

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Palm Sunday (C)

24th March 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Sunday Readings - Palm Sunday (C)
Weekdays Readings - Holy Week
Today **Palm Sunday (C)**
Thursday **Maundy Thursday**
Friday **Good Friday**
Saturday **Holy Saturday**
Sunday **Easter Sunday (C)**



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Every year, on this Sunday, the Church reads an account of the Passion of Jesus. As we listen to it, we are reminded of the cowardice of the followers who abandon Jesus in his hour of need. We think of the wickedness of the religious leaders who plotted his death, and remember the cruelty of the soldiers who carried out his execution. And we do need to be reminded of these things, because, whether we like it or not, such cruelty and wickedness continues to exist throughout the world today, and the poor and most vulnerable are often still victimised and rejected by large sections of society. But this is not necessarily the main purpose of the Passion reading. The main emphasis is on Jesus, the central character in the story. What we are remembering is the fidelity, the courage, and the sheer goodness of Jesus. Against the darkness of Calvary, his goodness shines all the more brightly. The day of his death is not called "Bad Friday" but "Good Friday". What makes it good is the love of Jesus – "Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends." It is this great love that we are remembering during Holy Week. The early Christians saw in the passion and death of Jesus the triumph of failure. On the surface, it seemed like a defeat for Jesus, but it was a victory. It took the early Christians many years to understand this fully. It was the triumph of good over evil, of love over hate, of light over darkness, of life over death.



The Passion story shows how Jesus responded to what was done to him. He absorbed all the violence, transformed it and returned it as love and forgiveness. This was the victory of love over all the powers of destruction. There was nothing but love in him. Even when they nailed his hands and feet to the cross, he forgave those who executed him. It helps to think about that when we are going through hard times. It is a consolation for us to know that Jesus suffered in his life here on earth. It can give some meaning to the suffering that we sometimes go through ourselves. Yet Jesus' suffering would have been a waste of time if he had not endured it with love. It was not Jesus' suffering that saved the world, but his LOVE.



As we remembering the Passion of Jesus today, let us put ourselves in the story. Where would we be? Which character from the Passion story really reminds us of ourselves? Does the story make us want to stand up for the rights of those who suffer today? Hopefully, the story of Jesus' Passion will remind us of God's great love for us, a love that challenges us to love others even more.

Psalms Response My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.

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.



Holy Week Penance Service

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

Chrism Mass

Wednesday 27th March at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral. If you would like a place on the Pastoral Area coach, please sign the list at the back of church TODAY at the latest. The coach will be leaving around 5.45 pm, but you will be contacted with full details on Tuesday.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM *'The Three Days of Easter'*



MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.30 pm **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
St Ambrose Barlow, Astley
St Richard's, Atherton
Our Lady of the Rosary, Leigh

At St Ambrose Barlow, there will be 'Watching' at the Altar of Repose until 11.00 pm with Night Prayer at 10.45 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

Day of Fast & Abstinence

11.00 am **Stations of the Cross for Children**
Holy Family, Boothstown
3.00 pm **Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**
St Richard's, Atherton
Holy Family, Boothstown
Sacred Heart, Leigh
7.00 pm **'Watching at the Tomb'**
A short service of prayer and reflection
Holy Family, Boothstown
7.00 pm **Stations of the Cross**
St Gabriel's, Higher Folds

HOLY SATURDAY



7.30 pm **The Easter Vigil**
St Gabriel's, Higher Folds
Twelve Apostles, Leigh
8.00 pm **The Easter Vigil**
St Richard's, Atherton

Please note: the Easter Vigil replaces the usual Saturday evening Masses

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:

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



Many thanks to those who have signed up to help with the Holy Week services. We still need a few more volunteers. Before you leave church today, please have a look at the lists at the back of church to see if you could help in some small way. Thank you so much. *Fr Paul & Fr Dave*



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.

St Ambrose Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate towards the Easter flowers at St Ambrose, please place your money in an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers' and hand it to Steve, Eileen or Delia. 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

Craft Class

There will be no Craft Class on Maundy Thursday. The next class will be on Thursday April 4th.

Son-Rise Easter Service

Here's a challenge. Why not make an effort to join us at the foot of the cross in front of St Stephen's Church on Easter Sunday morning at 6.00 am to greet the feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. It's a short service - but what a wonderful way to show our appreciation to Jesus for the sacrifice he made for us.

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. For further details, or to get on our mailing list, please contact: Sarah on sarahheaton@uwclub.net or text/phone Hugh on 07977 904479, or just turn up.

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.

It's ABBA Again!

By popular demand, an evening of Abba is being staged at Atherton Formby Hall on Friday April 12th at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10. The important thing about the evening is that it is a fundraiser for the Atherton & Leigh Foodbank which is much needed in our area at this present time.

