

Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

8th September 2013



PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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Deacons: Robert Hewertson, Anthony Arrowsmith & Dennis Vint

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Psalter Week 3
Readings Sunday - 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)
Weekdays - Year 1, Week 23

Today **23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(Racial Justice Day)

Tuesday St Ambrose Barlow

Friday St John Chrysostom

Saturday **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Sunday **24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)**
(Home Mission Sunday)



GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we see that Jesus did not try to hide reality from his disciples. He pointed out the difficulties, the hardships and the sacrifices that they would need to make if they wanted to follow him. He told them in no certain terms that it would not be easy. Relying upon the grace of God isn't an easy thing to do. It means giving up control and placing our complete trust in God. Jesus knew that the disciples would sometimes find this very difficult. But Jesus tells us quite bluntly, that if we are not able to carry our cross, we cannot be his disciples.

Jesus uses two stories to help his followers understand a little better, two examples of people faced with difficult decisions. Firstly, someone is building a tower. If he fails to budget for his building properly, he will end up a laughing stock, as he will leave it only half built. The other example he uses is that of a king making up his mind whether to take on an enemy with twice the number of soldiers at his command. If he cannot work out in advance whether he can win the battle with his smaller numbers, then he needs to sue for peace in advance. In both cases, we have people calculating wisely what they need to do to achieve a satisfactory outcome to their planning. For his followers, Jesus says that this means freeing themselves of any earthly attachments or possessions. If we try to follow Jesus without this freedom of mind and heart, these attachments will simply get in our way. We will not have the right frame of mind to follow through our good intentions to do what God asks of us.

Today we live in a world in which we have become very dependent upon material possessions, much more so than the people among whom Jesus lived. We could argue that this makes it all the more difficult for us to be his disciples. It will certainly be impossible for most of us to take his words literally and strip ourselves of all our human connections and material possessions. This stripping away, however, is not an end in itself. It is to ensure that we are open to the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that enables us to follow Christ. Freeing ourselves from our possessions clears the way for the Holy Spirit to act in us freely and more successfully. We can test our own dependence on our possessions by seeing how easily we can let go of them. Could we cap the amount we spend on ourselves by giving away as much as we buy? Is there some cherished possession we could give away? Could we choose to give to charity rather than going on a shopping spree? Could we spend time with someone who needs our company rather than with our friends? Such choices may seem insignificant, but they are a way of revealing the strength of our attachments and how far we truly allow ourselves to be free to do God's will.

Psalms Response

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

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.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY



Racial Justice Sunday enables Christian communities across Britain and Ireland to focus on the issue of ending racism and racial inequality. This year, churches, schools, groups and individuals are invited to mark the day by mobilising together in prayer, work and action to raise awareness of the 50th Anniversary of the 'I have a Dream' speech by Dr Martin Luther King and to ask 50 years on, where are we now?

The 28 August 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Junior's monumental 'I have a Dream' speech. The speech spoke about all God's people living in freedom and peace in a world governed by truth and justice. It called for liberty, equality and justice for all people, regardless of their racial heritage. Dr King's dream centred on a 'Beloved Community', a society built on justice, equality and freedom for all God's people which was rooted in scripture, particularly in Revelation 7:9-10. The speech remains an inspirational call for us to work for a fairer and more equitable world now.

The face of racism looks different today from how it looked in the past. Overt racism is easily condemned, but the sin of racism is often with us in more subtle forms. As Christians we are called to act to build justice and peace around racial equality and identity issues. We are called to welcome the stranger and to be hospitable to those who are different. As the problem of racism and racial inequality continue, there is an ongoing moral need for us to work for anti-racism and racial equality now.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN SYRIA

"I have decided to proclaim for the whole Church... a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world, and I also invite each person, including our fellow Christians, followers of other religions and all men of good will, to participate, in whatever way they can, in this initiative."

