

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (Year B) 25 NOVEMBER 2012



**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Jesus is interrogated by the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, the man directly responsible to the emperor for keeping the Roman rule in Judaea. For the occupying power, Jewish festivals were regarded as potential emergencies. At the time of the Passover, therefore, Pilate came with his garrison to Jerusalem, where he kept his security forces on alert in case of a riot or an uprising. Jesus has been handed over to Pilate by the Jewish authorities. It is Passover time. Pilate offers to hand Jesus back, arguing that Jewish Law can handle the case. The authorities refuse, so Pilate questions Jesus about the charge made against him: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replies to Pilate with his own question: "Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about it?" You wonder who is interviewing who. If the governor is interrogating the prisoner, the prisoner has his own agenda for interviewing the governor. Jesus calls Pilate to face the truth of the question he has asked, but Pilate is beyond this. Instead he defends himself by saying that he is not a Jew and that Jesus' own people have handed him over. However Pilate is curious to discover how Jesus has created such hatred and hostility against himself.

Jesus refuses to satisfy Pilate's curiosity but points out that his kingship is not in the realm of politics. His claim to be king can hardly affect national security. Jesus' Kingship is a witness to the truth of who he is and who God is. Pilate struggles with Jesus' idea of truth. He sees that Jesus is innocent but cannot release him because of his fear of what may happen. Pilate may be sincere in his concern for Jesus' safety, but he does not act on the truth he has discovered. Jesus is innocent. This truth is not a force that is going to influence Pilate's behaviour. As the Passion gets under way, Jesus has to witness to his own truth. He remains stubborn in his truth of the Father, in spite of the catcalls of his accusers and the silence of his absent friends. He may wonder where all the witnesses to truth have gone and why they are so few in number when the authorities come out in force. Pilate ensures that Jesus has his title above his cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". This is, perhaps, as close as Pilate will get to witnessing to the truth.

As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, how do we witness to the truth of God's love in our lives today? Jesus' love for us and for all his followers was so great that he gave up his life on the cross. This is the extent of Jesus' Kingship, to give rather than receive, to be rich in the eyes of God the Father rather than in the eyes of the world. As his subjects today, how do we witness to his truth, his love, his way? And how do we show that we are his followers unless we listen to his Word and share it with others?

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

Alison who runs the SDZ Street/Break dancing on Tuesdays is looking for new recruits: 5.30-6.15 4yrs to 9yrs, 6.15-7.00 10yrs to 13yrs, 7.00-8.00 Teens, just come along you will be very welcome. No Bingo this week on Wednesday from 8.30 because of the Pantomime. Rooms available to hire tel 209192, the premises is now licenced and a bar is available if required. On Sunday 2 December from 11.00am we are organising a clean up day (including putting up the Christmas decorations) all help much appreciated. Parish Christmas Fair Sunday 9 December. There are list at the back of church for donations for the Prize Draw. Any items can be brought to the Parish centre on Wednesdays between 7.30 till 8.30 or left at the back of church. Draw tickets £1 a book now on sale. Little Church will be performing some Carols at the Fair we will be having a practice on Sunday 2 December at 2.00pm in the Community room and again at 4.30 on 8 December (in church before Mass) we hope as many children as possible will be able to take part. We will shortly be running our annual selection box raffle all donation gratefully received.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Mandy Barwick, Teresa Cooney, Geroge & Mary Debattista & needs of son Gerard Karl, Anne Marsh, Alan Mee, Steven Naylor, Theresa & John Ryder, Thanksgiving & Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Special Intention, Thanksgiving & Special Intention Louis, Angeola, Annita & Carlo Manfredi, Successful Examination,

Autumn Fayre Today, Sunday 25 November after the 10.30am Mass. Father Christmas will be there and the choir from St Joseph's school will be opening the Fayre.

We still need donations and the following would be most welcome (especially bottles) and can be left in the porch at the back of church or at the parish office:- Bottles, 'Good as New' handbags, books, CDs, DVDs, tinned goods, small gifts for prizes, fancy goods for Tombola.

St Joseph's Christmas Draw will be held again this year at the Autumn Fayre on 25 November. Prizes will be of £200; £150; £100 & three of £50. Tickets 50p each or £2.50 for a book. General sales of tickets are after Masses every Sunday. Your usual support for this fundraiser will be greatly appreciated.

Women's Sodality Meeting on Tuesday 27 November at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

Reconciliation, Confirmation & First Communion. The third meeting preparing for the Sacraments will be held on Wednesday 28 November at 6.00pm in the Mather Room.

OUR PASTORAL AREA WEBSITE

The new website for the Pastoral Area is now up and running. You can view it at: www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk It is very much a work in progress. At present, you can access the weekly newsletters. During the week, more information will be added. In the months ahead, the site will be further developed.

NEWS FROM OUR LADY'S

The Christmas mini market will take place next Sunday 2 December in the church porch after 11.00am Mass. The Christmas Draw will also be held at the same time. Please come along and support this event. If you can spare some time to help in setting up the stalls or if you can help out on the day, please see Brenda, Josie or Kath.