Saint Ambrose Barlow 200 Club

A date for your diary - the Cabaret Evening when the £1000 prize Draw will take place will be in the Hall on Friday 26th April. Watch this space for more details and for information about tickets. The winners of the March draw were: £100 (107) Anne Carey, £50 (111) Bill Green.

Balls of Wool

If anyone has any odd balls of wool (any colours will do) for the crochet of baby blankets for the baby special care unit at Bolton and Wigan hospitals, please leave them at the back of any of the churches. The blankets can only be used for the one baby and are sent home with the baby, so a continuous supply needed. Thank you for your kind help.

Gift Aid Envelopes

The new Gift Aid envelopes for the next tax year are now available. Parishioners from St Richard's and Sacred Heart who Gift Aid their offering are asked to call into St Richard's Parish Centre this weekend to collect their new envelopes.

Guides Bag2School

St Ambrose Barlow Guides are providing you with another opportunity to clear out your wardrobes ready for the new season. They are holding a bag2school event on Saturday 20th April. Bags are available at the back of church after Mass. Please don't worry if you don't pick up a bag as any bin bag will do! If you want us to collect your bags - we will travel anywhere in the Pastoral Area, just contact Delia on 01942 884576. Alternatively, please drop your bags off on Saturday 20th April, 8.30 - 9.00 am. Fill your bags with clothing, shoes, belts, bags, towels, curtains and even soft toys! Many thanks for your support.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to all who supported the recent highly entertaining pantomime at St Ambrose - by attending, supporting or participating in the event. The sum of £1296.37 was raised. Special thanks to Steve who wrote, directed and performed magnificently!!

CAFOD Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held in St Richard's Parish Centre last Thursday raised the fabulous sum of £567 for CAFOD. Many thanks to all the helpers and those who supported the event.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

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

Joanne Burton will be running in the Manchester Marathon on April 28th in aid of the Meningitis Trust. There will also be 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 me details: 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: www.justgiving.com/Paolo-Dale



LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 755.20
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 315.42
St Gabriel's	£ 187.32
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 707.14
Total Parish Collection	£1965.08

SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Blind Services

Holy Family	£ 165.21
St Gabriel's	£ 39.28
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 196.77

CAFOD Coffee Morning

St Ambrose Barlow	£ 80.00
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 567.00

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 24th March 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Charles McEntee 11.00 am Pope Francis	11.00 am Teresa O'Connor	(Sat) 6.00 pm Brian Gerrity	(Sat) 6.00 pm Helen Bennett 9.30 am Caroline & George Smallshaw 6.30 pm John Battersby
MONDAY				12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's
TUESDAY	7.30 pm Holy Week Penance Service <i>(Service of Reconciliation)</i>	10.00 am Morning Prayer & Mass (Sylvia Bradley)		9.15 am Mary Coen
WEDNESDAY	12.00 noon Funeral Mass for Neil Doherty			9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
HOLY THURSDAY		7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bernard Atkinson)		7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Margaret Harrison)
GOOD FRIDAY	11.00 am Stations of the Cross for Children 3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 7.00 pm Watching at the Tomb		7.00 pm Stations of the Cross	3.00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord
HOLY SATURDAY			7.30 pm The Easter Vigil (Derek Singleton)	8.00 pm The Easter Vigil Catherine, Emmett & Terry FitzMaurice
EASTER SUNDAY	9.00 am Eric White 11.00 am A Special Intention	11.00 am Jim Duffy		9.30 am Pat Fanning 6.30 pm Josephine Cora Oddie

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 26th March at 7.30 pm

Holy Week Penance Service
Holy Family, Boothstown

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism:
Theodore Edward & Charles David Keegan
May God bless them and their family

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:
Neil Doherty

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad	Joan Clegg
Teresa Cooney	Michael Dunn
Norah Atkinson	Maureen Warren
Margaret Dixon	John Royle
Margaret Langan	Joan West
Alan West	Gillian Best
Fr George Russell	

Children who are missing, especially:
Madeleine McCann April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today CAFOD's Syria Crisis Appeal
Good Friday The Holy Places

The crisis in Syria is having a devastating effect on the lives of millions of people, and the humanitarian situation is getting worse by the day. 2.5 million people are in urgent need of food aid, while thousands are fleeing into neighbouring countries every day. The scale of the crisis is overwhelming. CAFOD is already supporting its Church partners in Syria, helping to provide food, clothes and relief supplies to those most in need. Given the gravity of the situation, CAFOD is launching an emergency appeal this weekend.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY Easter Sunday (C)

First Reading *Acts 10:34,37-43*
St. Peter is a witness to the risen Christ.

Second Reading *Colossians 3:1-4*
St. Paul explains how baptism makes us sharers in the resurrection, and brings us the hope of new life with God

Gospel Reading *John 20:1-9*
Mary Magdalene and the disciples begin to understand that Jesus is risen.