

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

4th Sunday of Easter (C)

21st April 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

Priest:	Fr. Paul Seddon	Priest:	Fr. Dave Heywood
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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
Sunday	Readings - 4th Sunday of Easter (C)
Weekdays	Readings - 4th Week of Easter
Today	4th Sunday of Easter (C) <i>(World Day of Prayer for Vocations)</i>
Tuesday	Solemnity of St. George, Patron of England
Thursday	Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist
Sunday	5th Sunday of Easter (C)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the early catacombs in Rome, there are graphic images of the Good Shepherd. Often they show the figure of a young Christ who carries a lamb across his shoulders. The frescos show the intimacy between the shepherd and his sheep; between Christ and his beloved followers. Other similar sculptures are found on early Christian tombs. In contrast to ancient Roman pagan tombs, no longer is the image that of a Roman soldier but rather an image of Christ who carries his sheep and protects them.

The words of the twenty-third Psalm are well known to many people, whether they practice religion in Church or not. As we sing, "Fresh and green are the pastures where you lead me to repose... Near restful waters you lead me to revive my drooping spirit", the image of the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, for his flock is enduring and comforting. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, presents us with an image of compassion, love and care - a person in whom we can trust and have confidence. The Good Shepherd only seeks the good of his sheep. When we place our trust in him, and in the Gospel message, he promises the gift of eternal life and protection from the forces of evil. We can rest securely on the shoulders of the Good Shepherd who will carry us to safety.

It is this promise that sustains Paul and Barnabas to work tirelessly in spreading the Gospel. We hear in today's First Reading how, even though Paul is well received by the people of Antioch, by the second day many of the Jewish people organise themselves to oppose him. As the argument develops, Paul and Barnabas are expelled and sent away. Rather than being discouraged, Paul sees this as an opportunity to preach to the gentiles and further spread the Word of God. He knows that nothing, whether death or life, persecution or opposition, can come between himself and the love of God. Nothing is able to steal away a disciple of Christ, because God the Father is stronger than anyone. So what about us? Paul's story should bring us hope and confidence too. We are invited to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

We live in a world where it is sometimes hard to listen. We are bombarded by noise. Listening can be difficult so we do need time put aside to be still, to listen and to pray. We are also invited to trust and have more confidence in the Father's love for us. We may, at times, feel threatened, weak, vulnerable or fearful of the opposition to the Gospel and the values that flow from it. The Good Shepherd invites us to renew our trust in him. Let us pray that, as we do this, we may learn to be good shepherds to each other too.

Psalm Response I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Gospel Acclamation Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: love one another, just as I have loved you."



**Serving
the church
communities of**

**St. Ambrose
Barlow
Astley**

**St. Gabriel's
Higher Folds**

**Holy Family
Boothstown**

**St. Richard's
Atherton**

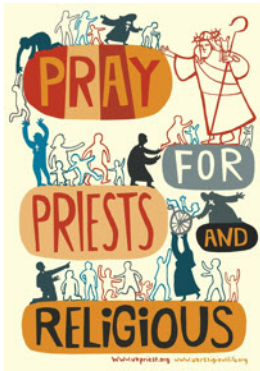
**Sacred Heart
Hindsford**

**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.**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life.

Please pray for all people who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, those who are preparing for ordination or religious profession, and for all priests and consecrated men and women.

**Lord, Jesus Christ,
Good Shepherd of our souls,
you who know your sheep
and know how to reach the human heart...**

**Stir the hearts of those young people
who would follow you
but who cannot overcome doubts and fears,
and who in the end follow other voices
and other paths which lead nowhere.**

**You who are the Word of the Father,
the Word which creates and saves,
the Word which enlightens and sustains hearts –
conquer with your Spirit the resistance
and delays of indecisive hearts.**

**Arouse in those whom you call
the courage of love's answer:
"Here I am, send me."
(Pope John Paul II)**

Today's **Second Collection** is for the Priests Training Fund. If you do not use 'Offertory Envelopes', there are some Gift Aid envelopes available at the back of church.



