

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

31st Sunday of the Year (C)

3rd November 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson & Anthony Arrowsmith

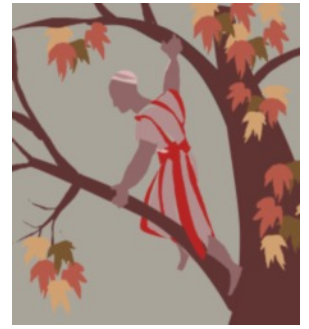
LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday - 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)
Weekdays - Year 1, Week 31

Today **31st Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(LAMP Sunday)

Monday St Charles Borromeo

Saturday **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**
Sunday **32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(Remembrance Sunday)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

We all have different images of God. Sometimes we imagine him to be the great accountant who keeps an exact record of everyone's sins. Nothing escapes his attention and he waits eagerly for the day when he can face us with the punishing record of our sins. This depiction of God is a world away from the image of God presented in today's First Reading. The author of the Book of Wisdom declares that God will... "Be merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent... you love all that exists." God is celebrated as the great lover of life who forgives the sinner and welcomes them back to him.

This attitude to sin is evident in today's Gospel, when we see how Jesus treats the tax collector, Zacchaeus. Jesus was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. Jericho was a wealthy city, an important customs centre on the trade route between Jerusalem and the East. It was the ideal spot for an ambitious tax collector. Zacchaeus, as chief tax collector, would seem to have more than distinguished himself in exploiting others. Although his occupation made him very rich, it would have made him an obvious target for the hatred of his fellow Jews. Tax collectors were put in the same social bracket as thieves, murderers and prostitutes. And because they were in the employment of the Romans, they were regarded as traitors by their own people.

Confined to his own small circle of friends, Zacchaeus would have led a lonely and isolated life. His riches gave him a loveless privilege. But he had heard of this prophet from Nazareth and his reputation for dealing with sinners and outcasts. Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus – the Gospel does NOT say that he wants to MEET Jesus. The tax collector is too small to see over the crowd, so he climbs a sycamore tree. From there, he could overlook Jesus as he passes by. Jesus, however, notices Zacchaeus. He initiates the contact and calls Zacchaeus by name. He does not shout condemnation at him. He does not exact repentance on him. Rather, he overlooks the sins of Zacchaeus and invites him down from his lonely perch: "Hurry, because I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus is delighted to welcome Jesus to his home. The crowd, however, are enraged. But Jesus is more interested in the outcast than the outraged. The crowd is transfixed by the sins Zacchaeus has committed. Jesus sees beyond the sins to the person Zacchaeus can become. The effect is instantaneous. Zacchaeus makes a public amendment for his wrongdoing. Jesus does not make a demand for repentance from Zacchaeus before eating with him. Because of Jesus' attitude to sinners in welcoming them and eating with them, Jesus gives them the opportunity for repentance in an atmosphere of repentance. This is why Zacchaeus comes down from the tree. This is why we will all come down from our lonely perches to face the one who loves us and wants us to repent. The story of Zacchaeus can continue to be told in all of us today.

Psalm Response I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Gospel Acclamation Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

**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



Masses of Remembrance

Since All Souls fell on a Saturday this year, there will be two Masses to remember all those who have died, especially loved ones who have died during the last 12 months, as follows:

Monday 4th November

St Richard's, Atherton at 7.00 pm

Wednesday 6th November

Holy Family, Boothstown at 7.00 pm

Ladies Group

The next meeting of the Ladies Group will take place on Wednesday 6th November at 7.15 pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. New members always welcome. Please remember to bring along your money for the Christmas meal. Tea Rota: Annuncia Berbas & Mandy Kuper. Raffle rota: Norma Quinn & Kath Lloyd



Music Meeting

For all those who help out with music in the liturgy, there will be a gathering of singers and musicians in St. Richard's Parish House on Thursday November 7th. The aim of the meeting is to simply share new ideas with each other. It would be good to gather together more to support each other in this important role. The meeting will begin at 7.30 pm. Please bring instruments and voices!

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

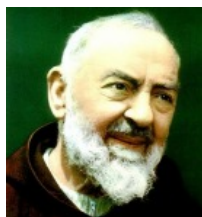
Date of Draw 27 October 2013

£200 - 1101, £50 - 192, £25 - 148

£10 Winners: 931, 924, 315, 859

£5 Winners: 801, 130, 8, 70, 893

Thank you for your continued support



St Margaret Clitherow Padre Pio Prayer Group

From 9th November, the prayer group will meet every Saturday morning at 10.30 am in St Ambrose Barlow Church. We pray together and welcome everyone.

Thanks

The new total for The Ladies Group Bingo / Bring & Buy Charity Night for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is now £330 following further donations. Many thanks to all.

Parish Christmas Lunch

The popular Christmas Lunch has been booked for 12.00 noon on Wednesday 4th December at the Glass House Restaurant, Salford College (Worsley site). The cost remains at £12 per person for a three course meal. Numbers are limited. Please contact Holy Family (0161 790 2390) to reserve your place.



CAFOD Connect2Ethiopia

Many thanks to all those who support our monthly tea, coffee, cake, etc., sessions after Masses at Holy Family. So far this year we have been able to send £1000 for our Connect2Ethiopia project supporting the people of Sebeya - a village in the dry, arid north of Ethiopia. Your continuous generosity and interest is greatly appreciated. We would also welcome any newcomers. Our next sessions will be on Sunday November 24th after the 9.00 and 11.00 am Masses, so please come along if you can.

