

# Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

3rd February 2013



## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

**Priest:** Fr. Paul Seddon  
**Tel:** 01942 883395  
**Email:** paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

**Priest:** Fr. Dave Heywood  
**Tel:** 0161 790 2390  
**Email:** frdave@virginmedia.com

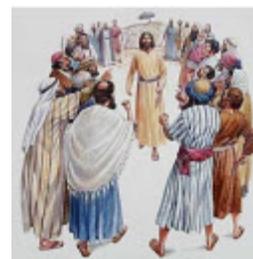
**Priest:** Fr. Stephen Cooper  
**Tel:** 01942 673517  
**Email:** fathercooper@btconnect.com

**Priest:** Fr. Kieran O'Grady  
**Tel:** 01942 673517  
**Email:** shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

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

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

**Psalter** Week 4  
**Sunday** Readings - 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)  
**Weekdays** Readings - Year 1, Week 4  
**Today** **Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**  
**Tuesday** St. Agatha  
**Wednesday** St. Paul Miki and his Companions  
**Sunday** **Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**  
*[Day of Prayer for the Unemployed]*



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

It is amazing how quickly and how easily the crowd can turn against someone. Stories from history are full of people who have been popular, then see their popularity disappear before their very eyes. We see it all the time on the political stage, sports people who have left one club to join rivals, celebrities who find themselves unpopular for no reason at all. The same thing happens to Jesus in today's Gospel. We are all very familiar with the fact that the same crowd who hail him as their King on Palm Sunday are calling "Crucify him!" less than a week later. Today's Gospel shows us how Jesus' decline in popularity begins much earlier.

The Gospel Reading today starts off with everyone approving of Jesus but ends up with them trying to throw him off a cliff. What did Jesus say that made them react so angrily? Basically, he simply repeated the message of the prophets. By referring to two characters from the Old Testament – the widow from Sidon and Naaman the Syrian – Jesus reminds the people that the whole point of having a chosen people is that they should be a witness to God's goodness in the world. God did not choose the people of Israel so that they could benefit from his favour exclusively. It was so that they could communicate God's presence to others. The people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth seem to have forgotten this aspect of their faith. God does not choose people or nations because they are good. He chooses them because of his great love for them. It is fitting then that they should reflect the goodness of God in their lives and share this love with others. Jesus challenges them to think about this and many of them cannot accept it which is why they reject him.

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul speaks about the higher gifts that God wants to give to all his children. Nobody deserves to receive the gifts of faith, hope and love - they are purely the gift of God. They are intended not just to bless us, but to help us bless the world. The gift of faith helps us believe what God reveals to us about himself. The gift of hope gives us a real trust in God's promises and our future happiness with him. The gift of love is the gift that makes all the other gifts come alive. We will not need faith in Heaven when we see God face to face. We will not need hope as we will have gained what we were hoping for. Love is the one virtue that will come to complete fulfilment and endure for all eternity. Love is the gift that helps us understand that God's love is for everyone and that we can be witnesses to his love in the world.

We can help ourselves develop these gifts in so many different ways. Learning more about our faith helps that gift and strengthens our minds. Meditating upon the joy of eternal life enlivens our hope. Living out our faith together in the Church and doing good works helps increase the love of God within us, a love we are called to share with the rest of the world.

**Psalm Response** My lips will tell of your help.

**Gospel Acclamation** I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Lord;  
no one can come to the Father except through me.

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



### Justice & Peace Group

The next meeting of the Pastoral Area Justice & Peace Group will take place at 7.45 pm this Wednesday, 6th February, at Holy Family. All are welcome.

### Ladies Meeting

The Ladies Group will be meeting this Wednesday, 6th February, at 7.30 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Tea Rota: Anuncia Berbas and Mandy Kupera. Raffle: Clare Barlow and Theresa Grainger. New members always welcome.



### This Week at St Mary's High School

1) This week we focus on the theme of love. We are looking beyond human love, and focusing on God's love for each one of us. It seems a fitting way to end the half term before starting Lent. As we will not be in school for the start of Lent, students will look at a short reflection based around Ash Wednesday to focus their minds in anticipation and preparation of Lent.

2) On Thursday 7th February, St. Mary's is holding its annual **Careers Convention**. All students are reminded that it is open to Years 9-13 and they are encouraged to come along.

3) Our next **Parents Consultation Meeting** is on 21st February at 5.30 pm; we invite all parents of St. Mary's students to come and contribute to a discussion about uniform and reports amongst other things. If anyone would like more information, please phone the school or email Mrs. Spencer on: [s.spencer@smchs.org.uk](mailto:s.spencer@smchs.org.uk)

### Churches Together in Boothstown

AGM Meeting at 7.00 pm this Thursday, 7th February, at the Methodist Church in Boothstown.



### Churches Together in Atherton

A reminder that tickets are still on sale for the Churches Together Barn Dance, which takes place in St. Richard's Parish Centre next Friday, February 8th. Tickets available from St. Richard's this weekend or on the evening itself.

