

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

3rd March 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Sunday Readings - 3rd Sunday of Lent (C)
Weekdays Readings - 3rd Week of Lent
Today **Third Sunday of Lent (C)**
Sunday **Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)**



GOSPEL REFLECTION

A vineyard is a very special place, normally reserved for vines only. Yet, in his parable, Jesus talks about a fig tree which was planted in a vineyard. At that time, this was not so unusual. Good soil was so scarce that trees were planted wherever they could grow. We are dealing then with a tree planted in a very privileged place. In the normal course of events, it takes three years for a fig tree to reach maturity. If, by that time, it is not bearing fruit, it is likely that it will never ever bear fruit at all. Such was the case with the tree Jesus was talking about. For three years the owner had been coming to it and found it barren. He came to the conclusion that the tree was useless. It was drawing nourishment from the ground, but giving nothing back. It had to go - it was taking up valuable space. So he told the gardener to get rid of it. But the gardener, who had great knowledge of fig trees, replied, "Sir, give it one more year. I'll dig the earth around it and put on plenty of dung. Then, if there are no figs on it this time next year, we'll cut it down." The owner of the vineyard agreed. We are not told what happened to the fig tree. In a sense, this doesn't matter because Jesus had made his point. Just as the gardener was patient with the fig tree, so God is patient with sinners.

This Gospel passage has sometimes been called the "Gospel of the Second Chance". God is patient with his people. The history of the Church is full of stories of barren fig trees that in time become fruitful. In other words, there are stories of many sinners who become saints. Moses, at the centre of today's First Reading, is a good example. In his younger days, he actually killed another man. Yet God did not write him off. It is true that he had a fiery temper, but there was good in him. He was that rare being - the kind of man who couldn't stand idly by when he saw injustice or crime taking place. It was because of this inner quality that God chose him to lead his people from slavery to freedom. Some people develop slowly, or turn to God later in life. What such people need is someone to believe in them, someone who will have patience with them. The parable of the fig tree should remind us that there is always a second chance with God, for he believes in each one of us more than anyone else.

Psalms Response
Gospel Acclamation

The Lord is compassion and love.
Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

ARCHBISHOP PATRICK KELLY RETIRES

On Wednesday, it was announced in Rome that Pope Benedict had accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Patrick Kelly as Archbishop of Liverpool and Metropolitan of the Northern Province. This decision takes effect immediately. Archbishop Kelly made his request to the Holy Father in January because of the stroke he experienced in December. The Archbishop said: "Last Sunday, in a letter read at all Masses, I reflected on the retirement of the Holy Father and my own. I recalled the thanksgiving in which many shared on the occasion of my Golden Jubilee as a priest on 18th February 2012. All that remains to be said will find its place (...) in the great annual diocesan celebration called the Mass of Christ in the Cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 27th March, at 7.30 pm." Bishop Tom Williams has been appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Liverpool to ensure that necessary oversight and pastoral leadership are maintained until a new Archbishop is appointed.



**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

HCPT Appeal at St Richard's

This weekend, we welcome a group of our friends from HCPT, the Pilgrimage Trust, who will be making an appeal and giving a presentation at all the Masses at St. Richard's. We hope you enjoy their presentation and support them in this most worthy cause.

"With You Always"

A warm welcome to the children in Year 4, and their families, who will be joining us for Mass this weekend at St Gabriel's and Holy Family.

Ministry of Reader

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

"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!

Friends of Holy Family

Termly meeting for parents, parishioners and others who want to support Holy Family School at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 5th March in Holy Family Church Hall.

First Reconciliation

2nd Meeting for Holy Family pupils now in Year 7 at High School on Thursday 7th March at 3.30 pm in church.

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.

News from St Mary's High School

A massive "well done" to all students and staff involved in Buggy Malone last week – rave reviews all round! We had a very young cast this year, and they really stepped up – some stars of the future!

As we have so far in Lent, we will be having a Hunger Lunch on Tuesday, allowing students to donate money to CAFOD and stand in solidarity with those who don't have much to eat on a daily basis by having a simple soup and roll for lunch. Students also have the opportunity to join with staff for Morning Prayer twice a week during Lent, to do something different for Lent – something other than giving up chocolate!

Confirmations

Along with the "With You Always" programme, there will be a Celebration of Confirmation for all Year 4 children (or older) **who have already received their First Communion**. This celebration will take place on Tuesday May 14th hopefully in St. Richard's – this depends on numbers. All the children in the Catholic schools in the area will by now have received a letter of invitation along with a Confirmation Application Form. Please bring the forms back to school or church as soon as possible.

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.

Scripture Group

The next meeting of the Scripture Group will be held on Thursday 14th March at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Church Hall Meeting Room. Our focus will be on the Acts of the Apostles, Chapters 13 - 15. Please bring along a Bible. All welcome.

