

# Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

21st July 2013



## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 4  
**Sunday** Readings - 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)  
**Weekdays** Readings - Year 1, Week 16  
**Today** **16th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**  
**Monday** St. Mary Magdalen  
**Tuesday** **Feast of St. Bridget of Sweden**  
**Thursday** **Feast of St. James, Apostle**  
**Friday** Saints Joachim & Anne  
**Sunday** **17th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**  
*(Day for Life)*



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we hear the story of Martha and Mary. One of them, Martha, concerns herself with getting the food ready and seeing to all the guests. Her sister, Mary, remains at the feet of Jesus, listening to his words. Our sympathy would probably be with Martha. It might seem that Jesus was unfair to her. After all, the Gospel places great emphasis on doing good deeds. Yet here Jesus praises, not the doer, but the one who sits and listens. It wasn't that Jesus didn't appreciate what Martha was doing. He was making a point for the benefit of people like Martha, who are essentially generous people but over-anxious about getting things done. It's not simply that she was busy, but that she was too busy. Always anxious and worried, she was the slave of her duties. Our daily lives are made up of a round of chores and duties which fall into two categories: the urgent and the essential. Many of the things we do could be said to be urgent, but only a few are truly essential. We have to distinguish between the two. Like Martha, we tend to give priority to the urgent. So how can we tell what our priorities are? The best way to do this is to reflect on our normal behaviour. What do we give most time to? What gets most of our energy? Whatever they are and whatever we do these are our priorities in life. It may take a tragedy or an emergency to put things into perspective and to remind us what really matters most.

When Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, the late Archbishop of Chicago, learned that he had terminal cancer he famously said, "I came to realise how much of what consumes our daily life is so trivial and insignificant." In today's Gospel, Mary got her priorities right. She dropped everything and listened to the words of Jesus. Many people would be able to identify more with Martha – busy doing many things yet constantly short of time. Even though it may be easier said than done, we do need to look beyond the jobs we have to do. We need to devote time to ourselves. Above all, we need time for reflection.

An American psychotherapist and writer, Thomas Moore, once said, "There is no doubt that some people could spare themselves the expense and trouble of psychotherapy simply by giving themselves a few minutes each day for quiet reflection. This simple act would provide what is missing in their lives, a period of non-doing that is essential nourishment to the soul." If we could spend some quiet time with God our lives would be calmer, less driven by anxiety and worry, and deeper and richer. In fact, everything would benefit – our spiritual life, our relationships, even our work. As we think about which of the two sisters we are most like, let us remember for a moment that it was Martha who, when her brother Lazarus died, still had faith in Jesus, enough faith for her to say, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Perhaps she learned from the episode in today's Gospel - that doing was not everything. She learned that she needed stillness and a heart that should be open to God's Word. Let us pray that we may be like both Martha and Mary in the way we listen to God's Word and practise it in our lives together.

**Psalms Response**  
**Gospel Acclamation**

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.  
Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.

**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.**

## Statement on the passing of the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act by the President and Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales



In receiving Royal Assent, the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act marks a watershed in English law and heralds a profound social change. This fact is acknowledged by both advocates and opponents of the Act.

Marriage has, over the centuries, been publicly recognised as a stable institution which establishes a legal framework for the committed relationship between a man and a woman and for the upbringing and care of their children. It has, for this reason, rightly been recognised as unique and worthy of legal protection.

The new Act breaks the existing legal links between the institution of marriage and sexual complementarity. With this new legislation, marriage has now become an institution in which openness to children, and with it the responsibility on fathers and mothers to remain together to care for children born into their family unit, are no longer central. That is why we were opposed to this legislation on principle.

Along with others, we have expressed real concern about the deficiencies in the process by which this legislation came to Parliament, and the speed with which it has been rushed through. We are grateful particularly therefore to those Parliamentarians in both Houses who have sought to improve the Bill during its passage, so that it enshrines more effective protection for religious freedom.

A particular concern for us has also been the lack of effective protection for Churches which decide not to opt-in to conducting same sex marriages. Amendments made in the House of Lords though have significantly strengthened the legal protections in the Act for the Churches. We also welcome the Government's amendment to the Public Order Act which makes it clear beyond doubt that "discussion or criticism of marriage which concerns the sex of the parties to the marriage shall not be taken of itself to be threatening or intended to stir up hatred". Individuals are therefore protected from criminal sanction under the Public Order Act when discussing or expressing disagreement with same sex marriage.

