

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

The Baptism of the Lord (C)

13th January 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 1
Sunday Readings - The Baptism of the Lord
Weekdays Readings - Year 1, Week 1
Today **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C)**
And the last day of the Christmas Season
Monday St. Kentigern (Patron of the Archdiocese)
Thursday St. Anthony, Abbot
Friday **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**
Sunday **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)**
(Day of Prayer for Peace)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we encounter the adult Jesus for the first time in this Christmas season. The babe at Bethlehem is now a grown adult standing by the Jordan River ready to commit his life at his baptism. He joins the movement of John the Baptist. John offers the people of Israel a ritual by which they can make a break from corrupt society. But why does Jesus submit to baptism? Jesus decides to identify himself with Israel and all its failings, and through baptism he shares a solidarity with his people which will reach its climax when he submits himself to death on the Cross. As he prays after his baptism, the heavens open and Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit; and then the Father acknowledges him as his beloved Son and the servant who will bring justice to the nations. Jesus will now reveal the life of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - as he lives it out in his ministry. He will, however, be severely tested by the forces of evil as he proclaims the Kingdom of God. It will ultimately lead to his death on the Cross. Yet his death is not a defeat. His resurrection illustrates the very central message of our faith in Jesus: that life comes out of death. We grow only by taking the risk of trusting in God. The Risen Jesus will offer his disciples a share in his risen life, but it will be through baptism. The Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them and they in turn will begin to baptise those who believe. It is not enough to just have faith in Jesus and remain unattached. Their faith will only mature if they are baptised into Christ and become part of his Body, the Church, which enables them to share in the community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate this weekend, is a good opportunity for all of us to reflect on our own baptism. Do we sometimes behave as though we have remained with Jesus in the manger, allowing our faith to remain childish? Or have we allowed it to grow into an adult faith, which makes us ready to make a deeper commitment as Jesus did at his baptism? Many people today prefer to remain unattached. Yes, they may say, I do believe in Jesus, but I don't want to get too involved with the family of God's Church. Perhaps our own baptism took place, like the majority of Catholics, when we were babies, and maybe our faith has remained at that infant stage, without the time and the nourishment that it needs to grow. One of the best times to deepen our faith is when we have to think about the baptism of our own children or when we are asked to be godparents. We are faced with new responsibilities, which can help us make our faith more mature. We can take time to study and understand it, as we would with any other serious commitment. This feast of the Lord's Baptism is an invitation to take the plunge into the baptismal waters with Jesus. It is an invitation to grow in our faith and allow the love of God to grow stronger in our hearts as we face a New Year. As baptised people, we are invited today to share in the community of love which IS Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Psalm Response
Gospel Acclamation

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.

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

Family Quiz Night

There will be a Family Quiz Night in St Ambrose Barlow Hall on Friday 18th January from 7.00 pm - with questions designed to test the knowledge of all age groups. Tickets are £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket (includes home made hot pot supper). Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring your own alcoholic and soft drinks. There will be a prize for the winning team and all proceeds will go to offset the cost of the ecumenical Christmas cards that are distributed around the Astley area by Astley Churches Together. Tickets available after the 11.00 o'clock Mass on Sunday - or phone Steve on 876487.

Burns Night Supper

Come along and join us in a traditional evening to celebrate the great poet, Robert Burns, on Saturday 19th January. The Haggis will be piped in at 8.00 pm. Haggis, neeps and tatties supper served with a "wee tot". A great night - £6 per person. Bring your own drinks. Venue - St Ambrose Barlow Hall. Contact Des: 01942 876050.

Sing & Swing Concert

Saturday 19th January at Lowton Civic Hall, Hesketh Meadow Lane, Lowton WA3 2AH in aid of HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust. Performances by Cheshire Chord Company - the current national ladies barbershop champions and European silver medallists - and a nine piece swing band. 7.00 pm for 7.30 start. Tickets £8 or £5 for concessions - turn up on the night or ring Aileen on 07580 832800 / 01942 870029.

Churches Together in Boothstown

There will be two opportunities for Churches Together in Boothstown to gather in prayer for this year's Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity:

Sunday 20th January at 6.00 pm

Unity Service at Holy Family, Boothstown

Tuesday 22nd January at 7.00 pm

Compline at St John's, Mosley Common

News from St Mary's High School

We welcomed staff and students back from a well-earned Christmas break last week, and have got straight back into things. Many of our year 10 and 11 students have modular exams over the next few weeks, and our Sixth Form have important exams too. Please hold them in your prayers as they revise for and sit these exams. The 'theme of the week' this week is the Baptism of the Lord, though our focus on Holocaust Memorial Day will begin the week, culminating in a service next Friday. All are welcome to attend, details will follow next week. Two Sixth Form students have taken the lead on this, following their trip to Auschwitz last year.

