

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

6th Sunday of Easter (C)

5th May 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Sunday Readings - 6th Sunday of Easter (C)
Weekdays Readings - 6th Week of Easter

Today **6th Sunday of Easter (C)**
Sunday **The Ascension of the Lord (C)**
(World Communications Day)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Change is often difficult for us, especially when it involves letting go of things or people who have been very dear to us. In the Gospel, we see Jesus at a moment of great change. He must leave his friends, face the Cross, and so open up the path to the new life of the resurrection. In this new life, Jesus is, in a sense, absent; but he is also present in a new, more profound way to his followers for all generations to come. And so, before his Passion, the Lord seeks to reassure and comfort his friends, promising that, even as he goes away and all seems lost, the great gift of the Holy Spirit will be theirs.

The disciples are called to be at peace and untroubled in the face of all this change and loss. They are challenged to put their complete trust in the promise of God. This trust cannot be learnt all at once: indeed, it can take a lifetime of learning for most people. In the Church, too, it can take time to argue and discuss, and so to learn where God is taking us. This is something that the first disciples really struggled with, as we hear in today's First Reading. The debate over whether circumcision and many of the other traditions of the ancient Law was necessary for Christians was a very heated one. This involved even more heated arguments between the two pillars of the early Church, Peter and Paul. It took time and heartache before the disciples could recognise something that was "decided by the Holy Spirit". Only then was a decision for opening up the way of salvation and lifting unnecessary burdens of the Old Law made possible. It was difficult for the early Christians to accept such changes at first. Yet, when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, they were able to look forward and accept that their lives were very different now, not only because Jesus was no longer with them, but because they were the new leaders of God's people.

Change and loss, moving on – these things can shape our lives at all levels. While such experiences, especially losing people we love, can obviously be very unsettling, and at worst distressing, they are always, in our lives as Christians, moments for potential growth when the Holy Spirit seeks to come and lead us on. As Blessed John Henry Newman remarked, "To live is to change; to be perfect is to have changed often." Today we are called to reflect on how we respond to change, in our own lives, in the lives of those we love, and within the Church and the whole world. Often our fears and hurt can put up barriers to the graces of the new life God is offering to us. It can be difficult to learn to trust completely in God in times of loss and disruption. But, like a plant that every now and then needs pruning, so God allows these things to happen in the hope that the Holy Spirit will allow his gifts to grow more strongly in us. It is sometimes hard to let go of the things we have been used to, especially difficult to let go of the people that we love. Let us pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit, so that God may help us grow stronger and become the people he wants us to be.

Psalms Response Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Acclamation Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

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

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.

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

The Youth SVP will be undertaking a 'Holy Hike' around the Parish next Sunday, 12th May, to raise funds for the Macmillan nurses. 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.

Save a life - give blood

Sunday 12th May: 10.00 - 12.30 pm & 2.00 - 4.00 pm at the Novotel, Worsley.

Animals in Distress

If you have any old blankets or towels that you don't need, the rescue charity, "Animals in Distress", could make good use of them. Please leave them at Holy Family. Many thanks.

News from St Mary's High School

After the Bank Holiday, our theme for the shortened week will be the Ascension of the Lord.

All of our Year 8 students have attended an informal reconciliation service over the last few weeks, and this week it is the turn of Year 10 students to try something a bit different. Our Year 8's have been very positive about trying something different, and have enjoyed the more interactive nature – especially the service when Fr. Cooper had the students standing on chairs to "get a different perspective"! This is something we will look to develop more with our students - trying different ways of exploring spirituality.

Monday Night Bingo

Every Monday: 8.30 - 10.15 pm in St. Richard's Parish Centre. All welcome.

Thank You

Joan West's husband Alan and family would like to thank all Joan's friends at St Ambrose Barlow for their kind thoughts, cards and prayers following their recent loss. Thanks to all who attended Joan's Requiem Mass and to those who made donations to CAFOD in Joan's memory. A cheque for £380 has been sent to CAFOD.

St Ambrose Church and Hall Cleaning

The old rota for church cleaning has not been in operation for some time now. In order to keep St Ambrose Barlow Church looking spic-and-span, we need a new rota to clean the church once a month and to do a "deep clean" twice a year - probably before the great feasts of Christmas and Easter. The Parish Hall is tidied and cleaned each week - but there is a need for a more in depth clean - which could be included in the same rota as the church cleaning if we can get enough volunteers. If you would be prepared to give up a couple of hours of your time once a month, please see Steve, Des or Delia after any Sunday Mass. Or you can ring Steve on 876487. Thank you.