—POPE FRANCIS

**God of compassion,
hear the cries of the people of Syria.
Bring healing to those suffering from the violence,
bring comfort to those mourning the dead,
strengthen Syria's neighbours in their care
and welcome for refugees,
convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms,
and protect those committed to peace.**

**God of hope,
inspire leaders to choose peace over violence
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.
Inspire the Church around the world
with compassion for the people of Syria,
and give us hope for a future of peace
built on justice for all.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Prince of Peace and Light of the World,
Amen.**

DIVORCED/SEPARATED SUPPORT



Weekly Meetings

A series of six weekly meetings for people who are divorced, separated or experiencing the breakdown of a marriage or a long term relationship start Monday 16th September 2013 in Liverpool 17, from 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

One Day Meeting

A one-day meeting will be held on Saturday 14th September for those who cannot attend the six evenings. See poster for details or contact Frances on 0151 727 2195 or Maureen 0151 722 1029.

Weekend Course

Friday evening, 27th September to Sunday, 29th September 2013. A welcoming and affirming weekend offering a chance to reflect share and pray together at Loyola Hall Jesuit Spirituality Centre, Prescot, Merseyside. This can be attended on a residential or non-residential basis. Contact www.loyolahall.co.uk or phone 0151 426 4137

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Applications are now being considered for the next CCRS course, which is due to take place at St Bede's High School, St Anne's Road, Ormskirk L39 4TA. The Orientation evening will be held there on Thursday 26th September 2013 at 7.30 pm. All enquiries and correspondence to the CCRS Coordinator at LACE, or by phone 0151 522 1053 on Tuesdays 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, or email: b.hunt@rcaol.co.uk Information brochures are available at the back of churches, or from Fr Dave or Fr Paul, or from the Archdiocesan website www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk



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.boothstownholysfamily.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintambrosebarlow.wigan.sch.uk
www.saintgabrielsprimary.co.uk
www.saintrichards.wigan.sch.uk

PARISH NEWS

What's Happening

Safe a life - give blood

Sunday 8th September, 10.00 am - 12.30 pm & 2.00 - 4.00 pm at the Novotel, Worsley.

Youth SVP

The Youth SVP resumes after the summer holidays on Monday 9th September at 6.30 pm in Holy Family Presbytery. Young people in Year 8 and above at High School are very welcome.

'With You Always' - Holy Family & St Gabriel's

Introductory Meeting for Parents

St Gabriel's - Tuesday 10th September at 3.15 pm in church.
Holy Family - Thursday 12th September at 7.00 pm in church.

Baptism Visitors

Training Evening for those who have signed up to be Baptism Visitors on Wednesday 11th September at 7.30 pm in Holy Family Church Hall.

Scripture Group

Next meeting on Thursday 12th September at 2.00 pm in Holy Family Presbytery. We will focus on the Scripture Readings for Sundays 15th, 22nd and 29th September. Please bring along either a Bible or a Sunday Missal. All welcome.

Frog Race Night!

The Catkins Trust are holding 'Frog Race Night' on Friday 13th September, 7.30 to 11.00 pm. This is a family event, and great fun, involving racing frogs (not real frogs!) which are powered by manual human strength. The Catkins Trust was set up last October and is a fundraising charity, providing children affected by parents or carers drinking, with life's essentials. Primarily, it is to meet the needs of the children who access Willow's Young Persons Counselling Service (which offers counselling to vulnerable young people aged 11-19 yrs). Entrance fee is £2 per adult and £1 per child/concession. There will be a tuck shop available on the night and tea/coffee and refreshments will be on sale during the interval. Please feel free to bring along your own alcoholic beverages and nibbles! Raffle tickets will be on sale on the night. Please contact Karen Little on 07891 307529 for tickets.

"Dance to Swing Time"

Saturday 14th September, 7.30 - 11.30 pm at St Richard's Jubilee Hall. After last years successful event, Leigh Catenian Association have arranged another Dance Evening and invite parishioners from across the Pastoral Area to come along and enjoy the night. Tickets including buffet are £10 available from Ratcliffe's Cycle Life on Bradshawgate, Leigh (01942 673481) or Des (876050).

Dolores McNulty and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all friends and parishioners for their prayers and support during Seamus' illness and since his death. They were particularly touched by the number of Mass and sympathy cards they received.

Forthcoming Events

Holy Family - Eucharistic Ministers

Meeting on Tuesday 17th September at 7.00 pm in church to review current practice and taking communion to those who are sick or housebound.

St. Margaret Clitherow SVP

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th September at 7.30 pm in St Gabriel's Church. This is for all members, so please come along if you can.