"With You Always"

Second Meeting for Parents & Children

St Richard's School

Wednesday 13th November at 3.30 pm

Sacred Heart School

Wednesday 13th November at 6.30 pm

St Ambrose Church Hall

Thursday 21st November at 6.00 pm

Third Meeting for Parents & Children

St Gabriel's School

Tuesday 19th November at 6.00 pm

Holy Family School

Thursday 21st November at 6.30 pm

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

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 held on Thursday 14th November at 1.30 pm in Holy Family Presbytery. Our focus will be on the Old Testament readings which will be heard during Mass on each of the four Sundays of Advent. These are taken from the Prophet Isaiah (Chapter 2:1-5; 11:1-10; 35:1-6, 10; 7:10-14). All are welcome.

Sacred Heart Hindsford Parish Club

Charity Night in aid of The Royal British Legion at 7.30 pm on Friday 15th November. Cabaret with Mike Lester, Raffle and Tombola. Tickets £2 available at the club or pay on the night.

Parish Visitors

If you are a Eucharistic Minister, member of the SVP or the Bereavement Teams, or undertake some other form of ministry and visit people in their homes, then you are invited to a **Safeguarding Awareness** meeting on **Tuesday 19th November**, 7.00 – 9.00 pm, at Holy Family, Boothstown. The meeting will be led by the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Team and will involve information on elder abuse as well as how to keep yourself safe when carrying out your ministry. This is an important meeting and the priests ask us all to make it a priority. If you are able to attend the meeting, please sign the sheet at the back of church **by the end of October**. Many thanks.

St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Formby

St. Joseph's Prayer Centre are holding two retreats: (1) "The Path To Acceptance", which takes place between 15th-17th November, is a residential weekend retreat exploring how we can heal the wounds of our poor self esteem. (2) "Preparing for Christmas", held between 6th-8th December, will be a retreat helping us to keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas celebrations. For more information or to book a place, please phone 07722 572753 or 01704 879665.



A 'Do' for Senior Citizens

The Youth SVP would like to invite Senior Citizens to a bit of a 'Do' at Holy Family on Sunday 17th November, 2.30 – 4.30 pm, in the Large Hall. They will be providing some entertainment, singing, a game of bingo, a quiz, sandwiches and cake, tea and coffee, and a glass of sherry as you arrive. We could do with an idea of numbers for catering, so please sign the list at the back of church if you hope to attend.

Emmaus Group

The next meeting of the Emmaus Group will take place at St. Richard's on Thursday November 28th at 7.30 pm. **Please note the change of date from last week's newsletter.** The group is mainly to provide on-going support to those who have recently become members of the Church. The meeting normally lasts about an hour. Please come along if you can and bring any questions you may have.

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



TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 795.33
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 332.87
St Gabriel's	£ 162.60
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 767.20
Total Parish Collection	£2058.00

SECOND COLLECTION

SVP Monthly Collection

Holy Family	£ 144.14
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 35.59
St Gabriel's	£ 66.97
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 156.20

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 3rd November	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Kevin Freeman 11.00 am Mary & Danny Stockey 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Robin Cliff	(Sat) 6.00 pm Joan Clegg	(Sat) 6.00 pm Charles Fairclough 9.30 am Vincent & Anne Harvey 6.30 pm Shaun Pendlebury
MONDAY				7.00 pm Mass of Remembrance
TUESDAY	10.30 am Funeral Mass for Kathleen Morton		1.30 pm Funeral Mass for Eva Worthington	9.15 am Malcolm Ferris
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Mass of Remembrance (Pat Mullen)			9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition 10.30 am Funeral Mass for William Bennett
THURSDAY	10.00 am Karen Conlan			9.15 am Norah Hurley
FRIDAY			10.00 am Private Intention (LISC)	9.15 am John, Alice & Arthur Holding
SATURDAY	10.00 am Private Intention (SPL)	10.30 am Padre Pio Prayer Group	6.00 pm People of the Pastoral Area	6.00 pm Ronnie O'Hara
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Harry & Kathleen Hilton <u>10.55 am</u> Those who died in war & Christopher Tickle 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Special Intention		9.30 am Theresa & Michael Cleary 6.30 pm The Leggett Family

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 God's Family
through the celebration of Baptism:
Oliver Thomas Daley & Taylor-Paige Caldwell
May God bless them and their families

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who have died, especially:

Baby Jack Thomas Hulmes Drake, William Bennett,
Mary McDonagh, John O'Neill, Connor Donaldson,
Kathleen Morton & Eva Worthington

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	

Children who are missing, especially:

Madeleine McCann

LAMP SUNDAY

Today we pray for the Liverpool Archdiocesan Missionary Project (LAMP). We remember especially Fr Simon Cadwalader, Fr Denis Parry and all whom they serve in our name in South America. The Second Collection will be for LAMP. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided if you are a tax payer. Many thanks.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today LAMP (Liverpool Archdiocesan Missionary Project)
Next Week The Royal British Legion



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

First Reading *2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9:14*

We hear the story of the martyrdom of a mother and her seven sons. They drew their strength from their faith in the resurrection of the just.

Second Reading *2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5*

Paul prays for the Thessalonians that they may remain steadfast in the pursuit of goodness.

Gospel Reading *Luke 20:27-38*

Jesus deals with a question posed by the Sadducees about the existence of an afterlife.