sky until they had to be reminded not to look skywards anymore. It is the same message as on the day of the resurrection itself: "Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?" They went back to Jerusalem, not sad at heart but rejoicing. Jesus is alive, and the Spirit will come to them. The Lord is faithful to his promises. So what do we do now? The writer of the letter to the Hebrews has good advice: "Let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful."

### Psalm Response

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

### Gospel Acclamation

Go, make disciples of all the nations;  
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Today is World Communications Day. The day is about highlighting the way the Church uses the media to proclaim the Gospel. There will be a Second Collection to support the Catholic Communications Network, which is the Church's media office in the UK. Please pick up a prayer card from the back of church, and perhaps look at the website: [www.catholicnews.org.uk](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)

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.

## PARISH NEWS

### This Week

#### Save a life - give blood

Today (Sunday): 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 4.00 pm at the Novotel, Worsley.

#### Youth SVP Holy Hike

The Youth SVP will be undertaking a 'Holy Hike' around the Parish today to raise funds for the Macmillan nurses. The young people will walk from St Richard's to Sacred Heart, St Gabriel's, St Ambrose Barlow and finally to Holy Family, which will take approximately 3 hours. At each church, they will pray a decade of the rosary for the Macmillan nurses and all whom they serve. If you would like to sponsor them, there are sponsorship forms at the back of church. If you would like to join them on the walk, they will be leaving St Richard's at 2.00 pm.

#### Guide News

St Ambrose Barlow Guides are holding an Indoor Car Boot Sale on Saturday 18th May, 9.00 am - 2:00 pm. There will be refreshments available, bric a brac, Guide Dogs for the Blind, books, cards and more. To book a table, ring Bernadette on 01942 895333. Come along for a cuppa and to support our Guide unit. Many thanks, Delia and Bernadette.

#### Morecambe Bay Walk

On May 18th a group of us are doing a walk across Morecambe Bay for the Uganda charity, 'Improving Chances'. Please see the link below if you're interested and can give us a small donation. If not, no problem, just think about us! Thanks in advance, Helen Jameson. To find out more about what I'm doing and why, please visit the website where you can also sponsor me: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/halliwellhealth](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/halliwellhealth)

#### Fundraising for Meningitis

There will be a special "70s & 80s" Night in aid of the Meningitis Trust at the Leigh Lancastrian Squash Club on Saturday 18th May. The evening, which includes two great female artists and a hot pot supper, will raise much needed funds for Meningitis in memory of Corby, a young boy from St. Ambrose Barlow School, who sadly passed away last year. Tickets are available from the Squash Club itself.

#### Animals in Distress

If you have any old blankets or towels that you don't need, the rescue charity, "Animals in Distress", could make good use of them. Please leave them at Holy Family. Many thanks.



#### Songs of Praise

Songs of Praise at St Ambrose Barlow Church at 3.00 pm next Sunday. All are welcome. Our Ecumenical partners will be leaving Astley Independent Methodist Church at 2.20 pm and meeting up with members of St Stephen's at around 2.30 pm and then walking to St Ambrose Barlow Church - as a 'Walk of Witness'. Please feel free to join in at any of those points. After the service, there will be refreshments provided in the Parish Hall.

#### Churches Together in Boothstown

Fr Dave invites you to a Unity Service which he will lead in St John's, Mosley Common, on Pentecost Sunday (19th May) at the earlier time of 4.00 pm. The service will last about 35 minutes and will explore the symbols of the Baptism we share with all Christians.

### News from St Mary's High School

This week, we will focus on Our Lady, and it is a timely week to launch our trip to Lourdes next Easter 2014. This trip will be open to students who are currently in Year 9 or above. Information will be given in assemblies and at a meeting on Friday, but any students who would like more information are encouraged to speak to the Chaplain, Emma. Br. John will be celebrating with a number of students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this week - the congratulations and prayers of all the staff go with them.



