

Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow

The Epiphany of the Lord

6th January 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 2
Sunday Readings - The Epiphany of the Lord
Weekdays Readings - Weekdays after Epiphany
Today Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C)
And the last day of the Christmas Season



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Rosaleen grew up in a lovely walled garden in the company of thousands of other roses, all red like herself. She was told that it was a great privilege to have been born into the Red Rose Clan. High standards were expected of her, and she had to obey a lot of rules. One of those rules forbade her to attempt to climb over the garden wall. But as she got older, she began to ask herself what lay on the other side of the wall. One day, overcome by curiosity, she climbed the wall and took a peep over. What did she see? She saw another walled garden similar to her own, and in it grew lots of other roses, like herself in everything but colour – some were pink, some white and some yellow. She was shocked. After all, she had been told that there was only one rose – a red one. But then an elder of her clan told her, "Forget those flowers on the other side of the wall. They don't belong to our clan. Remember this: the only true rose is a red rose." But, try as she might, she could not forget them. So, another day, she climbed the wall again and began to chat with a pink rose from the other side. Her example caught on. More and more roses from both sides of the wall began to meet and talk and become friends. Slowly a great transformation took place. Having come to acknowledge each other's existence, the roses gradually came to accept their differences. And, even though the wall continued to stand between them, they learned to communicate with each other in spite of it. And, in time, they came to see themselves as members of one large family, the Rose family, a family of great variety and beauty.

The Feast of the Epiphany is a very revolutionary feast. Christ is revealed as the Saviour, not of a select group of people, but of ALL people. Jesus broke down the great barrier that existed between Jews and Gentiles. In fact, all the barriers of tribe, of kinship, are transcended by the message of Jesus, the Universal Brother. The Epiphany is a beautiful feast because it brings everybody together. "All now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same Body", St. Paul writes. But this doesn't mean that these barriers have magically disappeared. Wherever we go today, we see divisions among people - in families, communities, cities, countries, the whole world. Today's barriers are often racial, ethnic, social and religious ones. All these divisions are reflections of our separation from God.

God sent Jesus into the world to reconcile people with him and with one another. As people were reconciled with God through Jesus, we have been given the gift of reconciliation. Talking across fences and across barriers is important. Christians are called to be agents of love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds. Today's Feast of the Epiphany challenges us to make the Church a place where all barriers fall down, a place where there is room for everyone.

Psalms Response
Gospel Acclamation

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.
We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.

Epiphany



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



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who bought or contributed to the home made Christmas card sale at St. Richard's in aid of Derian House Children's Hospice. The total of £240 was raised. The Barry family want to say a big thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Ladies Group

The first meeting of 2013 will take place on Wednesday January 9th at 7.30 pm. This will be the traditional Epiphany Party. Tea Rota: Clare Barlow & Theresa Grainger. Raffle Rota: Annuncia Berbas & Mandy Kupera. New members always welcome.

Scripture Group

The next meeting of the Scripture Group will be held on Thursday 10th January at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Parish Hall Meeting Room. Our focus for the next few meetings will be on the Acts of the Apostles, so please come along and bring a Bible. All welcome.

Bingo Bring & Buy

The Ambrosians and Ladies Groups will be holding a Bingo, Bring & Buy on Friday 11th January at 8.00 pm in St Ambrose Church Hall. Monies raised will go to a named Charity chosen on the night.

Family Quiz Night

There will be a Family Quiz Night in St Ambrose Barlow Hall on Friday 18th January from 7.00 pm - with questions designed to test the knowledge of all age groups. Tickets are £3 per person or £10 for a family ticket (includes home made hot pot supper). Tea and coffee will be available, but please bring your own alcoholic and soft drinks. There will be a prize for the winning team and all proceeds will go to offset the cost of the ecumenical Christmas cards that are distributed around the Astley area by Astley Churches Together. Tickets available after the 11.00 o'clock Mass on Sunday - or phone Steve on 876487.

