

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

15th September 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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

Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 4
Readings Sunday - 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)
Weekdays - Year 1, Week 24
Today **24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(Home Mission Sunday)
Monday Saints Cornelius & Cyprian
Friday St Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions
Saturday **Feast of St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist**
Sunday **25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(Day of Prayer for Thanksgiving for Harvest)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

There are many well documented stories concerning Charles Dickens. He lived his life to the full but, perhaps not very well known, he spent much of his time helping others. This is because he himself felt the brute force of poverty and spent a number of childhood years working as a child labourer in the most awful conditions whilst, at the same time, visiting his father in the debtor's prison. These days certainly inspired most of his writing as well as his life. There are many stories of him walking through the streets of London observing the poor and destitute. The power – and the evil – of money was something that he found revolting. One of the things he did was open a home for destitute women, many of whom had drifted into prostitution. This home was completely financed by the profits he made from his novels. His idea was that, if the home saved one poor woman from living on the street, then it was worthwhile. It saved many, even though Dickens insisted he would have done the same thing if only one had been saved.

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus share three parable stories. Along with the parables of the lost coin and the Prodigal Son, he shares the story of the Good Shepherd. If one were to ask the shepherd, "Was all the time and effort you spent looking for that one lost sheep justified?" he would have said "Yes" - like Dickens did of the people he saved from poverty and destitution. There was nothing exceptional about the shepherd in Jesus' story. Any shepherd worthy of the name would do the same. Of course, Jesus was not talking about sheep but about people – sinners, to be precise. The Pharisees were scandalised at seeing him spend so much time in the company of sinners. And he didn't wait for sinners to repent before befriending them. He befriended them in their sinfulness, in their lost state. This is what scandalised the religious authorities. Jesus associated himself with sinners while they were still sinners. He knew that their need was the greatest. He knew that they were lost and needed to be found. The shepherd doesn't wait for his lost sheep to come home. He has to go out and find them himself.

In associating himself with sinners, Jesus wasn't condoning their sinfulness. Rather, he was trying to show them a better way. But he could not do this without associating himself with them and being sympathetic towards them. We can never improve people by rejecting them or being critical towards them. In acting in the way that he did, Jesus revealed the mercy of God towards sinners. It reminds us that, no matter what we have done in the past, there is always a way back with God. Other people may reject us for our past actions, but God doesn't. He wants to welcome back ALL his children into his Kingdom one day. In today's Second Reading, St. Paul never forgot that he was once an enemy of Jesus. But now he regards himself as a witness to the fact that Jesus came to save him and to save all sinners. Just as a virtuous person is a witness to the grace of God, so a repentant sinner is a witness to the love and mercy of God.

Psalms Response
Gospel Acclamation

I will leave this place and go to my father.
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

**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.**

HOME MISSION SUNDAY



Today is Home Mission Sunday. This year's focus is outreach to non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics. The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to pray for and support the work of evangelisation close to home through having a second collection. The money raised will fund a number of national projects, including the development of resources to support ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics. There are around four million baptised in our countries who never or rarely attend church. Please do help the bishops to resource this important work. Thank you for your support and do pick up a free prayer and information leaflet about Home Mission Sunday as you leave church. For more information please see: www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms13

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN SYRIA

This week, amazing things have happened in the approach of the world's nations to the civil war in Syria. I have no doubt that this is the fruit of prayer. Fr D.

**God of compassion,
hear the cries of the people of Syria.
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
strengthen Syria's neighbours in their care
and welcome for refugees,
convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
and protect those committed to peace.**

**God of hope,
inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.
Inspire the Church around the world
with compassion for the people of Syria,
and give us hope for a future of peace
built on justice for all.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
Amen.**

"It's still ME Lord"



A one day conference on Wednesday 2nd October 2013 in the inspiring surroundings of St Francis Xavier Church in Liverpool with Fr Daniel O'Leary as the keynote speaker. The conference will explore how we can understand and meet the spiritual needs of people with advancing dementia in our parishes and faith communities. Book early to guarantee your place. For the conference programme and booking form, please visit the website: www.welcomemeasiam.org.uk If anyone wants to go to the conference and needs a lift, please contact Fr Dave.