#### St Ambrose Church and Hall Cleaning

The old rota for church cleaning has not been in operation for some time now. In order to keep St Ambrose Barlow Church looking spic-and-span, we need a new rota to clean the church once a month and to do a "deep clean" twice a year - probably before the great feasts of Christmas and Easter. The Parish Hall is tidied and cleaned each week - but there is a need for a more in depth clean - which could be included in the same rota as the church cleaning if we can get enough volunteers. If you would be prepared to give up a couple of hours of your time once a month, please see Steve, Des or Delia after any Sunday Mass. Or you can ring Steve on 876487. Thank you.

#### Temporary KS 1 Class Teacher

Required for 12 months from September 2013 at Holy Family RC School, Boothstown. Applications are welcome from NQT's. For further details and an application pack, please contact the school office on 0161 790 2123 or email: [enquiries@admin.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk) Closing date: Thursday 16th May 2013 at 12.00 noon. Interviews: Wednesday 22nd May 2013.

## 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)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### *Justice & Peace Commission*

Annual Assembly on Saturday 25th May, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA. Main Speaker: Sir Bert Massie CBE 'Coping with the Cuts'. Workshops, stalls and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Steve or Maria on 0151 522 1080/1 or [s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk)

### *Emmaus Group*

We would like to invite those who have recently been received into the Church to a meeting of the new "Emmaus Group". The Emmaus Group – named after the story of the disciples who recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread – will hopefully give us the opportunity to keep in touch and to continue to grow in faith together. We will hold an initial meeting in the Parish House at St. Richards on Thursday June 6th at 7.00 pm. If the group works out, we will hopefully open it up to others who may be interested in joining us.

### *Northern Catholic Conference*

7th - 9th June 2013 at Hope University in Liverpool. The weekend will include wonderful speakers, great fellowship and good food; Mass each day, devotions, Marian procession together with healing and reconciliation services. For full details, please check out the website: [www.northerncatholic.co.uk](http://www.northerncatholic.co.uk)

### *"Bang and Boogie" Night*

Friends of Sacred Heart School, Hindsford, are organising a "Bang and Boogie" Night on June 15th in St. Richard's Parish Centre. Tickets are £10 and are available through the school or from Liz Rawson.

### *'Celebrate the Child'*

The annual Archdiocesan Children's Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Sunday 30th June at 2.30 pm. Children, their families, catechists, teachers and all who work with children are warmly invited to attend. Fr Dave is thinking of taking a coach and will put a sign-up sheet at the back of churches shortly. If you would like to take an active part in the Mass, please email: [celebratethechild@tesco.net](mailto:celebratethechild@tesco.net)

## THANK YOU

### *Marie Curie Swimathon*

Kevan Rushton completed his sponsored swim on 21st April, swimming 2,500 metres (100 lengths) in 1 hour 49 minutes. He will be in St Ambrose Hall on Sunday 19th May to collect any sponsorship pledges. He wishes to thank all those who have sponsored or contributed in any way.

### *Donation*

Lancashire South County donated £50 to the parish for the use of St Ambrose Barlow's Bouncy Castle last summer. Many thanks.

### *Thank You*

Jean Neary and family would like to thank family and friends for their cards, gifts and donations received on her 90th Birthday. A cheque has been sent to HCPT which will enable a child visit Lourdes next Easter.

### *St Ambrose Barlow 200 Club*

Congratulations to the following - who won cash prizes at the Cabaret evening on 26th April: £1000 Betty Copping, £100 Catherine Aspinall, £50 Thirza Gough, £25 Eileen Gibson, £25 Susan Gaskell. Thank you to agents and everybody who joined this year's 200 Club and to all who helped on the night. The next 200 Club will be arranged towards the end of the year.

## CONFIRMATIONS



**Tuesday 14th May at 7.00 pm**

*St Richard's, Atherton*

**Thursday 16th May at 7.00 pm**

*St Ambrose Barlow*

Those preparing for Confirmation are asked to let Fr Paul know which night they wish to attend.