Bernard Atkinson

The family of Bernard Atkinson have been in touch to say thank you to everyone who were so kind during his illness, and thanks to everyone who sent cards and messages of sympathy to the family over the last few weeks. Please keep Bernard and his family in your prayers, especially his wife Nora who is very ill at the moment.

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Drawn 24 February 2013

£200 - 1035, £50 - 640, £25 - 1078

£10 Winners - 395, 349, 574, 697

£5 Winners - 677, 654, 745, 951, 1073

Thank you for your continued support

CHILDREN'S LIT_GY

What's missing? U R

The Children's Liturgy Group at St Ambrose Church would like to extend a big thank you to all those who have led and assisted over the past 15 years. Due to personal circumstances, a number of our catechists have had to drop out. We are at risk of the group folding. The group is an integral part of the community. If you are enthusiastic, community minded and willing to help - we need you. Contact Alison (01942 878019) or speak to Karen, Jane or Alison after 11.00 am Mass.

St Richard's Easter Flowers

If you wish to have the names of your loved ones 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.

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.

Wardrobe De-clutter Sale

TODAY (Sunday), 10.00 am - 2.00 pm
Holy Family Church Hall

High quality men's and women's clothing and accessories for sale and light refreshments available. All proceeds to CAFOD.

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 lunchtime. Tickets, priced at £2, include a drink and a cake. If you would 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 also go to CAFOD.



BENEDICT XVI

PONTIFICATE · APR 2005 - FEB 2013

"I am a pilgrim who is beginning the last part of his pilgrimage on earth..."

"But with all my interior strength, with all my heart, with all my love I will work for the good of the Church and all humanity"

This week, Pope Benedict retired after eight years as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman Church. He left the Vatican on Thursday evening and travelled to the Papal Summer Residence in the tiny hill-top town of Castel Gandolfo, where he will remain until his new home is ready in Vatican City.

In his final address, he said: "Thank you, thank you from my heart... You know that today is different from others, as of 8.00 pm I will no longer be the Supreme Pontiff of the Holy Roman Church. I am a pilgrim who is beginning the last part of his pilgrimage on earth. But with all my interior strength, with all my heart, with all my love I will work for the good of the Church and all humanity". And, in a final tweet, he wrote: "Thank you for your love and support. May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the centre of your lives."

Let us pray for both Pope Benedict and Archbishop Kelly: that they may enjoy their retirement with good health, a lot of peace, and joy in the Lord.

Prayer for the Election of a Pope

O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unflinching care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Roman Missal)



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

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	£ 670.50
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 457.25
St Gabriel's	£ 187.20
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 746.11
Total Parish Collection	£2061.06

SECOND COLLECTION

CAFOD's Lent Fast Day

Holy Family	£ 457.34
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 83.70
St Gabriel's	£ 142.56
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 484.51

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 3rd March 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Gordon Spencer 11.00 am People of the Pastoral Area	11.00 am Charles McEntee	(Sat) 5.30 pm Stations of the Cross (Sat) 6.00 pm Frank Hudson	(Sat) 6.00 pm Theresa Cunningham 9.30 am Jessie & Horace Meadows 6.30 pm Vincent Nestor
MONDAY				12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's
TUESDAY		9.00 am Morning Prayer 9.15 am Stephen Brady		9.15 am Kathleen Conway
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Judith Ida Penny	7.30 am Canon Denis Tangney (Leeds)		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
THURSDAY	10.00 am Joyce Smith 7.30 pm Taize Prayer			9.15 am Catherine O'Connor
FRIDAY	6.30 am C McEntee 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross	7.00 pm Stations of Cross		9.15 am Kevan, Greg & Sam 7.00 pm Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	10.00 am Fred Thomas 1.00 pm Baptisms		5.30 pm Stations of the Cross 6.00 pm John Dean	6.00 pm May Coen
SUNDAY	9.00 am Anne Freeman 11.00 am Grace McGee 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Brenda Brown		9.30 am James & Annie Leonard 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury

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)



LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Eileen Clancy

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad

Teresa Cooney

Norah Atkinson

James Galek

John Royle

Joan West

Gillian Best

Joan Clegg

Michael Dunn

Maureen Warren

Margaret Dixon

Margaret Langan

Alan West

Children who are missing, especially:

Madeleine McCann

April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today

Annual Mission Appeal

(Holy Family & St Gabriel's)

HCPT

(St Richard's)

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

The people of Israel, free at last from the humiliation they suffered in Egypt, enter the land of promise and share its produce.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Christ brought about a reconciliation between God and his people. The Church's task today is to bring the benefits of this to all people.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The parable of the Prodigal Son shows that God delights in showing mercy to repentant sinners.