Sacred Heart Monthly Draw

Date of Draw 30th December 2012

£200 - 1123, £50 - 1009, £25 - 879

£10 Winners: 104, 692, 359, 316

£5 Winners: 214, 1062, 741, 116, 133

Thank you for your continued support

Burns Night Supper

Come along and join us in a traditional evening to celebrate the great poet, Robert Burns, on Saturday 19th January. The Haggis will be piped in at 8.00 pm. Haggis, neeps and tatties supper served with a "wee tot". A great night - £6 per person. Bring your own drinks. Venue - St Ambrose Barlow Hall. Contact Des: 01942 876050.



Over 60's Afternoon March 16th 2013

Traditionally, St Ambrose Barlow Church Community has welcomed persons over 60 years of age to Mass, a meal and entertainment in March. Sadly, we can only accommodate 76 persons with our limited catering facilities.

We are now inviting **those who wish to attend to make your intention clear** so we can issue the invitations, subject to numbers. As always, our first priority must be to sick and housebound members of the community and those over 60 years who attend St Ambrose Barlow Church on a regular basis. We would also like to invite those who have historically attended our church but who now worship in the neighbouring communities, owing to a change in circumstances, plus those who help out at our community events on a regular basis.

If you would like to attend this very enjoyable afternoon, please contact Delia (07753 929476) or Steve (01942 876487) before February 10th, who will pass your request on to the organisers. Invitations will then be issued according to the above criteria and subject to numbers. If we find that we are over subscribed, then the later names will be placed in a draw for selection, but we will try to fit in as many people as possible and hopefully no-one will be disappointed!



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

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS



Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

By air from Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Friday 26th - Friday 2nd August 2013. Also overland by Jumbulance. Pilgrims who will need help with mobility, nursing or medical care on the journey or in Lourdes, should register as soon as possible with the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0151 727 4000. Closing date for registration: 30th April 2013. The Tour Operator is Joe Walsh Tours, 143 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland; website: www.joewalshstours.ie – there is a reduction for those who book online. Tel: 0151 909 2871 or email: info@joewalshstours.ie Limited places available. We recommend you book immediately. Deposit £150. Bonded & Licensed as a Tour Operator by the Civil Aviation Authority in UK | ATOL 5163. See brochures at the back of church.

Pilgrimage of the Relics of Don Bosco



The casket containing the Relics of Don Bosco arrived in the UK this week. It is on a pilgrim journey through 130 nations, which began on 31st January 2009, in preparation for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Don Bosco's birth on 16th August 1815. The Relics will be at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral today (Sunday) and Monday, 6th & 7th January. **Sunday:** Mass at 3.00 pm, Pilgrimage Experience 5.00 - 8.30 pm, Closing Liturgy at 8.30 pm. **Monday:** Pilgrimage Experience 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, Closing Mass at 5.15 pm. See brochures at the back of church or www.donboscorelics.co.uk



Crossing the Threshold

A free resource day to support ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing Catholics at St Mary's Catholic Church in Leyland on 2nd February 2013. The day will run from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, with tea and coffee served from 9.30 am. Bishop Michael Campbell OSA (Lancaster) will give the main talk and Bishop Terence Brain (Salford) will also be in attendance. The programme includes Mass, talks, workshops, sharing time, stalls and much more. The event is primarily being offered for people in the Liverpool, Salford and Lancaster dioceses, but others from further afield are very welcome. To register your place and to find out more, please email your name to mission.volunteer@cbcew.org.uk or telephone the Home Mission Desk on 0207 901 4818. For further information, please see noticeboards and brochures at the back of churches.

CARETAKER

Caretaker wanted for the Cathedral Complex, Chapel Street, Salford. Salary: £16,000 pa. 35 hrs per week (excluding breaks). Flexible working required, including some evening and weekend working. Closing date for applications: 18th January 2013. For application pack and further details: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk - click on 'Job Vacancies' (left hand side) and then on 'Posts around the diocese'.