St Richard's 500 Club January Winners

£100	362	F Balmer
£50	318	C J Keegan
£25	156	A J Wilson
£15	161	M Longworth
£15	90	K Walsh

Thank you for your continued support

New members required.

Please phone 874928 for details.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Join us to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 25th January at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Wigan Town Hall, or at 1.30 pm in The Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Leigh Civic Square.

Over 60's Afternoon March 16th 2013

Traditionally, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community has welcomed persons over 60 years of age to Mass, a meal and entertainment in March. Sadly, we can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities.

We are now inviting **those who wish to attend to make your intention clear** so we can issue the invitations, subject to numbers. As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, owing to a change in circumstances, plus those who help out at our community events on a regular basis.

If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Delia (07753 929476) or Steve (01942 876487) before February 10th, who will pass your request on to the organisers. Invitations will then be issued according to the above criteria and subject to numbers. If we find that we are over subscribed, then the later names will be placed in a draw for selection, but we will try to fit in as many people as possible and hopefully no-one will be disappointed!

St Martin Apostolate

St Martin Apostolate invite you to visit their Trade Show at St Edward's RC Church Hall, Thurlo Street, Rusholme, Manchester M14 5SG, on Tuesday to Thursday, 22nd - 24th January, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm.

Youth SVP

Meetings resume this Monday, 14th January, 6.30 - 7.30 pm at Holy Family. All young people in Years 8-13 at High School are welcome. Contact Fr Dave for further details.

Parish Forum

The next meeting of St Margaret Clitherow's Parish Forum takes place at St Richard's this Thursday, 17th January, at 7.30 pm. All parishioners are most welcome. Minutes of the last meeting are available at the back of churches.

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

Catholic School Websites

www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk

www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk

www.boothstownhollyfamily.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk

www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk

www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS



In a letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Kelly has announced his intention to retire and, in accordance with the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church, has offered his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI.

The Archbishop continues to make good progress following the slight stroke he suffered early last month and begins his letter by thanking people for their prayers and good wishes. He says: 'Thank you for all the prayers and messages I have received in the past few weeks; they have been deeply moving and much appreciated'. The Archbishop continues by saying that he is returning to Liverpool to continue his convalescence but there is no question of his thereupon resuming pastoral engagements.

Archbishop Kelly concludes by saying: 'Indeed, although the recovery has gone well, I have decided that I must offer to the Holy Father my resignation as Archbishop of Liverpool. It rests with the Holy Father to respond to the request I have put before him. Until he does so pastoral responsibility for the Archdiocese remains with me'.

Note: Under the Code of Canon Law, a Bishop has to submit his resignation to the Holy Father at the age of 75. Archbishop Kelly will be 75 on 23rd November this year.



Be a Chorister for a Day

Are you a boy in year 3-5? Do you enjoy singing and working hard in a team? If so, you are invited to come and meet the choristers at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool and sing in the largest Catholic church in the country for a day! We are holding a 'Be a Chorister for a Day' event for the very first time on Sunday 3rd February from 10.30-16.00. Come and find out more about being a chorister and have fun playing, singing, eating and exploring. Application forms and further information are available on the Cathedral website: www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk or by contacting the music office music@metcathedral.org.uk / 0151 708 7283. Places are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. A similar event for girls will take place in June.

Crossing the Threshold

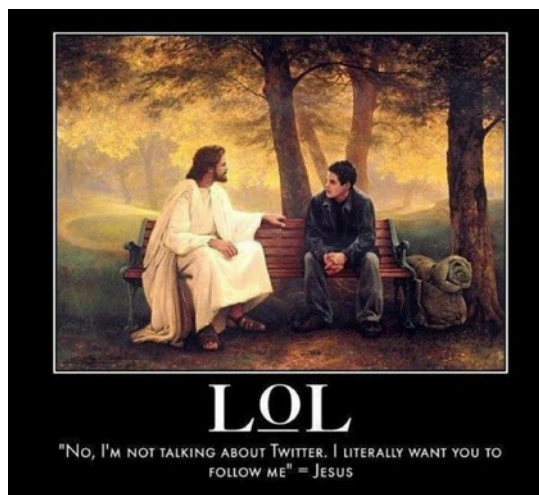
A free resource day to support ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing Catholics at St Mary's Catholic Church in Leyland on 2nd February 2013. The day will run from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, with tea and coffee served from 9.30 am. Bishop Michael Campbell OSA (Lancaster) will give the main talk and Bishop Terence Brain (Salford) will also be in attendance. The programme includes Mass, talks, workshops, sharing time, stalls and much more. The event is primarily being offered for people in the Liverpool, Salford and Lancaster dioceses, but others from further afield are very welcome. To register your place and to find out more, please email your name to mission.volunteer@cbcew.org.uk or telephone the Home Mission Desk on 0207 901 4818. For further information, please see noticeboards and brochures at the back of churches.