## "WITH YOU ALWAYS"



***St Gabriel's, Higher Folds***

**Rehearsal for Parents & Children**

Group 2: Thursday 16 May at 3.15 pm

**Celebration of Confirmation & First Communion**

Group 2: Saturday 18 May at 6.00 pm

***Holy Family, Boothstown***

**Rehearsal for Parents & Children**

Group 1: Thursday 16 May at 6.30 pm

Group 2: Thursday 23 May at 6.30 pm

Group 3: Thursday 30 May at 6.30 pm

**Celebration of Confirmation & First Communion**

Group 1: Sunday 19 May at 11.00 am

Group 2: Sunday 26 May at 11.00 am

Group 3: Sunday 2 June at 11.00 am



## LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 682.00
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 320.00
St Gabriel's	£ 164.50
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 661.55
<b>Total Parish Collection</b>	<b>£1828.05</b>

## SECOND COLLECTION CHICKS

Holy Family	£ 159.01
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 76.85
St Gabriel's	£ 65.08
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 162.73

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

# PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 12th May 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Barbara Johnston 11.00 am Neil Doherty 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Judy Twomey	(Sat) 6.00 pm Frances Blake	(Sat) 6.00 pm Hellen Bennett 9.30 am Rex Baxter 6.30 pm Rose Lewis
<b>MONDAY</b>	<i>12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh</i>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Roy Galbraith 7.00 pm Prayer Group		9.15 am Eileen Higham 7.00 pm Confirmation Service
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Chrissie Power	9.00 am Service with Year 9		Exposition 9.00 - 10.00 am
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10.00 am Thomas Taylor	7.00 pm Confirmation Service		11.00 am Funeral Mass for Margaret Rogers
<b>FRIDAY</b>			10.00 am Barbara Johnston	9.15 am Mary & Martin Furey
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Carmel McCauley 1.30 pm Wedding Service <i>Angela Cody &amp; Ray Ormes</i>		6.00 pm John Raines	6.00 pm Lilian Welby
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Kevin Murray 11.00 am Thanksgiving 12.30 pm Baptisms 4.00 pm Unity Service <i>(St John's, Mosley Common)</i>	11.00 am Kathleen Whelan		9.30 am Mary Charlton  6.30 pm The Hogg Family

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**This Saturday**

10.30 - 11.00 am at Holy Family  
After 6.00 pm Mass at St Richard's  
(or by appointment with one of the priests)

## BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church  
through the celebration of Baptism:

Lily Catherine King, Betsy Kate Wilkinson,  
Hope Elizabeth Stones, Lewis Jonathan Boote,  
Evie Marie Lee, Ruby Markland,  
Bethany Grace Sixsmith & Elisha Jane Collier  
And to those who were received into the Church:  
Samantha Jane Wright, Sian Reane Buckley  
& Alana Marie Alice Smith  
*May God bless them and their families*

## LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

**Margaret Rogers**

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad  
Teresa Cooney  
Maureen Warren  
Margaret Langan  
Gillian Best

Joan Clegg  
Norah Atkinson  
Margaret Dixon  
Alan West  
Mary Hall

## SECOND COLLECTION

**Today**

**Next Week**

World Communications Day  
SVP (St Vincent de Paul)

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**Pentecost Sunday (C)**

**First Reading**

*Acts 2:1-11*

Luke describes the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles,  
and the effect it had on them.

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13*

The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people, for the  
good of the Church, the Body of Christ.

**Gospel Reading**

*John 20:19-23*

The Risen Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples  
and establishes the mission of the Church.

## MISSIO RED MISSION BOXES

The latest collection from the mission boxes at Holy Family  
amounted to £987.42. Sincere thanks to all concerned. As  
always, your efforts are very much appreciated. If any tax  
paying box holders would like to gift aid their contributions,  
please phone Ann Callan on 0161 799 5799. This just involves  
signing a single form and all your contributions will be worth  
even more to the missions. Many thanks.