

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

5th Sunday of Easter (C)

28th April 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter	Week 1
Sunday	Readings - 5th Sunday of Easter (C)
Weekdays	Readings - 5th Week of Easter
Today	5th Sunday of Easter (C)
Monday	Feast of St. Catherine of Siena
Thursday	St. Athanasius
Friday	Feast of St. Philip & St. James, Apostles
Saturday	Feast of The English Martyrs
Sunday	6th Sunday of Easter (C)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

The first Christian Community shared everything in common, and the first thing we hear about the apostle Barnabas is that he sold his estate and laid the money at the feet of the other apostles. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke describes him as a "good man, full of the Holy Spirit and full of faith" whose encouragement resulted in many people persevering in their faith. There was one man in particular who was helped by Barnabas: his name was Paul. Remember that Paul had been the grand inquisitor and persecutor of the early Church. After his conversion, Paul tells us that he spent three years in the Arabian desert in a long renewal course as he prepared to become an apostle of the Lord. When he emerged from the wilderness, he went to Jerusalem to see Peter. The apostles gave Paul a cool reception, no doubt because they found it difficult to believe that such an accomplished persecutor of the early Church now wanted to become one of them. But one man encouraged Paul in his new life and decided to sponsor him. Barnabas had been chosen to oversee the Church in Antioch, the capital of Syria. He went to find Paul and invited him to join as his assistant. For a full year they ministered there. It was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first known as "Christians". Clearly, Paul and Barnabas fulfilled the command of Jesus in today's Gospel, "By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

Paul and Barnabas travelled widely together and, as we hear in today's First Reading, "they put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in faith." Paul extended to others the encouragement he had received from Barnabas. For Barnabas saw something in Paul that no other disciples saw: he saw beyond the face of the persecutor into the heart of a man who was struggling to become an apostle. Barnabas brought out the best in Paul, and he did this by spending time with him, no doubt listening to him and sharing with him, for over 1400 miles of travelling and preaching. When Paul needs help and advice, especially at the beginning of his ministry, it is Barnabas who helps him. Barnabas lives up to his name, "son of encouragement", by helping Paul live up to his new name and position as an apostle of Christ Jesus. By encouraging him, Barnabas actually gives shape to Paul's life. And he does this, not by idle chatter or distant well-wishing, but by staying with Paul and joining with him on his journey of faith. He promotes the best that is in Paul. He assists the possible. He invests his time and love and energy in the person Paul can become.

We can all bless God for the people who have invested in us, who encouraged us to be the people we are. But we need to pray that one day, perhaps everyday, we can be a Barnabas to someone else.

Psalms 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.**

PARISH NEWS

This Week

CAFOD & Traidcraft

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



Padre Pio Prayer Group

The prayer group meets each Tuesday evening in St Ambrose Church at 7.00 pm for a period of prayer and reflection. The group is open to all.

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on Wednesday 1st May at 7.00 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Tea rota: Susan Gaskell and Pauline Wilson. Raffle Rota: Joyce Nuttall and Kath Lloyd.

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.

News from St Mary's High School

As we enter May (already!), we are looking at the theme of friendship. In the spirit of friendship between ourselves and our feeder primaries, we have another of our Primary Sport Festivals this week – I know the PE department and their student volunteers are looking forward to working with our young visitors! Last week, we found out who the finalists are for our X Factor Grand Final to be held in the next few weeks. Congratulations to those who have made it – and good luck!



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, and one in St. Ambrose Barlow Church on Thursday May 16th at 7.00 pm. Those preparing for Confirmation are asked to let Fr Paul know which night they wish to attend.

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



A Course

Catechists

for New

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

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Scripture Group

The next meeting of the Scripture Group will be on Thursday 9th May at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Presbytery. Our focus will be on the Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 18 and 19. Please bring along a Bible. All welcome.



Youth SVP Holy Hike

Each term, the Youth SVP look at how they can support local needs in the parish. This term, they are planning a 'Holy Hike' around the Parish on Sunday 12th May to raise funds to support the work of the Macmillan nurses. Many of us will be familiar with the wonderful work the Macmillan Nurses undertake – visiting those suffering with cancer and providing invaluable care and support. The young people will walk from St Richard's to Sacred Heart, St Gabriel's, St Ambrose Barlow and finally to Holy Family, which will take approximately 3 hours. At each church, they will pray a decade of the rosary for the Macmillan nurses and all whom they serve. If you would like to sponsor them, there are sponsorship forms at the back of church. If you would like to join them on the walk, they will be leaving St Richard's at 2.00 pm.

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.