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT



Weekly Meetings

A series of six weekly meetings for people who are divorced, separated or experiencing the breakdown of a marriage or a long term relationship start Monday 16th September 2013 in Liverpool 17, from 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

One Day Meeting

A one-day meeting will be held on Saturday 14th September for those who cannot attend the six evenings. See poster for details or contact Frances on 0151 727 2195 or Maureen 0151 722 1029.

Weekend Course

Friday evening, 27th September to Sunday, 29th September 2013. A welcoming and affirming weekend offering a chance to reflect share and pray together at Loyola Hall Jesuit Spirituality Centre, Prescot, Merseyside. This can be attended on a residential or non-residential basis. Contact www.loyolahall.co.uk or phone 0151 426 4137.



The Irenaeus Group are holding a "Come & See" weekend in Christ the King High School, Southport, on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th October. Keynote speakers include Fr Daniel O'Leary and Edwina Gateley, and the prayer sessions will be led by CJM Music. If you would like to go, please contact Jenny on 0151 949 1199 or email her at jenny@irenaeus.co.uk If we get enough people from the Pastoral Area, we could make a group booking which would make it cheaper. So please also let Fr Paul know.

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

PARISH NEWS

This Week

Church Cleaning - St Ambrose Barlow

If anyone can spare an hour after the morning Mass on Tuesday 17th September (around 9.45 am), we intend to give the church a clean. Many hands make light work, so if we can get a squad of 8 or more people, the church will be sparkling clean in no time.

Holy Family - Eucharistic Ministers

Meeting on Tuesday 17th September at 7.00 pm in church to review current practice and taking communion to those who are sick or housebound.

Panto 2014

It's getting near to the time for writing this year's pantomime. There will be a short meeting in the St Ambrose Barlow Hall at 7.45 pm on Wednesday 18th September to gauge interest. Anyone who would like to perform this year (over 16s), please come along to the meeting - or if you cannot make that date, ring Steve on 876487 - or see him at the back of church, after Mass.

St. Margaret Clitherow SVP

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th September at 7.30 pm in St Gabriel's Church. This is for all members, so please come along if you can.

Holy Family Church Council

The next meeting of Holy Family's Church Council will be on Thursday 19th September at 7.30 pm in church. Please note this is an open meeting for the community.

4th Tyldesley Holy Family Scout Group

Anyone out there interested in Scouting? We have 8 places available in our Cub Pack for children aged 8 to 10. If you, or someone you know, would be interested, please contact our Group Scout Leader, Sue Bennett, on 07909 089987 or Cub Scout Leader, Siobhan Mullen, on 07514 405532 for more details. We also have opportunities for volunteers to help run the groups, either as Assistant Leaders or occasional helpers. (A CRB check will be required prior to anyone joining the Group). Scouting is a great opportunity to meet people and make new friends as well as helping you and the children develop and realise your potential. Come and join the adventure!

Walsingham Pilgrimage

Many thanks once again to everyone who came on the Walsingham Pilgrimage this year. A special thank you to Pauline & John for organising yet another successful pilgrimage. Sadly, Pauline & John have decided that this is the last year they will be organising Walsingham. We thank them so much for all the effort they have put in over so many years. They have been great. This means that we need volunteers to help plan and organise next year's pilgrimage. If you wish to volunteer, please speak to Fr Paul as soon as possible and we will arrange a meeting with Pauline & John, so that they can hand over the organisation and explain everything that they have to do.



Many congratulations to Eileen McNulty who celebrates her 90th Birthday this weekend. Happy Birthday to you, Eileen, and to everyone else celebrating their birthday at this time.

Forthcoming Events

Bethany Group Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th September at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Church Hall. This is for anyone who has lost a loved one, either recently or otherwise. We share some prayer, music, readings, and there is opportunity to share experiences, for anyone who wishes to. It is a very relaxed, friendly meeting and we hope you will find it helpful. If you would like more information, please contact Pat Williams on 01942 875730 or have a word with Fr Dave.