In other respects, however, the amendments we suggested have not been accepted. We were concerned to provide legislative clarity for schools with a religious character. This was in order to ensure that these schools will be able to continue to teach in accordance with their religious tenets. Given the potential risk that future guidance given by a Secretary of State for education regarding sex and relationships education could now conflict with Church teaching on marriage, we were disappointed that an amendment to provide this clarity was not accepted. The Minister made clear in the House of Lords, however, that in "having regard" to such guidance now or in the future schools with a religious character can "take into account other matters, including in particular relevant religious tenets", and that "having regard to a provision does not mean that it must be followed assiduously should there be good reason for not doing so". These assurances go some way to meeting the concerns we and others expressed.

(continued...)

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We were disappointed that a number of other amendments to safeguard freedom of speech and the rights of civil registrars to conscientious objection were not passed. But Ministerial assurances have been made that no one can suffer detriment or unfavourable treatment in employment because she or he holds the belief that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

The legal and political traditions of this country are founded on a firm conviction concerning the rights of people to hold and express their beliefs and views, at the same time as respecting those who differ from them. It is important, at this moment in which deeply held and irreconcilable views of marriage have been contested, to affirm and strengthen this tradition.

+ Vincent Nichols + Peter Smith



Children in Year 3 (who will be going into Year 4 in September) at Holy Family and St Gabriel's should have received a letter by now inviting them to take part in the preparation for Confirmation and First Communion which begins in September. Please ensure your application form is returned to Fr Dave by the end of July. Children at non-Catholic schools, who would like to celebrate Confirmation and First Communion next year, should contact Fr Dave as soon as possible.



Thank you so much to everyone who came to the concert by Monton Voices Community Choir, Martin McLaughlin and Holy Family School Choir at Holy Family recently. A fantastic total of £627.50 was raised for Let The Children Live! (serving the street children of Columbia).

## 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)

## PARISH NEWS

### This Week

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

Just to let you know that today, Sunday, will be the last Coffee Morning at St. Richard's until after the holidays, September 8th. We're having a coffee break!

#### **Children's Liturgy**

St Ambrose Barlow Children's Liturgy Group will be taking a break over the school holidays. Enjoy the summer and we looking forward to welcoming members, old and new, in September.

#### **St Ambrose Barlow Guides and Rangers**

As we approach the end of term, we would like to thank all parishioners for their continuous support throughout the year. Thank you to all who supported our family quiz night on Friday, which raised £131. The guides and rangers went on to bag pack at Sainsbury's in Leigh on Sunday and raised a whopping £409.94. Thank you to Katie Lowe's grandma Jo for organising this! All these monies will go towards next years camps and trips for the girls. Thank you. *Delia, Bernadette, Gemma and all the guides and rangers.*

#### **CAFOD & Traidcraft**

CAFOD & Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the morning Masses next Sunday, 28th July. All welcome.

#### **Lost & Found**

A small gold pendant was found after the Youth SVP BBQ last Monday. Enquiries to Fr Dave please.

### Forthcoming Events

#### **St Ambrose Church Council / Forum**

There will be a meeting of the St Ambrose Church council / forum on Wednesday 31st July at 7.30 pm in the church hall. Feel free to attend if you wish as this is an open meeting.

#### **Ambrosian's Meeting**

The next meeting for the Ambrosians will take place on Thursday, August 1st. There is a trip to Southport on 15th August calling at Ormskirk Market en route. The price is £10.00, with a £5 deposit required when booking. For more information or to book, please call Jean T (871109) or Kay (749348).

#### **Sri Lankan Street Children Charity Evening**

Friday 2nd August at 7.30 pm in Sacred Heart Church Centre, Leigh. All welcome. £1 including refreshments. Tickets from Sister Megan (St Gabriel's) who will also be pleased to receive donations, raffle prizes, and/or gifts for the stalls.

#### **St Richard's Parish Centre**

Charity Night for H.C.P.T.