Holy Family Church Council

The next meeting of Holy Family's Church Council will be on Thursday 19th September at 7.30 pm in church. Please note this is an open meeting for the community.

St. Joseph's Players

A number of productions are being performed by the St. Joseph's Players over the next few months. They will all take place in St. Joseph's Concert Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. "Billy Liar" by Keith Waterhouse & Willis Hall - 15th to 19th October at 7.30 pm. "Beauty & The Beast" written and produced by Doreen Johnson - 22nd January to 1st February at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £8 each and are available at the door or from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop, Bradshawgate, Leigh.



World's Biggest Coffee Morning

For Macmillan Cancer Support

† Thursday 26th September, 10.00 - 12.00 noon, in St Richard's Parish Centre. Tickets £2. Donations of items for a Tombola and Stalls would be much appreciated.

† Friday 27th September, 10.00 - 12.00 noon, in Sacred Heart Parish Centre. Please come along for a drink, a cake and bingo.

† Saturday 28th September in St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. More details to follow or speak to Mary B.

Ambrosians

The last outing for the year takes place on 4th October, going to the Bourne Poacher. The price is £25 including a non-returnable £10 deposit when booking. Please phone Kay on 749348. The Ambrosians would like to thank all those who supported the Francis House Bingo Night. The amount raised on the night was £199.09, with the raffle still to come. Many thanks.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Holy Family	£ 687.81
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 202.71
St Gabriel's	£ 196.11
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 609.63
Total Parish Collection	£1695.56

SECOND COLLECTION

Francis House Children's Hospice

Holy Family	£ 224.79
St Ambrose Barlow	£ 21.10
St Gabriel's	£ 74.86
St Richard's & Sacred Heart	£ 63.66

Thank you so much for your generosity

PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 8th September 2013	HOLY FAMILY	ST AMBROSE BARLOW	ST GABRIEL'S	SACRED HEART & ST RICHARD'S
SUNDAY	9.00 am Pat Davies 11.00 am Jo Fannin 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Edward Murphy	(Sat) 6.00 pm Baby Carey	(Sat) 6.00 pm John & Mary-Una McLoughlin 9.30 am Alice Leech 6.30 pm John Fox
MONDAY	12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's, Leigh			
TUESDAY		9.15 am Florence & James Joyce 7.00 pm Prayer Group		9.15 am Elizabeth Howard
WEDNESDAY	6.30 pm Exposition 7.00 pm Mary Leatherbarrow	9.00 am St Mary's Y11 Mass		9.00 - 10.00 am Exposition
THURSDAY	9.15 am School Welcome Mass (Special Intention)			9.15 am Jim Neary
FRIDAY			10.00 am School Welcome Mass (Pat Burns)	9.15 am Raymond Symonds 7.30 pm Golden Wedding Mass
SATURDAY	10.00 am Sr Maria Natella OP		6.00 pm Eric & Kathleen Sinclair	6.00 pm Helen Bennett
NEXT SUNDAY	9.00 am McHugh & Lyth Families 11.00 am People of the Pastoral Area 12.30 pm Baptisms	11.00 am Jane & Charles Welsby		9.30 am Harold Haigh 6.30 pm Eileen McNulty

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)

BAPTISM

Welcome into the family of the Church
through the celebration of Baptism:
Dominic George Sewell, Lily Kae Smith
& Logan James Smith
May God bless them and their families

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick, especially:

Anne Broad
Norah Atkinson
Alan West
Mary Hall
Mavis Smith
Joyce Nuttall
Connie Crilly
Winnie Brierley

Joan Clegg
Margaret Dixon
Gillian Best
Veronica Marsden
Elizabeth Oldershaw
Lynda Daly
Rev Jim Melia

MORNING PRAYER

Tuesday at 9.00 am at St Ambrose Barlow

SECOND COLLECTION

Today

Catholic Association for Racial Justice

Next Week

Home Mission Sunday

The money raised from next Sunday's Second Collection will fund a number of national projects, including the development of resources to support ministry and outreach to non-churchgoing (lapsed) Catholics. There are around four million baptised in our countries who never or rarely attend church.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

First Reading

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Moses intercedes with God for the people because they have fallen into idolatry.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

In his conversion, Paul is a witness to the fact that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-32

With the use of three parables, Jesus justifies his concern for sinners.