Bereavement Care Teams

There will be a meeting for the parish Bereavement Care Teams at St Richard's on Thursday 26th September at 7.00 pm to plan November's Remembrance Masses.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

For Macmillan Cancer Support

† **Thursday 26th** September, 10.00 - 12.00 noon, in St Richard's Parish Centre. Tickets £2. Donations of items for a Tombola and Stalls would be much appreciated.

† **Friday 27th** September, 10.00 - 12.00 noon, in Sacred Heart Parish Centre. Please come along for a drink, a cake and bingo.

† **Saturday 28th** September in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. More details to follow or speak to Mary B.

Ambrosians

The last outing for the year takes place on 4th October, going to the Bourne Poacher. The price is £25 including a non-returnable £10 deposit when booking. Please phone Kay on 749348. The Ambrosians would like to thank all those who supported the Francis House Bingo Night. The amount raised on the night was £199.09, with the raffle still to come. Many thanks.

St. Joseph's Players

A number of productions are being performed by the St. Joseph's Players over the next few months. They will all take place in St. Joseph's Concert Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. "Billy Liar" by Keith Waterhouse & Willis Hall - 15th to 19th October at 7.30 pm. "Beauty & The Beast" written and produced by Doreen Johnson - 22nd January to 1st February at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £8 each and are available at the door or from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop, Bradshawgate, Leigh.

Churches Together in Boothstown

A very warm welcome to the Reverend Karen Hopwood-Owen, who is the new Team Vicar of Worsley with special responsibility for St Mary's, Ellenbrook, and St Andrew's, Boothstown.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 732.35
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 422.64
St Gabriel's	£ 153.00
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 772.47
Total Parish Collection	£2080.46

SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

Holy Family	£ 99.24
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 69.98
St Gabriel's	£ 32.86
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 45.86

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 15th September	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am McHugh & Lyth Families 11.00 am People of the Pastoral Area 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Jane & Charles Welsby	(Sat) 6.00 pm Eric & Kathleen Sinclair	(Sat) 6.00 pm Helen Bennett 9.30 am Harold Haigh 6.30 pm Eileen McNulty
MONDAY	<i>12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh</i>			
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Joan Clegg 7.00 pm Prayer Group		9.15 am Teresa Cooney
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm John Swift	9.00 am St Mary's Y11 Mass	1.00 pm Funeral Service for Michael McHugh	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
THURSDAY	<i>Mass at St Richard's</i>			9.15 am Catherine Robinson
FRIDAY			12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Arthur Hennessy (at St Joseph's)	9.15 am Tommy Ratcliffe
SATURDAY	10.00 am Irene Fogarty		6.00 pm Tony Dean	6.00 pm Lilian Welby
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Margaret Dixon 11.00 am Margaret Langan	11.00 am Mykola Batrak		9.30 am Arthur Hennessy 6.30 pm Mary Morrison

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

Welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism:
Grace Annabel Bloomfield, Alfie John Jones
& Lorimer James Blood
May God bless them and their families

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Theresa Orrell
Arthur Hennessy

Michael McHugh

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad
Connie Crilly
Mary Hall
Alan West
Veronica Marsden
Lynda Daly
Rev Jim Melia

Joan Clegg
Norah Atkinson
Joyce Nuttall
Mavis Smith
Winnie Brierley
Elizabeth Oldershaw
Gillian Best

SECOND COLLECTION

Today Home Mission Sunday
Next Week The Medaille Trust

The Medaille Trust is a charity founded to help women, young men and children who have been freed from human-trafficking. This trust is based in the UK because human-trafficking goes on in our own country. Even in Manchester, there are children and young people kept as sex slaves!

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Helen Watkinson & Robert Lunt
May God bless their love

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

First Reading *Amos 8:4-7*
The prophet Amos condemns the exploitation of the poor.

Second Reading *1 Timothy 2:1-8*
Since God wants everyone to be saved, we should pray for everyone, especially for those who make decisions which affect the whole world.

Gospel Reading *Luke 16:1-13*
Jesus shows how greed for money can ruin a person, and insists that we cannot serve both God and money.