

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Second Sunday of Lent (C)

24th February 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Sunday Readings - 2nd Sunday of Lent (C)
Weekdays Readings - 2nd Week of Lent
Today **Second Sunday of Lent (C)**
Friday **Feast of St. David, Patron of Wales**
[Women's World Day of Prayer]
Sunday **Third Sunday of Lent (C)**



GOSPEL REFLECTION

A few years ago, the wonderful rock singer and guitarist, Bruce Springsteen, was interviewed by the equally wonderful singer-songwriter, Elvis Costello – the Boss and the King together! One of the subjects that came up was the difficulties in touring. They both agreed that seeing all the crowds and playing in front of their fans every night was absolutely wonderful – they both perform concerts that last about three hours! But the physical and sometimes emotional cost of touring was very draining. They've seen most of the towns and cities they play in many times before and they simply don't get the time to go off exploring places or meeting friends. Most of their time is spent in hotel rooms, catching up on sleep, watching TV, then to the concert hall for a practice. Then they have to gear themselves up for the highlight, the concert itself, which is wonderful. One Christian performer once likened playing live as a "Transfiguration" experience, after which they need to go back down the hill to experience "normal" life with all its trials and tribulations. To us outsiders, it must seem like a wonderful thing to be able to tour the world, to see so many places, and to play music in front of thousands of fans; but, like everything else in life, the reality is very different. For many performers, the thought of playing live is the very thing that keeps them going. Without it, they simply could not go on and would have to do something else for a living. But many of them struggle with living "normal" lives because of the sheer wonder of playing live music in front of thousands of fans. The feeling that this gives them cannot be repeated anywhere.

In today's Gospel Reading, Peter wanted to stay on the mountain top. When Jesus was transfigured, Peter wanted to stay there and carrying on living this wonderful unique experience. He did not want to go back down to the everyday normal way of living. But Jesus summoned him to back down the mountain and face the future. The experience on the mountain was not meant to provide an escape from the struggle that lay ahead, but to help him face it. The hour of light was meant to help him face the hour of darkness. Yet, it is very clear that something of the wonder of the Transfiguration remained with Peter and illuminated his life, because many years later he wrote, "We were eye-witnesses of his glory on the mountain...a voice came to him saying, 'This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased'" (2 Peter 1: 17-18).

We too can experience rare moments of light and joy. It can happen when we feel the love of family and friends. Perhaps it happens through the birth of a new baby, or someone close getting a new job. God can bless so much in so many different ways. We have to be open to seeing his hand at work in our lives, so that we can recognise these Transfiguration experiences. We get brief glimpses of the Promised Land towards which we are travelling in faith. In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. But these moments of transfiguration, whatever they are, are given to us to strengthen us for our journey in faith, to help us face the everyday tasks of life, and to enable us carry whatever cross comes our way.

Psalms Response

The Lord is my light and my help.

Gospel Acclamation

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

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

Mission Appeal

A very warm welcome to Sr Renate of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, who will be making the Annual Mission Appeal during Masses this weekend at St Gabriel's and Holy Family: www.worldssps.org

First Reconciliation

First Meeting for Holy Family pupils in Year 7 this Thursday, 28th February, 3.30 - 4.30 pm, in church.

World Day of Prayer

The annual Women's World Day of Prayer will be held this Friday, 1st March. There will be two services in the area which are open to everyone: men, women, children and young people.
1) 2.00 pm at St. Michael's Church, Howe Bridge. Speaker: Rev. Kathryn Carmyllie, the new vicar in Atherton.
2) 7.30 pm at Wigan Road Methodist Church, Leigh WN7 5AH. Speaker: Miss Emma Atherton, a young Catholic from Wigan.



"With You Always"

Preparation Masses for children in Year 4 and their families next weekend: Saturday at 6.00 pm at St Gabriel's, and Sunday at 9.00 & 11.00 am at Holy Family.

Ministry of Reader

Readers are invited to renew their commitment to ministry during Masses across the parish next weekend.

St Margaret Clitherow SVP

Our next meeting will be held at St Gabriel's on Thursday 7th March at 7.30 pm. This meeting is for all members, so please come along if you can.

"Aladdin" - The Pantomime

St Ambrose Players are pleased to present their production of Aladdin: Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th March in St Ambrose Barlow Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets: Adults £6.00, Seniors and Children £3.50. For reservations, please contact Des: 01942 876050. Come and enjoy the show!

Ambrosians Outing

There is an outing to The Bourne Poacher on Tuesday 19th March for a St. Patrick's celebration. This will include a meal. To book a place, please phone Kay on 01942 749348.

News from St Mary's High School

This week, our prayer focus is the First Station of the Cross – Jesus is condemned to death.

It is our Year 8 Parents Evening on Thursday 28th February from 4.30 pm. Our Year 7 students had their first Parents Evening at St. Mary's last week. The Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at St. Mary's, well done!

Thank you to those parents who attended the Parent Consultation last Thursday. The ideas and thoughts of those present will be included in planning for the future.

This week we have our performance of Bugsy Malone: Monday to Wednesday at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £5 for adults, £4.50 for concessions. To book tickets, please email drama@smchs.org.uk Our students (and staff!) have been hard at work learning their lines and their choreography, and are looking forward to showing you what they have put together.

Housekeeper at St. Richard's

Just to let you know that the Archdiocese have allowed us to appoint a part-time housekeeper at St. Richards to help Fr. Paul – he needs help!!! So if you see a strange woman around, don't worry, it's just the new housekeeper, Bernie. She will also help with admin, such as paying bills, correspondence, etc. We hope she will be very happy in her new role.

St Richard's Easter Flowers

If you wish to have the names of your loved 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.

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.

Can you help?