BARNABUS
Bringing hope to the homeless and vulnerable

Barnabus is a small charity in the centre of Manchester helping the homeless and vulnerable in Manchester. We are urgently seeking an experienced part time support worker. Our new colleague will need to have worked in a similar support role and be able to work with minimal supervision and a lot of initiative. They will also

need to be flexible and willing to turn their hand to a variety of tasks, including dealing with admin, phone calls and donations because we are a tiny office with just 5 members of staff. Computer literacy is essential. Most important though is their Christian faith, which is at the heart of all Barnabus' work. We are offering 25 hours a week, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday – minimum wage salary. Please contact Yvonne Hope if you are interested on 0161 237 3223 or admin@barnabusmanchester.co.uk

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

London Marathon 21st April

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: www.justgiving.com/Paolo-Dale

Swimathon 26-28th April

Each year Marie Curie Cancer Care organises a sponsored swim. Kevan Rushton plans to swim 2.5 km (just over 1.5 miles or 100 lengths of the pool) to raise as much money as possible. If you would like to sponsor Kevan, either see him after Sunday Mass at St Ambrose Barlow or go to www.swimathon.org click on 'sponsor a swimmer', then click 'sponsor an individual', then type in **Kevan Rushton**. Many thanks.

Manchester Marathon 28th April

Joanne Burton will be running in the Manchester Marathon on April 28th in aid of the Meningitis Trust. For more details: www.justgiving.com/moneyformeningitis

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 www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/halliwellhealth where you can also sponsor me.

APPEAL FOR A WHEELCHAIR

Holy Family are looking for a wheelchair to keep at church to assist a parishioner who comes to Sunday Mass. If you can help, or know someone who can, please contact Fr Dave. Many thanks.

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

St. Ambrose Barlow Meeting

There will be an Open Meeting for those who attend St. Ambrose Barlow Church on Wednesday April 24th at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

200 Club Cabaret Evening

The winners of the April cash prizes were:

£100 Linda Allen (133) £50 Monica Lomas (128)

Good luck to members for the £1000 draw which takes place on Friday 26th April in St Ambrose Barlow Hall. Members who have not got their tickets, but would like to attend the evening, should see Steve after Mass today or ring him on 876487.

50's & 60's Night

Featuring the fantastic Eddie Robbins, also Rock & Roll with D.J. Long Tall Phil, on Saturday 27th April in St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh: 7.30 till 11.00 pm. Tickets £10 including refreshments, available from Des 01942 674868 or the Parish office (weekdays only) 01942 673517. Licensed Bar and Raffle. All proceeds to The White Fathers Street Children Appeal.

CAFOD & Traidcraft

CAFOD and Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the Masses on Sunday 28th April.

Confirmations

Many thanks to all the young people who have returned their forms for Confirmation this year. As previously mentioned, we are going to have a Confirmation Celebration in St. Richard's Church on Tuesday May 14th at 7.00 pm. However, it looks like there will be too many for one service. Therefore, we have decided to have another service, this time in St. Ambrose Barlow Church, on Thursday May 16th at 7.00 pm. Those preparing for Confirmation will be given the choice of which night they wish to attend. This means that all the churches in the Parish will be celebrating Confirmation this year. Please keep them in your prayers at this special time.

News from St Mary's High School

Our theme this week is hope – and we have a number of hopeful students taking part in our 'X' Factor competition that is being organised by some Sixth Form students. Last week, we had the KS3 heats and KS4 auditions, and this week we have the KS4 heats and KS5 auditions. Students are enjoying a lunchtime of entertainment watching the heats, and it's all building towards the final in a few weeks. On Tuesday, students will have a reflection on St. George to mark the day.

Thank You

"A huge thank you to everyone who so kindly donated balls of wool and baby gifts. The crochet of the baby blankets has begun and, without your help, this would not have been possible. Regards and Best Wishes to everyone, Aileen Barry & Family."

Mass Intentions

Just a reminder that, if you wish to have a Mass Intention celebrated on a specific date, then you need to inform us in good time. Even then we cannot completely guarantee that the Mass will be said on that date – for example, a Funeral Mass may come in or the Mass itself may have to be changed for a variety of reasons. It would also be helpful if, when you hand in your Mass offering, you write down your contact details on the envelope so that we can contact you if there is any problem giving you the date that you wish to have.