The **British Heart Foundation Furniture and Electrical Store** in Wigan provides a free collection service for unwanted, but working/saleable furniture and electrical items (washing machines to VCR's, music centres to lamps, and everything in between). As well as solving the problem of disposing of unwanted items, you will be helping to fight heart and circulatory disease. For free collection, please phone: 0844 248 9184.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE RECOVERING FROM WINTER ILLNESS

God of power and might,
be with N. as he/she recovers
from a winter illness.

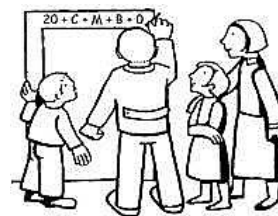
Warm him/her in the light of your love,
that he/she might find the time, rest,
and treatment to feel better soon.

Remind N. that he/she is your beloved child
and that you are with him/her
during this illness, and always.
Amen.

THE BLESSING OF HOMES

The Blessing of Homes is a time-honoured custom on the Feast of the Epiphany. It reminds us that Christ is with us in the love and care we show to one another in our ordinary, everyday lives together. Why not have a little celebration at home today? One custom is to trace the cross, the initials "CMB", and the numerals of the year on the doorway of your house (either using chalk or simply with your finger), and then share your usual Sunday meal together. "CMB" stands for "Christus mansionem benedicat" – "May Christ bless this house!"

20 + C + M + B + 13



LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 823.19
St Ambrose Barlow	£ TBA
St Gabriel's	£ 205.70
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£1180.80

CAFOD FUN RUN

Holy Family	£ 119.31
St Gabriel's	£ 43.04

Thank you so much for your generosity

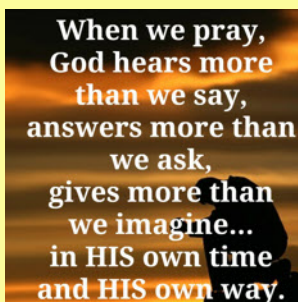
PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 6th January 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Joseph Geoghegan 11.00 am People & Priests of the Pastoral Area	11.00 am Margaret Bonney	(Sat) 6.00 pm Beatrice & Charles Gibbs	(Sat) 6.00 pm Catherine, Emmett & Terry FitzMaurice 9.30 am Barbara Foley 6.30 pm Michael Herko
MONDAY				12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's
TUESDAY		Mass at St Richard's	3.00 pm Reception of Body	9.15 am A Birthday Intention
WEDNESDAY			11.00 am Funeral Service for John Thorne	9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition 10.30 am Funeral Mass for Elizabeth Balmer
THURSDAY	Mass at St Richard's			9.15 am Pat Fanning
FRIDAY			Mass at St Richard's	10.30 am Funeral Mass for Anne Knowles
SATURDAY	1.00 pm Baptism 3.00 pm Wedding Service (Zoe Anderson & Julian Marsh)		6.00 pm Reg & Ray Gainer	6.00 pm Lilian Welby
SUNDAY	9.00 am Mary Hacker 11.00 am Bernard Hough	11.00 am Eddie McGrath		9.30 am Roy Hampson 6.30 pm Brian Conway

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 12th January

No morning Confessions 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:
Frances Green, Deacon Chris Pearson,
Anne Knowles, Elizabeth Balmer
& John Thorne

Those who are sick, especially:
Anne Broad, Bernard Atkinson,
Teresa Cooney, Michael Dunn,
Archbishop Kelly, Maureen Warren
& Canon Dick Firth

Children who are missing, especially:
Madeleine McCann & April Jones

SECOND COLLECTION

Today SVP
Next Sunday Pax Christi

Pax Christi is an international Catholic peace organisation providing support and resources for the Christian community in the UK. Website: www.paxchristi.org.uk



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Baptism of the Lord (C)

(Please note that, in some churches,
alternative readings may be used)

First Reading *Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*
The people are urged to prepare a way for the Lord who is coming to save them.

Second Reading *Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7*
God's grace and love are manifested in Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading *Luke 3:15-16,21-22*
We hear a small sample of the preaching of John the Baptist, and are given a brief account of the baptism of Jesus.