A new refugee in the area is looking for a job: aged 30, very good spoken and written English, tall, slender, strong. Has been 5 years in the UK. Reliable, computer skills, cookery, easy to work with, excellent time keeper, hard worker. 1 day weekly at Wigan College (HNC Civil engineering). Please ring 01942 676962 for more information.

Loop System at Holy Family

"I hadn't realised the Loop System at Holy Family wasn't working. Many thanks to the anonymous person who alerted me and for your very kind and generous donation of £500 towards repairs. With this amount of money we will be able to install a new loop system - the present one is over 20 years old. Work is due to begin on Wednesday this week. Thank you so much." Fr Dave

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



LENT 2013

This Lent, we are marking the 50th Anniversary of CAFOD through various fundraising activities and liturgies.

HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

CAFOD & Traidcraft

CAFOD and Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the morning Masses today. Refreshments - tea, coffee, toast, etc., and delicious home made cakes - will be available and the proceeds from the refreshments will go to our CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia project. Please come along if you can. You will be most welcome.

Wardrobe De-clutter Sale

Sunday 3rd March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Holy Family Church Hall

Only one week to go now! Very good quality men's and women's clothing and accessories available. All the proceeds will go to CAFOD - so please come along and support this worthwhile cause. Many thanks to all who have already given items. A very special thanks to the person who made an anonymous donation of £400 to start the sale. If you still wish to donate or are able to loan a stand alone full length mirror for the day, please contact Joan (07785112206) or Wyn (0161 790 1854).

CAFOD's Stations of the Cross

The Youth SVP will lead a set of Stations of the Cross from CAFOD on Friday 15th March at 7.00 pm at Holy Family.

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 lunch-time. Tickets, priced at £2, include a drink and a cake. More help would be greatly appreciated to plan this event and so a meeting will be held in the Parish Centre at 7.30 pm this Wednesday, 27th February. If you cannot make it to the meeting but would still 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 go towards CAFOD.

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI



Almighty ever-living God,
who has given your faithful servant Benedict
grace to maintain his faith and hope in you
amid the labours of his apostolic ministry;
graciously bestow upon him, we pray,
the consolations of your Holy Spirit
and uphold him in serenity of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Holy Mary, Mother of God - pray for us.
St Peter & St Paul - pray for us.
St Benedict - pray for us.
All holy men and women - pray for us.



Early Morning Masses

Wednesdays

7.30 am at St Ambrose Barlow

Fridays

6.30 am at Holy Family

Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7.00 pm

St Richard's, St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family

Saturdays at 5.30 pm

St Gabriel's

Taize Prayer

Tuesday 26th February at 7.30 pm

St Ambrose Barlow

Thursday 7th March at 7.30 pm

Holy Family

Thursday 14th March at 7.30 pm

St Richard's

Services of Reconciliation

The following services will take place at 7.30 pm

Wednesday 6th March at St Joseph's

(Please note: this service will include Individual Confession)

Tuesday 26th March at Holy Family

"Confessathon"

(Individual Confession)

Saturday 16th March at St Joseph's

10.00 am - 2.30 pm

(except during Mass at 12.00 noon)

Churches Together Lenten Talks

Each week during Lent, Christians from the different churches in Atherton are gathering together for Lenten Talks in the Salvation Army Chapel, George Street, Atherton, at 7.30 pm. Please come along and join us in prayer.



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

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 872.13
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 263.57
St Gabriel's	£ 180.97
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 753.63
Total Parish Collection	£2070.30

SECOND COLLECTION

Lenten Alms

Holy Family	£ 147.84
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 24.15
St Gabriel's	£ 57.05
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 178.23

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 24th February 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Charles McEntee 11.00 am Anne Moran	11.00 am Bernard Atkinson	(Sat) 5.30 pm Stations of the Cross (Sat) 6.00 pm Kenneth Pendlebury	(Sat) 6.00 pm Helen Bennett 9.30 am Shaun Pendlebury 6.30 pm Kathleen Twomey
MONDAY				12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Thomas Unsworth		9.15 am Margaret Henry
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Trudie Sighe	7.30 am Margaret Dootson		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
THURSDAY			10.00 am John Dean	9.15 am Peter Wolfe
FRIDAY	6.30 am Private Intention (LISC) 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross	7.00 pm Stations of Cross		9.15 am Charles & Margaret Hurst 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	10.00 am Joan Clegg		5.30 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm Frank Hudson	6.00 pm Theresa Cunningham
SUNDAY	9.00 am Gordon Spencer 11.00 am People of the Pastoral Area	11.00 am Charles McEntee		9.30 am Jessie & Horace Meadows 6.30 pm Vincent Nestor

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)

BAPTISM

We welcome into our family of faith
Joe Robert Bell, Nixan Jai-Duddle
& Zykiah Zevon Andrew Ditchett
May God bless them and their families



LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad
Teresa Cooney
Archbishop Kelly
Maureen Warren
James Galek
John Royle
Joan West
Gillian Best

Joan Clegg
Michael Dunn
Norah Atkinson
Fr George Russell
Margaret Dixon
Margaret Langan
Alan West

Children who are missing, especially:
Madeleine McCann April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today CAFOD's Lent Fast Day
Next Sunday Lenten Alms

Lenten Alms - Each year, during Lent, the second collection goes to a charity of the Archbishop's choice.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

First Reading *Exodus 3:1-8,13-15*
God shows his love and concern for his people who are oppressed by their enemies.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12*
The feeling of oppression that the people of Israel experienced in the desert is a warning for all Christians.

Gospel Reading *Luke 13:1-9*
Jesus stresses the necessity of repentance and tells the people that time is running out.

STOP PRESS!

There's a family moving into a flat in Leigh who have absolutely nothing except a settee. If you can help in any way, please contact Sr Megan (01942 683554). Many thanks.