

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

Solemnity of Christ the King (C)

24th November 2013



## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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**Deacons:** Robert Hewertson & Anthony Arrowsmith

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter Readings** Week 2  
Sunday - Christ the King (C)  
Weekdays - Year 1, Week 34

**Today** **Solemnity of Christ the King (C)**  
(National Youth Sunday)  
End of the Year of Faith

**Saturday** **Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle**  
**Sunday** **1st Sunday of Advent (A)**



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once two travellers were going through a forest when night came upon them. In a matter of minutes, the narrow path which they had been following became invisible. In the darkness, terror lurked everywhere. Then, to make matters worse, a violent thunderstorm broke over the forest. Terrifying flashes of lightening were followed by loud peals of thunder which shook the ground under their feet. Torrents of rain poured down on them. The first man looked at the storm as a calamity. Every time there was a flash of lightning, he looked up at the sky and cursed the bad weather. The result was that he strayed from the path and got lost in the forest. The second man, however, looked on the storm as a blessing in disguise. Each flash of lightning lit up a little bit of the path ahead of him, and thus he was able to take a step forward. By keeping his head down, he succeeded in staying on the path. And so, a step at a time, he made his way out of the forest. Sometimes this is the way it is in life. There is just enough light to take the next step. There is enough strength and energy to do the present task. The thunderstorm was the same for both men. Yet for one it proved to be a stumbling block, for the other it proved to be a stepping stone.

The travellers in the story remind us of the two thieves in today's Gospel. Both of them were caught up in terrible darkness. First of all, there was the darkness of their own lives of crime. Then there was the terrible darkness that descended on Calvary at the death of Jesus. One of them cursed the darkness. The other saw a gleam of light through it. That light came from the presence of Jesus, the friend of sinners, who came to seek out and save the lost. The second thief's humble confession went straight to the heart of Jesus. It won for the thief, not only forgiveness, but the gift of salvation.

In the end, the only one who knows us and understands us fully is God himself. He is the only biographer in whose accuracy we can absolutely trust because he alone sees what is in our heart. He sees our wounds and sorrows, our scars and inabilities, our hopes and our longings. Jesus looked at the thief, and seeing the sad tatters of his life, was moved with compassion for him. The good thief gives hope to us all, but especially to those who come to the end of life and have nothing to show but the works of darkness. Even at the eleventh hour there is the possibility of turning to the light. Through his sheer goodness, Jesus can turn our darkness into light, but only if we let him. Salvation is always a gift from God.

May the promise of Paradise always be in our hearts as we remember that there is always a way back to God.

**Psalms Response** I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.

**Gospel Acclamation** Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

**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

### This Week

#### CAFOD & Traidcraft

CAFOD and Traidcraft will be open in Holy Family Church Hall after the morning Masses today (Sunday). All welcome.

#### Justice & Peace Group

The next meeting of the Pastoral Area Justice & Peace Group takes place this Tuesday, 26th November, at Sacred Heart, Leigh, beginning at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

#### "With You Always"

##### 3rd Meeting for Parents & Children

St Richard's School, Atherton

Wednesday 27th November at 3.30 pm

Sacred Heart School, Hindsford

Wednesday 27th November at 6.30 pm

St Ambrose Barlow Hall

Thursday 28th November at 6.00 pm

#### Annual Mass to Remember Children

There will be a special Mass to remember children who died before birth, at birth, or anytime afterwards, on Wednesday 27th November at 7.00 pm at Holy Family. All are welcome. If you know someone who might appreciate an invitation, please let them know about the Mass. Many thanks.

#### Bring & Buy Bingo

Come along and join in the fun on Wednesday 27th November at 8.00 pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Monies raised will go towards the Ambrosians funds, not towards the Ambrosians outings, as previously stated.

#### Emmaus Group

Next meeting to provide on-going support to those who have recently become members of the Church at St. Richard's on Thursday November 28th at 7.30 pm.

#### Charity Body Shop Party

Friday 29th November at 7.00 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall to raise money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Tickets are £5 per person payable on the evening. Bring your own refreshments. There will be a raffle of as well as the opportunity to purchase Body Shop products in time for Christmas. RSVP by text to Thirza on 07936 526295.



#### Sacred Heart Christmas Fayre

Sacred Heart School will be holding a Christmas Fayre this Friday at 3.30 pm in the school. Come and see Father Christmas. All welcome.

#### Parish Christmas Fair

The Parish Christmas Fair will be held at 12.00 noon next Sunday at St Ambrose Barlow. Father Christmas will be present and there will be lots of stalls. There is a notice in the church porch asking for donations for the Christmas hamper. If you can provide any of the items on the list, please pop your name on the list. We would also appreciate donations of good quality items for the books, toys and White Elephant stalls. Tinned or packaged food items are needed for the food stall (but please check that goods are in date). If you are a whiz in the kitchen, donations of homemade cakes would be appreciated. New items suitable for raffle prizes would also be welcome, as well as bottles for the bottle tombola.