Saturday August 3rd

Rock 'n' Roll Band Reunion

playing 50s-60s music

plus a DJ

Tickets £5 from Centre (phone 882125)

#### **Parish Feast Day**

As in previous years, there will be a special Mass to celebrate the Parish Feast Days of St Margaret Clitherow and St Edmund Arrowsmith. This year, the celebration will take place at Twelve Apostles, Westleigh, on Thursday 29th August at 7.30 pm. More details nearer the time.

## LOURDES 'AT HOME' DAY



### Thursday 25th July at St Ambrose Barlow

The schedule for the day:

<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Early Morning Mass</b> <i>(followed by tea and toast)</i>
<b>8.30 am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <i>(until 11.00 am)</i>
<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Mass of Anointing</b> <i>(followed by lunch)</i>
<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Procession</b>

There are lists at the back of church for those who wish to be anointed, stay for lunch or need transport. Could Eucharistic Ministers and SVP members please ask the people they visit to see if they wish to attend and sign for them?



We need **volunteers** to help prepare for the day and ensure it goes smoothly:

#### **On the night before (Wednesday 24th July at 7.00 pm):**

† We will need plenty of willing hands to put tents up, move chairs and prepare the grounds, the hall and the church for the following day.

#### **On the day itself, we will need:**

† Volunteers to bring people to the Midday Mass, marshalls to direct cars into the car parks, help distributing food and drink after the services, and people to assist the elderly and those in wheelchairs.

If you can help with any of the above, **please sign the appropriate sheet at the back of church TODAY.** Young people will be especially welcome as volunteers because in Lourdes they are an important part of the Liverpool Pilgrimage.

*Many thanks*

### LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 891.24
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 224.08
St Gabriel's	£ 158.70
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 779.93
<b>Total Parish Collection</b>	<b>£2053.95</b>

### SECOND COLLECTION

#### Apostleship of the Sea

Holy Family	£ 264.48
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 74.51
St Gabriel's	£ 59.55
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 248.20

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

# PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 21st July 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Teresa Gallagher 11.00 am Chris Quinn 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Fr Arthur	(Sat) 6.00 pm Mgr John O'Connor	(Sat) 6.00 pm Lilian Welby 9.30 am Peace in Syria 6.30 pm Francis Maxwell Mercer
<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 Ronnie Kenwright 7.00 pm Prayer Group		9.15 am Michael Langan
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Eunice Fairless			9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>THURSDAY</b> <i>Lourdes 'At Home' Day</i>		8.00 am Early Morning Mass 12.00 noon Mass of Anointing 7.30 pm Holy Hour		10.30 am Funeral Service for Nicola Jayne Lee
<b>FRIDAY</b>			<i>No Mass today</i>	9.15 am The Lavin Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am James Cronin		6.00 pm Stewart & Jennifer	6.00 pm John Heavey
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Ann & Joe Thompson 11.00 am Graham Baybut	11.00 am Eddie & Molly Whelan		9.30 am Christopher Heavey 6.30 pm Paddy Treanor

## 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  
**Morgan McKenzie & Kai Thomas Cookson**  
*May God bless them and their family*

## LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:  
**Nicola Jayne Lee**                      **Lily Greenwood**

Those who are sick, especially:  
**Anne Broad**                              **Joan Clegg**  
**Teresa Cooney**                          **Norah Atkinson**  
**Maureen Warren**                      **Margaret Dixon**  
**Margaret Langan**                      **Alan West**  
**Gillian Best**                              **Mary Hall**  
**Veronica Marsden**                      **Mavis Smith**  
**Elizabeth Oldershaw**                   **Joyce Nuttall**

Children who are missing, especially:  
**Madeleine McCann**

## SECOND COLLECTION

**Today**                      **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**  
**Next Week**              **Day for Life**

Next Sunday is the annual **Day for Life**. The second collection will go to support the Anscombe Bioethics Centre (formerly the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics) and other life-related activities supported by the Church.



## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**17th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**

**First Reading**    *Genesis 18:20-32*  
Abraham intercedes with God on behalf of Sodom, a city full of evil.

**Second Reading**    *Colossians 2:12-14*  
Through baptism, a Christian dies to the old sinful ways of life, and rises to live a new life with Christ.

**Gospel Reading**    *Luke 11:1-13*  
Jesus urges the apostles to pray to God with childlike trust for all their spiritual and worldly needs.