

# Parish of St Margaret Clitherow

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## St Margaret Clitherow

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## Part of Wigan and Leigh Deanery

websites: [www.leighcatholic.co.uk](http://www.leighcatholic.co.uk) & <https://stlewis.co.uk/deanery/>

## READINGS

**First Reading - Isaiah 9:1b-4**  
**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17**  
**Gospel Reading - Matthew 4:12-23**

## PARISH NEWS

Please make use of this address when contacting the Parish Office: [stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmargaretclitherow@rcaol.org.uk)  
A reminder: Please could all items for the newsletter be sent to the office at Holy Family or the above email by Wednesday evening.

**Last Week's Parish Collections:** Offertory Collection : **£659.54** / 2<sup>nd</sup> Ukraine **£151.73**  
**Second Collections:** Today : **St Francis Leprosy Guild** Next Week : **SVP**

**Ladies Group :** The next meeting will be held at St Ambrose on the 5th February 12-2pm

**HCPT Coffee Morning & Raffle Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Holy Family :** This will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> February. Raffle tickets will be on sale at St Ambrose Barlow 11.00am mass on Sunday the 8th and at the 6.00pm mass Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February. Tickets will be on sale at Holy Family at the 9.30am mass (15<sup>th</sup> Feb) and at the Coffee morning held in the hall after mass where the raffle will take place.

**Holy Family Baby & Toddler Group :** Parents, Grandparents & Carers you are invited to join our friendly and welcoming baby and toddler group, we meet at Holy Family Community Hall on Wednesday mornings (term time only) 8.45am -11.00am. There is a variety of toys, sing alongs, arts and crafts and has a secure outside play area. A suggested donation of £3 per session (£1 extra for each additional child) includes a cuppa for adults and juice and snack for little ones. For more information please ring the office on 0161 790 2390.

**"XII Apostles Walsingham Pilgrimage - Easter 2026.** If any parishioner is interested in participating in the pilgrimage, or if you require further information, please contact Therese Thompson on 07780 064502.

**Holy Family, Tea and Coffee after Mass:** Tea and Coffee is Today Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February. All welcome

## GOSPEL REFLECTION / CHRISTIAN ART



**On them a light has dawned Matthew 4:12-17** When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

**Reflection on the painting** Matthew presents the opening of Jesus' public life as a sudden explosion of light into a shadowed world. He recognises in it the fulfilment of an ancient promise in Isaiah: a people long accustomed to darkness now find themselves illuminated; those living under the shadow of death discover that light has reached them. And what was this light? Jesus himself. The effect was immediate and magnetic. People began to stream towards him from every direction — from Galilee and beyond, from Syria, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judaea, and across the Jordan. Above all, those who were weary, wounded, and burdened were drawn to him. Matthew captures something electric in those early days: a sense of explosion of expectation, joy, and new possibility. That first surge of light, however, was not confined to the past. It has not faded with time. The same Jesus, now risen and living, remains powerfully present among us. Matthew ends his Gospel with the words 'he is with us always', meaning that the Light is til with us, always. That sudden breaking-in of God's light could be imagined as fireworks: a dark sky held in suspense, then, without warning, an eruption of brilliance that transforms darkness into beauty. It is precisely this moment that we see captured in **Fireworks at the Castel Sant'Angelo by Joseph Wright of Derby**. Wright, active in Rome during the mid-1770s as part of the Grand Tour, was fascinated by light, whether scientific, artificial, or celestial. He became famous for painting dramatic nocturnal scenes illuminated by a single, powerful source. Here, painted between 1774 and 1778, the night sky over Castel Sant'Angelo (with St Peter's in the background) is suddenly pierced by an explosion of colour and radiant light. For a moment, everything is changed: stone, river, and crowd are caught up in the glow. When Christ entered history, his light burst into a darkened world, but unlike fireworks that glow only momentarily, His light is eternal.