A Course for New Catechists

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 like to go, please contact Fr. Paul as soon as possible.

Emmaus Group

We would like to invite all those who have recently been received into the Church to a meeting of the new "Emmaus Group". The Emmaus Group – named after the story of the disciples who recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread – will hopefully give us the opportunity to keep in touch and to continue to grow in faith together. We will hold an initial meeting in the Parish House at St. Richards on Thursday June 6th at 7.00 pm. If the group works out, we will hopefully open it up to others who may be interested in joining us.



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

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.



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

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.

Churches Together in Boothstown

Fr Dave invites you to a Unity Service which he will lead in St John's, Mosley Common, on Pentecost Sunday (19th May) at the earlier time of 4.00 pm. The service will last about 35 minutes and will explore the symbols of Baptism which we share with all Christians.

Justice & Peace Commission

Annual Assembly on Saturday 25th May, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm at LACE, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA. Main Speaker: Sir Bert Massie CBE 'Coping with the Cuts'. Workshops, stalls and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Steve or Maria on 0151 522 1080/1 or s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

"Bang and Boogie" Night

Friends of Sacred Heart School, Hindsford, are organising a "Bang and Boogie" Night on June 15th in St. Richard's Parish Centre. Tickets are £10 and are available through the school or from Liz Rawson.



CONFIRMATIONS



Tuesday 14th May at 7.00 pm
St Richard's, Atherton

Thursday 16th May at 7.00 pm
St Ambrose Barlow

Those preparing for Confirmation are asked to let Fr Paul know which night they wish to attend.

"WITH YOU ALWAYS"



St Gabriel's, Higher Folds

Rehearsal for Parents & Children

Group 1: Thursday 9 May at 3.15 pm
Group 2: Thursday 16 May at 3.15 pm

Celebration of Confirmation & First Communion

Group 1: Saturday 11 May at 6.00 pm
Group 2: Saturday 18 May at 6.00 pm

Holy Family, Boothstown

Rehearsal for Parents & Children

Group 1: Thursday 16 May at 6.30 pm
Group 2: Thursday 23 May at 6.30 pm
Group 3: Thursday 30 May at 6.30 pm

Celebration of Confirmation & First Communion

Group 1: Sunday 19 May at 11.00 am
Group 2: Sunday 26 May at 11.00 am
Group 3: Sunday 2 June at 11.00 am

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 972.27
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 272.38
St Gabriel's	£ 182.52
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 815.97
Total Parish Collection	£2243.14

SECOND COLLECTION

T.H.O.M.A.S

Holy Family	£ 232.12
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 23.60
St Gabriel's	£ 69.94
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 97.29

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 5th May 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Private Intention (LISC) 11.00 am Maureen Seacombe 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Joan West	(Sat) 6.00 pm Ted Hamer	(Sat) 6.00 pm Martin Neary 9.30 am Jean Neary 6.00 pm John O'Malley
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 Eileen Higham
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Woodbyrne & McGreal Families	9.00 am Prayer Service with Year 10		Exposition 9.00 - 10.00 am
THURSDAY	10.00 am Maude & Taylor Families			No Mass today
FRIDAY			10.00 am Vincent Fahey	9.15 am Margaret & Charles Hurst
SATURDAY	10.00 am Lilian Walsh		6.00 pm Frances Blake	6.00 pm Helen Bennett
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am Barbara Johnston 11.00 am Neil Doherty 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Judy Twomey		9.30 am Rex Baxter 6.00 pm Rose Lewis

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 family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism:
**Joshua Peter Lloyd-Jones, Hannah Joan Molyneux
& Luke Christopher Allen**
May God bless them and their families



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 Rogers

SECOND COLLECTION

Today

CHICKS

Next Week

World Communications Day

World Communications Day is kept in the Catholic Church worldwide next Sunday, 12th May. The day is about highlighting the way the Church uses the media to proclaim the Gospel. There will be a second collection to support the Catholic Communications Network, which is the Church's media office in the UK. Website: www.catholicnews.org.uk

POPE'S TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/pontifex>

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Ascension of the Lord (C)

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Jesus gives his disciples many demonstrations of the resurrection and promises the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

Jesus, our true high priest, has entered the sanctuary of Heaven.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:46-53

Jesus, the crucified, risen and ascended Lord, is our way to the Father in Heaven.