## ADVENT COLLECTIONS

17th November - 15th December



In place of the Second Collections during Advent, there is the opportunity to help those in need in four practical ways:

- 1) The **Barnabus Project** in Manchester is looking for winter clothing for men and women living on the streets of Manchester. If you have suitable items (e.g. hats, coats, scarves, gloves, 'new' underwear, etc.), please bring them to any of the churches.
- 2) The **Windsor Drop-In Centre** in Salford is looking for tinned food for the homeless over the Christmas period. These items can be left at any of the churches.
- 3) The **Royal Manchester Children's Hospital** is looking for 'new' gifts for those children who will not receive a gift or a visit on Christmas Day. If you would like to buy a 'new' gift for one of these children, please bring it to any of the churches. Children range from babies up to 18 years of age. The hospital staff sort and wrap the gifts, so there is no need for us to do that, but they do welcome contributions of wrapping paper. Gifts should bear the British Standards Kite Mark and the European Standards CE Mark.
- 4) The economic situation means that an increasing number of animals are being abandoned, so **Animals in Distress** in Irlam would welcome donations of cat or dog food. Again, these items can be left at any of the churches.

*Thank you so much for your kindness.*

#### Christmas Card Campaign

For over 25 years now, we have sent Christmas Cards to Prisoners of Conscience and, more recently, to our Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. This year's Christmas Card Campaign will take place on the First Sunday of Advent, 1st December, at each church in the parish.

## PARISH NOTES

#### Newsletter

Please ensure items for the newsletter are sent in by Wednesday morning. Thank you.

#### 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)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Atherton and Leigh Foodbank**

Volunteers are required for the next supermarket collections: 2 hours on either Friday 29th November or Saturday 30th November, at either Tesco Leigh or Tesco Atherton. Please phone Valerie Thomas (01942 874160) if you are able to help. Information about the work of the Trussell Trust foodbank network is available at: [www.athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk)

### **Ladies Meeting**

Next meeting on Wednesday 4th December at 7.15 pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Tea rota: N Quinn & K Lloyd. Raffle rota: A. Stephenson & M Evans.

### **Be a Circles Volunteer**

Circles works with convicted sex offenders to help change their lives and give them the support they need to stop them committing further crimes. Volunteers are at the heart of our work. If you think you might be able to help, come to one of our drop-in sessions and find out more. November 30th: 1.00 - 3.30 pm, December 5th: 6.00 - 8.00 pm at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS.

### **Vocation of the Permanent Deacon**

There will be an Open Meeting at St Joseph's, Penketh (WA5 2BB) on Friday 6th December at 7.30 pm about the Diaconate. The meeting is open to all: it should be of special interest to men thinking about serving in the Ordained Ministry of Deacon.

### **Advent Carol Service**

An early notice that an Advent Carol Service will take place in Atherton Baptist Church on Sunday December 8th at 6.30 pm. Please come along and join us in prayer.

### **St. Richard's Christmas Fayre**

You are all welcome to come along to the Christmas Fayre at St. Richard's School on Saturday December 14th between 12.00 - 4.00 pm. We will have donkey rides, a falcon display, face painting, arts & crafts and many stalls including jewellery, flowers, toys, bottle stalls, play your cards right, and much more. There will be refreshments and food provided by the Far Pavilion Restaurant. There will also be a visit by Father Christmas. Please come along and support us.

### **Christmas Coffee Morning**

Friends of Holy Family are holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on Sunday 15th December, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm in the Church Hall at Holy Family. As well as the café, there will be a raffle, tombola and a range of ladies plus size clothing on sale. Please come along and join us.

### **St Mary's Senior Citizens Christmas Party**

St Mary's Sixth Form students would like to invite Senior Citizens to their annual Christmas party on Wednesday 18th December, 12.30 - 2.30 pm. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided, along with a raffle and prize bingo. There are 18 places for the Parish of St Margaret Clitherow. If you would like to attend, please phone Holy Family (0161 790 2390). Many thanks.

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

**NEW YEARS EVE REUNION**  
**60's & 70's Rock Band plus Disco**  
Tickets £10

**TODAY IS NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO JOIN US FOR MASS EACH WEEK AND TRY TO LIVE OUT THEIR CHRISTIAN FAITH. WE LOVE YOU, VALUE YOU AND CHERISH YOU.**

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Manchester Road, Astley



### **OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday 28th November 2013**

**5.30 - 8.00 pm**

Results reach a new high!