Forthcoming Events

St Margaret Clitherow SVP PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

We will be holding a meeting for anyone who expressed an interest in joining the SVP, but was unable to attend the meeting last November. The purpose of the meeting will be to explain the aims of the group, to begin the process of CRB checks, and to give you opportunity to ask questions. The date is Wednesday 1st May at 7.45 pm in Holy Family Church Hall. Could you kindly phone Pat Williams on 01942 875730 to let me know whether you will be attending. Many thanks.

Women's Rally

St John's, Mosley Common, invite you to their Women's Rally which will be held on Wednesday 1st May at 7.30 pm. Speaker: Dorothy Hawkins. Light refreshments will be available after the service in church.

Ambrosians

There is a trip to Llandudno planned for 14th May. The cost per person is £12.50 payable in full to reserve a place. A refund of £2.50 will be returned should you need to cancel. Due to the increase in the cost of hiring a coach, we will only be taking the smaller one for trips now. Seats will be reserved on a 'first come first served' basis. Please contact either Jean T on 871109 or Kay on 749348 to reserve your place.

Whit Sunday - 19th May 2013

There will be a Songs of Praise service at St Ambrose Barlow Church at 3.00 pm on Whit Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Our Ecumenical partners will be leaving Astley Independent Methodist Church at 2.20 pm and meeting up with members of St Stephen's community at around 2.30 and then carrying on walking along the pavements of Manchester Road 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.

becoming a catechist

A Course for New Catechists

If anyone would like to have further training in becoming a catechist, a special course is being provided at LACE in Liverpool, beginning in June and ending with a full day on July 6th. The dates are Wednesdays 5th, 12th & 19th June at 7.00 pm and July 6th from 9.30 am - 1.30 pm. If you would like to go, please contact Fr. Paul as soon as possible.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 741.47
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 306.88
St Gabriel's	£ 225.92
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 787.60
Total Parish Collection	£2061.87

SECOND COLLECTION Friends of the Holy Land

Holy Family	£ 135.49
St Gabriel's	£ 49.74
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 143.40

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 21st April 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Mr Mobsby 11.00 am Neil Doherty 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am John Raines	(Sat) 6.00 pm Frances Blake	(Sat) 6.00 pm A Wedding Anniversary 9.30 am John O'Malley 6.00 pm Shaun Pendlebury
MONDAY	<i>12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh</i>			
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Brenda Hoffman		9.15 am Thomas & Alice O'Neill 11.00 am Funeral Service for Neil Edwards
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Maureen Nuttall (Sick)			Exposition 9.00 - 10.00 am
THURSDAY	10.00 am Ann Thompson	10.00 am Funeral Mass for Joan West		<i>Funeral Mass at St. Ambrose Barlow</i>
FRIDAY		11.00 am Funeral Mass for Vincent Fahey	10.00 am Mary Flynn 2.15 pm Baptisms	9.15 am Chris Roberts
SATURDAY	10.00 am Patrick McCafferty		6.00 pm John Raines	6.00 pm Vincent Campbell
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am People of the Pastoral Area 11.00 am Philip Aldred	11.00 am Thanksgiving for 10 years Breast Cancer Free		9.30 am Catherine & John Price 6.00 pm Beatrice Pilkington

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:

Erica Jayne Devlin

May God bless Erica and her family

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Joan West

Vincent Fahey

Neil Edwards

Theresa Gallagher

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad

Teresa Cooney

Maureen Warren

Margaret Langan

Alan West

Mary Hall

Joan Clegg

Norah Atkinson

Margaret Dixon

Fr George Russell

Gillian Best

Deacon Bill Parr

Children who are missing, especially:

Madeleine McCann

April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today

Next Week

Priests' Training Fund

T.H.O.M.A.S

THOMAS stands for "Those on the Margins of a Society". It is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme, set up by a Catholic Priest in Blackburn, and offers people the opportunity to rebuild their lives by finding a solution to the problems of addiction. It does wonderful work. Have a look at their website: www.thomasonline.org.uk

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

5th Sunday of Easter (C)

First Reading

Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas retrace their steps, encouraging the new communities of Christians to follow the Lord.

Second Reading

Revelations 21:1-5

St. John shares his vision of a new world and the new order of things inaugurated by Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

John 13:31-35

During the Last Supper, B9 Jesus gives his apostles a new commandment – to love one another as he has loved them.

STOP PRESS

The next meeting of the Parish Forum will take place on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 pm at St Ambrose Barlow.