### LOCAL PARISHES

**Parish of St. Margaret Clitherow**

St. Ambrose Barlow  
Astley  
St. Gabriel's  
Higher Folds  
Holy Family  
Boothstown

**Parish of St. John Rigby**

Sacred Heart  
Hindley Green  
Sacred Heart  
Hindsford  
St. Richard's  
Atherton

**Parish of St. Edmund Arrowsmith**

Our Lady of the Rosary  
Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph's  
Twelve Apostles  
Leigh

**Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and All Saints**  
Golborne

**Parish of St. Lewis**  
Croft

### 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.**

Please pray for those who are Sick



All Cancer Patients  
Archbishop Kelly  
Carol Yates  
Brian Smith  
Chris Higgins  
Deborah Kane  
Eilish Glennon  
Frank Colgan  
Francis Lohan  
Guy Ryan  
Hannah Delargy  
Jack Travis  
John Wall  
John Walsh  
Joseph Gray  
Lynne Lewis  
Louisa Duffy  
Matthew Ndumbe  
Margaret Wall  
Michael Ruddy  
Sean Flemming  
Tony Kenny  
Teresa Yates  
Young Dougie  
Ward  
Ward Family

All praise and glory is yours, Lord our God, for you have called us to serve you in love. Bless the sick of our parish so that they may bear this illness in union with your Son's obedient suffering. Restore them to health, and lead them to glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

WEEK BEGINNING 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Holy Family	St Ambrose Barlow
<b>Psalter: Week 3</b> <b>Readings- Sunday - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Weekdays - Week 3 in Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary</b> <b>Time World Leprosy Day</b>	9:30am <b>Mike Wilmot</b>	6.00pm - <b>Rosalyn Byrne</b> 11.00am - <b>Veronica Hall</b>
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Timothy &amp; Titus</b>		
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Fabian</b>		9:15am <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Thomas Aquinas</b>	7:00pm <b>Eucharistic Service</b>	
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>St Vincent</b>	10:00am <b>No Mass Today</b>	
<b>Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	10:00am <b>No Mass Today</b>	
<b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> <b>St John Bosco</b>	10:00am <b>No Mass Today</b>	6:00pm <b>John Ashworth-Scott</b>
<b>Next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Racial Justice Sunday</b>	9.30am <b>Joseph Delaney &amp; Keith Lewis</b>	11.00am <b>Bridie Elvie</b>

**DEATHS :** Peter Agada, Anne Laing

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May they rest in peace. Amen,"

"Lord, we pray for all those suffering from leprosy, that like the man Jesus healed, they may experience your touch of mercy, find comfort in their pain, and know they are welcomed back into their communities. Lord, hear our prayer."

"We ask you to relieve the loneliness and despair of those rejected due to illness, and to restore their health and dignity, through Christ our Lord. Lord, hear our prayer."

### Retiring Collections :

Weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> January St Francis Leprosy Guild / 1<sup>st</sup> February SVP

**Sick List :** If there are any names that you wish to be added to the new list please contact Liz in the office.

**Food Bank :** As many families are struggling in our midst please give generously if you are able. Food donated at church is taken to support our local food bank.

**SVP :** The weekly meeting of the older men in the parish for lunch and a chat at the Boundary Stone at 12:30pm on Wednesdays.

**St Vincent de Paul :** The SVP may be able to assist you or someone you know who needs help. We could help by providing people in our parish with supermarket food vouchers, essential furniture and home items and energy top ups where these are needed. If you are lonely we could visit you at home. For more information contact our dedicated SVP number 07566 725590

**Barnabus :** Can you help S.V.P. to provide for those living on the streets by donating warm winter clothing, eg. socks, hats, gloves, jumpers etc. Donations will be passed on to the charity Barnabus. Thank you for your help

### Readings for Next Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**First Reading - Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13**

"Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his commands;"

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

"Brothers and sisters, look at what you were when God called you"

**Gospel Reading - Matthew 5:12a**

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain"



### To make an offering to the parish by text message

Text **CLITHEROW** to **70085** to donate **£2**. Texts cost £2 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £2 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, Text **CLITHEROWNOINFO** to 70085.

Text **CLITHEROW** (or **CLITHEROWNOINFO**) to **70450** to donate **£3**.

Text **CLITHEROW** (or **CLITHEROWNOINFO**) to **70460** to donate **£5**.

Text **CLITHEROW** (or **CLITHEROWNOINFO**) to **70470** to donate **£10**.