Fundraising for Meningitis

There will be a special "70s & 80s" Night in aid of the Meningitis Trust at the Leigh Lancastrian Squash Club on Saturday 18th May. The evening, which includes two great female artists and a hot pot supper, will raise much needed funds for Meningitis in memory of Corby, a young boy from St. Ambrose Barlow School, who sadly passed away last year. Tickets are available from the Squash Club itself.

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.



Emmaus Group

In the very near future, we are hoping to start a new group in the Parish. Anyone who has recently joined the Church is invited to meet, hopefully on a monthly basis, to share and discuss their faith. Fr. Paul and Fr. Dave have really enjoyed spending time with those who have wanted to become Catholics. Unfortunately, once they have been received into the Church, it can be difficult to keep in touch, apart from seeing them at Mass. So the Emmaus Group – named after the story of the disciples who recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread – will give us the opportunity to keep in touch and to continue to grow in faith together. It could become a good support group for new Catholics. As yet, we don't have a start date, but hopefully we could meet a couple of times before the Summer and see where it takes us. More details to follow shortly.

PARISH FORUM

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

A Prayer for the Year of Faith

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have given your Church
the mission to proclaim the Gospel to all the nations.

May our efforts to fulfill this mission
be guided by the Holy Spirit
so that we might be a leaven of new life,
salt of the earth and a light of the world -
worthy missionaries and faithful to you.

Make us valiant witnesses to the Faith of the Church
and inspire us to speak the truth with love.
Help us to communicate to others the joy
that we have received.

Allow us to be united, but not closed;
humble, but not fearful;
simple, but not naïve;
thoughtful, but not overbearing;
contemporary, but not superficial;
respectful of others, but boldly your disciples.

May we bear into the world the hope of God,
which is Christ the Lord,
who rose from the dead
and lives and reigns with Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 709.39
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 326.02
St Gabriel's	£ 193.41
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 579.48
Total Parish Collection	£1808.30

SECOND COLLECTION

Priest's Training Fund

Holy Family	£ 339.94
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 326.02
St Gabriel's	£ 123.78
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 407.50

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 28th April 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am People of the Pastoral Area 11.00 am Philip Aldred	11.00 am Thanksgiving for 10 years Breast Cancer Free	6.00 pm John Raines	(Sat) 6.00 pm Vincent Cambell 9.30 am Catherine & John Price 6.00 pm Beatrice Pilkington
MONDAY	12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh			
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Margaret Knowles 7.00 pm Prayer Group		9.15 am Susan Phillips
WEDNESDAY	Mass at St Ambrose Barlow	6.00 pm Funeral Mass for Patrick Masterson		Exposition 9.00 - 10.00 am
THURSDAY	Mass at St Richard's			9.15 am Esther Hough
FRIDAY			Mass at St Richard's	9.15 am Madeleine McCann
SATURDAY	No Mass today		6.00 pm Ted Hamer	6.00 pm Martin Neary
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Private Intention (LISC) 11.00 am Maureen Seacombe 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Joan West		9.30 am Jean Neary 6.00 pm John O'Malley

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This Saturday

No morning Confessions 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:
Cerys Travers, Bobbi Lea Coleman,
Forest William Thomas Matthews-Jackson,
Tommy John James Renda, Sophia Grace Carey,
Luca Mark Sutcliffe & Zavia Rae Tyman
May God bless them and their families

WEDDING

Congratulations to
Paul Andrew Traynor & Amy Louise Swanton
who were married at Holy Family last week

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:
Patrick Masterson Fr George Russell

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
Deacon Bill Parr Margaret Rodgers

SECOND COLLECTION

Today

Next Week

T.H.O.M.A.S

CHICKS

CHICKS stands for 'Country Holidays for Inner City Kids'.
CHICKS offers free week-long respite breaks for underprivi-
leged children from across the UK. Many of the children live in
severe poverty, are being neglected, bullied, abused or live in
care. Others have been bereaved or are full time young carers.
The one thing they all have in common is that without CHICKS
they would not get any respite from their home situations.
Website: www.chicks.org.uk

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

6th Sunday of Easter (C)

First Reading

Acts 15:1-2,22-29

As the first communities of Christians are formed, we hear
how differences of opinion emerge, and how they are worked
through, by argument, consultation and listening to the Holy
Spirit.

Second Reading

Revelations 21:10-14,22-23

The Lord prepares for all his people a radiant and peaceful
future in the new Jerusalem. In the Spirit we catch a glimpse
of this promise.

Gospel Reading

John 14:23-29

As Jesus prepares to leave his friends, he promises that the
Spirit will be given to them, and will bring them peace and
courage in all the difficulties and uncertainties that lie ahead.