### HCPT Raffle

The annual fundraising raffle for HCPT will take place next Sunday, 10th February, at Holy Family. Tickets will be on sale after Mass, and Tea and Toast will be on sale in the Hall. The draw will take place in the hall at about 12.15 pm.

### Padre Pio Prayer Group

The group will meet in St Ambrose Barlow Church on Monday 11th February at 2.00 pm to pray the rosary. This is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome to attend.

### Scripture Group

The next meeting of the Scripture Group will be held on Thursday 14th February at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Church Hall Meeting Room. Our focus will be on the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 6 to 12. Please bring a Bible with you. All welcome.



### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2013

Once again the annual Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place this year between Monday August 19th to Thursday August 22nd. The list for this year's Pilgrimage is in the porch at St. Richards. If you would like to go, then please sign your name and your contact details - and you will hear further details nearer the time. If you go to a different church, either email or phone Fr. Paul, leaving a message (with your name and number) and he will write your name on the list. Prices this year are: Adults £140 and Juniors £115.

### Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

**Date of Draw 27 January 2013**

**£200 - 167, £50 - 685, £25 - 857**

**£10 Winners: 67, 1183, 1169, 326**

**£5 Winners: 259, 79, 1165, 270, 668**

*Thank you for your continued support*

### Thanks

Many thanks to all who supported the recent Burns Night at St Ambrose Barlow, both those who attended and those who organised the event. A lovely evening was had by all! The event raised the sum of £233.12.

## 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)



**News for Young People**

**Soul Food** - a social and spiritual Saturday night experience for over 18's at St Mary's, Lowe House, 99 Crab St., St Helens WA10 2BE on the first Saturday of every month.

**Super Sunday** - a new way of celebrating Sunday for young people at St Mary's, Lowe House, on the first Sunday of every month. All welcome for any or all parts of the day: 12.00 noon Group Sessions exploring faith through games, film and music, 2.15 pm Mass Prep, 3.00 pm Mass followed by social time. For further details, see noticeboards at the back of churches or Animate's website: [www.animateyouth.co.uk](http://www.animateyouth.co.uk)



**A Special Service for the Celebration of Marriage & Family Life**

at  
**Our Lady Immaculate, Bryn WN4 0LZ**

on  
**Sunday 10th February**  
**3.00 - 4.30 pm**

Refreshments & activities for children available  
RSVP *Julie Cassidy* 0151 522 1040  
or [j.cassidy@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:j.cassidy@rcaol.co.uk)



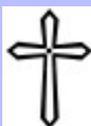
21st World Day of Prayer for the Sick  
**ARCHDIOCESAN MASS WITH AND FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

**Sunday 10th February**  
**at 3.00 pm**

**Holy Name Church, Moss Pits Lane, Liverpool**

**Celebrant: Bishop Tom Williams**

*(followed by refreshments)*



**Discovering God's plan for you!**

**(ARE YOU AGED 15-21 AND THINKING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?)**

On Sunday 10th February at 2.00 pm, the Vocations Team will be holding its monthly discernment meeting at St Charles Borromeo Church, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool.

This meeting is aimed at young men aged between 15-21. We gather to pray, socialise and learn more about the vocation of the priesthood.

If you would like to attend this event or would like more information, then please contact Fr James Preston on 0151 727 2493.

**LENT 2013**

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

**CAFOD's Annual Lent Fast Day**

Friday 22nd February

**Wardrobe De-Clutter Sale**

Wardrobe De-Clutter Sale in Holy Family Church Hall on Sunday 3rd March, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm. Good quality clothing and accessories donated for the sale can be left at any of the churches in the Parish. All proceeds will go to CAFOD. For further details, please see the posters/flyers, or contact Wyn (0161 790 1854) or Joan (07785 112206).

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*There will be eight Masses across the Pastoral Area*

<b>7.30 am</b>	<b>St Ambrose Barlow &amp; St Joseph's</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>St Gabriel's &amp; Twelve Apostles</b>
<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>St Richard's &amp; Our Lady of the Rosary</b>
<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Holy Family &amp; Sacred Heart (Leigh)</b>

**CAT NEEDS A HOME**



A loving home is urgently needed for a 4 year old male cat (neutered and immunisations up to date). He's quite timid, but ever so well-behaved. Please contact Fr Dave if you can help.

**MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

Monday 11th February at 7.30 pm  
Christ the King, Childwall  
*Everyone welcome!*

*Archdiocesan Marriage & Family Life Department*

**DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?**

Meetings for people who are divorced or separated or experiencing the breakdown of a marriage or long term relationship start mid-April. See poster for details or contact Frances (0151 727 2195) or Maureen (0151 722 1029).



**LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>£ 597.44</b>
<b>St Ambrose Barlow</b>	<b>£ 339.06</b>
<b>St Gabriel's</b>	<b>£ 136.15</b>
<b>St Richard's &amp; Sacred Heart</b>	<b>£ 544.25</b>

**OTHER COLLECTIONS**  
**Catholic Education Service**

<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>£ 212.29</b>
<b>St Gabriel's</b>	<b>£ 51.51</b>
<b>St. Richard's &amp; Sacred Heart</b>	<b>£ 248.22</b>

*Thank you so much for your generosity*

