

# Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

17th 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 1  
**Sunday** Readings - 5th Sunday of Lent (C)  
**Weekdays** Readings - 5th Week of Lent  
**Today** **Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)**  
**Tuesday** **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**  
**Sunday** **Palm Sunday (C)**

**Fifth**  
**SUNDAY IN**  
**LENT**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once upon a time, a man was caught stealing and was brought before the king, who immediately gave orders that he should be executed. However, as he was being led to the gallows, the man told the prison governor that he had a wonderful secret which was given to him by his father. He claimed that using this secret he could plant the seed of a pomegranate and make it grow and bear fruit overnight. He said that it would be a pity if the secret died with him, and that he was willing to reveal it to the king. The governor was so impressed with the idea that he halted the execution and brought the man before the king. There, the man dug a hole in the ground and, taking a pomegranate seed, said, "Your Majesty, the seed must be planted by a person who has never taken anything that didn't belong to him. It must be a man of great virtue and honesty. I, being a thief, cannot do it." Then, turning to one of the king's officials, he said, "Perhaps you would like to plant it." But the official refused saying, "In my younger days, I kept something that didn't belong to me." Then the man turned to the king's treasurer and said, "Well then, maybe you would like to plant it." But the treasurer too refused, saying, "Over the years I've handled a lot of money. Now and again I may have kept a little for myself." And so it went on. Finally, there was only the king left. Turning to him the man said, "Perhaps your Majesty would do the honour of planting the seed." But the king said, "I'm ashamed to say it, but once I kept a watch that belonged to my father and I never gave it back, so I can't plant the seed either." Then the thief said, "All of you are great and powerful people and want for nothing. Yet none of you can plant the seed, whilst I who have stolen a little because I was hungry must pay for it with my life." The king felt moved to pardon him.

That story would have ended differently if the king had not been prepared to listen. Instead, thanks to his patience and thanks to the imagination of the condemned man, no one died and they all learned a valuable lesson.

The Gospel we hear today could have ended in a very ugly manner. If Jesus had gone along with the script of the Scribes and Pharisees, the woman would have died a horrible death. Who would have benefited from that? Instead, thanks to the understanding and compassion Jesus showed her, she was able to put this whole episode behind her and make a new start. The fact that he didn't condemn her does not mean that Jesus thought lightly of adultery, or of any sin for that matter. He realised that she had already been condemned. What she needed now was compassion. He treated her in such a way that it made her want to reform her life. What God wants is NOT the death of the sinner, but the conversion of the sinner. In his wisdom, God understands our weakness, and in his mercy he forgives our sins. He not only helps us to put our sins behind us, but to draw good from them. And surely the fact that we have all sinned, and stand continually in need of God's mercy, will help us when we feel like throwing the stones of condemnation at others.

**Psalms Response**

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Seek good not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.

## PARISH NEWS

### *“With You Always”*

Session 6 for Parents and Children this week: Wednesday at 3.30 pm or Thursday at 6.30 pm in church at Holy Family; and Thursday at 3.15 pm in church at St Gabriel's.

### *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.

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

We finish this week for the Easter holidays, with a staff inset day on Friday. This week, all year groups will attend a liturgy planned by the Head of RE, Mr Welsh, and Br John to commemorate Easter. A number of students have put a lot of work into preparing a mime with Br John and we are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labour. We will also be drawing the winners of our Easter Raffle, raising money for CAFOD and Nugent Care. Winners will be notified in the first week back after Easter. We wish everyone a restful break, and a Happy Easter!

### *Confirmation*

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.

### *Feast of Divine Mercy*

St Mary's, Eccles, on Sunday 7th April. Exposition at 2.00 pm, Chaplet at 3.00 pm, followed by Mass. Confessions prior to Mass. A mini bus will be provided for transport at £5 - pick up at St Richard's car park at 1.45pm, and Sacred Heart, Hindsford, car park at 2.00 pm. Please ring Barbara on 01942 879416.

### *St. Richard's Coffee Mornings*

After this weekend, there will be no more Coffee Mornings after the 9.30 am Mass at St. Richard's until Sunday 17th April. Many thanks to everyone who organises the Coffee Morning and those who support it each week. £80 has recently been donated to CAFOD from money raised at the Coffee Morning.