99.7% A\*-E and 49% A\*-B at A Level  
100% pass rate in all BTEC courses with  
70% of students gaining Distinction/Distinction\*

**Talks will take place at 6.00 & 7.00 pm.**

Subject staff will be available to discuss  
and promote their courses.

Contact us on 01942 884144 or e-mail

[sixthformenquiries@smchs.org.uk](mailto:sixthformenquiries@smchs.org.uk)

### **Christmas Cards**

Rather than spending money on Christmas Cards to give to people you see on a regular basis at church, why not donate your money to CAFOD, where it will be used to help those suffering in Syria, the Philippines and other areas of the world where people are suffering? If you would like to join in this initiative, please place your money in a blank envelope, marking it "Alternative Christmas Card" and hand it in at St Ambrose Barlow Church. A large card will be in place at the back of church which you may sign to send Christmas greetings to all in the community.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### **Christmas Eve**

5.30 pm	Twelve Apostles
6.00 pm	St Gabriel's & St Richard's
6.30 pm	St Joseph's
8.00 pm	St Ambrose Barlow
11.30 pm	Holy Family
12.00 am	Sacred Heart, Leigh

### **Christmas Day**

8.30 am	St Joseph's
9.00 am	Holy Family
9.30 am	St Richard's & Sacred Heart, Leigh
10.30 am	St Joseph's
11.00 am	St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family
11.15 am	Our Lady of the Rosary

## LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 777.44
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 413.87
St Gabriel's	£ 256.76
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 645.59
<b>Total Parish Collection</b>	<b>£2093.66</b>

## SECOND COLLECTION

Emergency Appeal for the Philippines

Holy Family	£ 622.06
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 152.36
St Gabriel's	£ 146.99
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 996.97
<b>Total to CAFOD</b>	<b>£1918.38</b>

*Thank you so much for your generosity*



# PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 24th November	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Ann & Joe Thompson 11.00 am Shelagh Delaney	11.00 am Anna Bartoszek	(Sat) 6.00 pm Frank Hudson  1.00 pm Baptism	(Sat) 6.00 pm Helen Bennett 9.30 am Eileen Veronica Moran 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury
<b>MONDAY</b>	12.00 noon <i>Funeral Mass for John Vernon Byrne (St Joseph's, Leigh)</i>			
<b>TUESDAY</b>		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Joyce Nuttall	12.00 noon <i>Funeral Mass for Marian Woodward (Sacred Heart, Leigh)</i>	9.15 am Winnifred & Alex Hodskinson
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7.00 pm Mass to Remember Children who have died	9.00 am St Mary's Y8 (Joan Clegg)	12.00 noon Funeral Mass for John Stridgeon	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
<b>THURSDAY</b>	10.00 am Barbara & Thomas Johnson			9.15 am The Conway Family & The Vanston Family
<b>FRIDAY</b>			10.00 am Veronica Marsden	9.15 am Susan Fox
<b>SATURDAY</b>	10.00 am Denis Sweeney	10.30 am Padre Pio Prayer Group	6.00 pm Margaret Hudson	6.00 pm Pat Leach
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	9.00 am Joan Rose 11.00 am Yvonne Marguerie 12.30 pm Baptisms 4.00 pm Advent Vespers	11.00 am George Daniel Love		9.30 am Ronnie O'Hara 6.30 pm Dennis Yates

## 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 Church, God's Family,  
through the celebration of Baptism:

Liam Joseph Harding & Matilda Fletcher  
*May God bless them and their families*

## LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

John Stridgeon	Marian Woodward
Ann Marie Halpin	John Vernon Byrne

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad	Norah Atkinson
Alan West	Gillian Best
Joyce Nuttall	Lynda Daly
Mary Hall	Rev Jim Melia
Elizabeth Oldershaw	Connie Crilly
Thomas Laing	Jean Neary
Fred Lyth	Ken Gorse
James Keith Lewis	Margaret Hurley

Children who are missing, especially:

Madeleine McCann

## SECOND COLLECTION

Today

Next Week

National Youth Sunday

Christmas Card Campaign (see p 2)

Today is National Youth Sunday. The Second Collection will go to support 'Animate' - the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry. If you are able to Gift Aid your offering, there are envelopes at the back of each church (or in your box of Offertory Envelopes).



## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

First Sunday of Advent (A)

First Reading

*Isaiah 2:1-5*

Isaiah shares his vision of a lasting peace, created from former causes of destruction and unrest.

Second Reading

*Romans 13:11-14*

Salvation is not just about the future. It is near and is already at hand.

Gospel Reading

*Matthew 24:37-44*

Stay awake and prepare for the coming of the Son of God.