Caretaker

Caretaker wanted for the Cathedral Complex, Chapel Street, Salford. Salary: £16,000 pa. 35 hrs per week (excluding breaks). Flexible working required, including some evening and weekend working. Closing date for applications: 18th January 2013. For application pack and further details: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk - click on 'Job Vacancies' (left hand side) and then on 'Posts around the diocese'.

Catholic Parliamentary & Public Policy Internships

For the last ten years, the Catholics Bishops Conference has organised Parliamentary and Public Policy Internships for recently graduated Catholics. This year we are looking to offer at least 6 internships: three interns will be placed with Christian MP's at Westminster, two in public policy with CAFOD and one in a media internship in Archbishop's House, Westminster. All internships will run from September 2013 - July 2014 and include accommodation and subsistence allowances. Full details and an application form can be found on our website: www.cbcew.org.uk/catholic-internships Completed application forms must either be emailed to interns@cbcew.org.uk or posted to: Michaela Kelly, Head of HR, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. The closing date is 9.00 am on 25th February 2013 and Assessment days will be 25th and 26th March 2013. If you know anyone who may be interested in this opportunity, please encourage them to apply.



LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£642.56	
St Ambrose Barlow	£338.89	23rd Dec
	£557.64	25th Dec
	£226.78	30th Dec
	£379.69	6th Jan
St Gabriel's	£220.07	
St Richard's		
& Sacred Heart	£766.17	

OTHER COLLECTIONS

Holy Family	£142.70	SVP
St. Ambrose Barlow	£ 8.29	Crib
	£ 78.15	Raffle
	£ 82.30	Quiz
	£169.20	Pots
	£114.00	Bingo
	£150.00	Ambrosians
St Gabriel's	£ 62.48	SVP
St. Richard's		
& Sacred Heart	£193.01	SVP

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 13th January 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Mary Hacker 11.00 am Bernard Hough	11.00 am Eddie McGrath	6.00 pm Reg & Ray Gainer	(Sat) 6.00 pm Lilian Welby 9.30 am Roy Hampson 6.30 pm Brian Conway
MONDAY				12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Nora Malone		9.15 am Special Intention (GEK)
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Kevin Freeman	9.00 am St. Mary's Y9 (Joseph Bent)		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
THURSDAY	10.00 am Mary Hacker			9.15 am Frances Green
FRIDAY			10.00 am Barbara Johnston	9.15 am Elizabeth Balmer
SATURDAY	10.00 am Private Intention (LISC)		6.00 pm Florence & Ronald Pierce	6.00 pm Ted, Margaret & Angela Harrison
SUNDAY	9.00 am Tony Raynor 11.00 am Bernard Hough 6.00 pm Unity Service	11.00 am Vincent Topping		9.30 am Margaret Nolan 6.30 pm Maria Baxendale

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)



LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:
Anne Knowles, Elizabeth Balmer,
Helen Bennett, Kathleen Langabeer
& John Bullock

Those who are sick, especially:
Anne Broad, Bernard Atkinson,
Teresa Cooney, Michael Dunn,
Fr Stephen Louden, Archbishop Kelly,
Maureen Warren & Canon Dick Firth

Children who are missing, especially:
Madeleine McCann & April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today Pax Christi
Next Sunday Housing Justice

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action in the field of housing and homelessness. The charity supports night shelters, drop-ins and hundreds of practical projects nationwide by providing advice and training for churches and other community groups who work with homeless people. Website: www.housingjustice.org.uk



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

First Reading *Isaiah 62:1-5*
The prophet Isaiah speaks of Jerusalem's glorious future, when the Lord will address her as "My Delight" and her land as "The Wedded".

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*
There are many gifts and many ministries, but one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is at work in them all.

Gospel Reading *John 2:1-11*
At the Marriage feast of Cana in Galilee, Jesus gives his first "sign" and begins to reveal his real identity.