### *ThirtySomethings*

Are you in your 30s? Would you like to meet other Catholics your age? If so, we would like to meet you on Saturday 6th April at St Joseph's Church, 1 Tatton St (off St Petersgate), Stockport SK1 1EJ (parking available behind the church). Mass at 5.00 pm, and then an opportunity to chat and socialise afterwards and discuss future events. For further details, or to get on our mailing list, please contact: Sarah on [sarahheaton@uwclub.net](mailto:sarahheaton@uwclub.net) or Colette on [candjrowe@btinternet.com](mailto:candjrowe@btinternet.com), or text/phone Hugh on 07977 904479, or just turn up.

## FUNDRAISING

### *Swimathon 26-28th April*

Each year Marie Curie Cancer Care organises a sponsored swim. The money raised goes towards providing free hands-on care to people with terminal illnesses and vital emotional support to their loved ones, at home or in one of the nine hospices. Kevan Rushton plans to swim 2.5 km (just over 1.5 miles or 100 lengths of the pool). He is hoping to raise as much money as possible – every penny and every pound will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to sponsor Kevan, either see him after Sunday Mass at St Ambrose Barlow or go to [www.swimathon.org](http://www.swimathon.org) click on 'sponsor a swimmer', then click 'sponsor an individual', then type in **Kevan Rushton**. Many thanks.

### *Manchester Marathon*

Joanne Burton will be running in the Manchester Marathon on April 28th in aid of the Meningitis Trust. Her friend, Rosie, had meningitis when she was younger and the Meningitis Trust have offered her invaluable support since then. Her friend, Alex, the Meningitis Trust's founding young ambassador, who passed away from the after effects of meningitis, devoted his life to raising awareness of the disease and spreading the motto “Believe & Achieve”. He also wanted to raise money to support other families affected by this illness. They are also holding a fundraising evening at the Royal British Legion in Boothstown on 20th April to raise money and awareness. There will be live entertainment, raffle, hotpot supper and a disco. For more details, please see the website: [www.justgiving.com/moneyformeningitis](http://www.justgiving.com/moneyformeningitis)

### *London Marathon*

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)

## 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)



## 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's 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.

### *Sign-up Sheets at St. Richard's*

Please help us make Holy Week special by signing up to help with the liturgy during Holy Week. We still need readers for the masses on Palm Sunday as well as readers, Eucharistic ministers, and volunteers to have their feet washed for the Easter Triduum. Please sign up as soon as you can.



### *Holy Week Penance Service*

Service of Reconciliation at Holy Family, Boothstown, on Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm.

### *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.

### *Rehearsals*

*St Ambrose, St Gabriel's & Holy Family*

Rehearsals for Altar Servers, and anyone else who would like to practice whatever they are doing, are as follows:

<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>St Ambrose</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>12.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Family</b>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>St Gabriel's</b>

## "HABEMUS PAPAM"



Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio SJ, from Argentina, was elected Pope Francis I on Wednesday 13th March 2013.

**O God, who in your providential design  
willed that your Church be built upon blessed Peter,  
whom you set over the other Apostles,  
look with favour, we pray, on Francis our Pope  
and grant that he,  
whom you have made Peter's successor,  
may be for your people a visible source and foundation  
of unity in faith and of communion.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*(Roman Missal)*

## *Easter Triduum*



### **Maundy Thursday**

**7.30 pm**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**At St Ambrose Barlow & St Richard's**

### **Good Friday**

**3.00 pm**

**Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

**At Holy Family & St Richard's**

### **Holy Saturday**

**The Easter Vigil**

**7.30 pm at St Gabriel's**

**8.00 pm at St Richard's**

## **LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>£ 838.32</b>
<b>St Ambrose Barlow</b>	<b>£ 224.96</b>
<b>St Gabriel's</b>	<b>£ 179.70</b>
<b>St Richard's &amp; Sacred Heart</b>	<b>£ 944.91</b>
<b>Total Parish Collection</b>	<b>£2187.89</b>

## **SECOND COLLECTION**

**Lenten Alms**

<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>£ 189.40</b>
<b>St Gabriel's</b>	<b>£ 96.77</b>
<b>St Richard's &amp; Sacred Heart</b>	<b>£ 328.22</b>
<b>Rainbows Donation</b>	
<b>St Ambrose Barlow</b>	<b>£ 50.00</b>

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