NOVEMBER, MONTH OF HOLY SOULS

November Pious Lists are available at the back of each church for you to place the name of your relatives and friends who have died. Please put your list, along with your contribu-

tion in a sealed envelope marked 'Pious List'. (If you have not got a printed November List envelope) The names of everyone on the lists will be placed on the altar at all Masses during November and they will be remembered during the Masses. Envelopes can be put in the collection or the box in church.

SACRED HEART SHOP

We have a selection of calendars, Advent calendars and Christmas cards as well as our usual stock of cards and religious articles suitable for seasonal gifts.

CONFESSATHON

Saturday 22 December at St Joseph's church
Confessions 10.00am-11.45am
Mass 12.00noon
Confessions 12.30pm - 2.30pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve	5.30pm Twelve Apostles 6.30pm St Joseph's Midnight Sacred Heart
Christmas Day	8.30am St Joseph's 10.00am Sacred Heart 10.30am St Joseph's

LOURDES SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER

One day Pilgrimage for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception departing Manchester at 8.00am returning at 9.30pm. Full programme including in-flight meals £285.00. Please contact Mancunia on 0161 790 6838.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

Archbishop Patrick Kelly invites us to stand in solidarity with our Christian sisters and brothers who, in diminishing numbers, still remain in the Holy Land, by sending a Christmas card. **Please bring your own** small, religious Christmas card with your greeting in Arabic or English and your name inside (only give your address if you want to). Leave the card in the box provided at the back of our churches. The cards will be divided between and addressed to one of:- Church of the Annunciation, Jerusalem; St Catherine's church, Bethlehem; The First Miracle church, Cana; Holy Family church, Gaza or Good Shepherd church, Jericho. In order to catch the Royal Mail last recommended posting date, cards must not be brought later than **next Sunday, 2 December**. To make things easier for you, there is no need to address the envelope or to buy the right stamp. Cash contributions towards Air Mail postage are most welcome (20 grams costs £1.28).

LEIGH SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Windermere Road, Leigh Lancs WN7 1UX
01942 674226

Email enquires@admin.leighsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk
Website: www.leighsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs H Ahmed BSc, MSc, NPQH

OPEN AFTERNOON

Wednesday 5 December
9.30am-11.30am and 1.30pm-3.30pm
Come and see our brand new purpose built school,
see the school in action

EVERYONE WELCOME

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,646.32

The retiring collection at all our churches this weekend is on behalf of Catholic Youth Services.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to:
Harley Jay Sealy, Lucas Joseph Greenhalgh, Isla Neve Clegg

SICK

Please remember Maureen Aruoure, Teresa Cooney, Bill Parr and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... John Harold Seddon
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

This week the theme is Christ the King, giving our students time to reflect upon the Majesty of Christ. We are also starting to look forward to Christmas and Advent, with rehearsing beginning in earnest for our Christmas Assemblies. Thursday 29 November is our Open Evening for the Sixth Form, 6.00pm – 8.00pm. All are very welcome to come along and see the variety of courses on offer at St. Mary's Sixth Form. There will be a number of current Sixth Form students helping in the evening, so you can always ask them for a first-hand view.

With You Always Sacramental Programme

Details for Twelve Apostles & Sacred Heart

The first session for the With You Always Sacramental Programme for our Year 4 children will take place on:

Wednesday 28th November at 5.00pm at **Twelve Apostles' Church**

Thursday 29th November at 3.45pm at **Sacred Heart Church**

Please note the date for the Confirmation and First Holy Communion will take place on:

Saturday 1st June 2013 at 10am in **Sacred Heart Church**

Saturday 8th June 2013 at 10am in **Twelve Apostle's Church**

I've heard it on the beanstalk...

Turnpike Community Theatre's forthcoming production of **Jack and the Beanstalk** is going to be a great hit and the must see panto of the season in Leigh!

"This is an up-to-date, tried and tested script, jam-packed with jokes, slapstick, loveable characters and all the magic of traditional pantomime with enough audience participation to leave you hoarse by the end of the show!"

To avoid disappointment, get your tickets now for this production which will be held at Twelve Apostles Parish Hall from Wednesday 28 November to Saturday 1 December at 7.15pm. Tickets can be purchased from the official ticket sellers (Finesse Gift Shop, Bradshawgate) or by contacting Gill on 01942 603195. Limited numbers available for certain performances.

ACCOUNTS

As part of the process of consolidating our four parish bank accounts into one account which will later be changed to become St Edmund Arrowsmith Account:- please write all cheques (regardless of church) to St Joseph's Parish Account (004) starting from today. We will inform you when to start writing St Edmund Arrowsmith Parish Account (242) when the account has been officially renamed and new cheque and paying-in books have been received.

ARE YOU AGED 14-21 AND THINKING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?

On Sunday 2 December, the Vocations Team will be holding its monthly discernment meeting at St Mary's Lowe House, St Helens. The meeting begins at 5.00pm. After the meeting, we go into church for the monthly Youth Alive Mass. This meeting is aimed at young men aged between 14-21. The group allows young men to pray, socialise and learn more about the vocation of the priesthood. If you would like to attend this event or would like more information, then please contact Father James Preston on 0151 727 2493.

ST GABRIEL'S, HIGHER FOLDS

Last weekend, Fr Dave shared some good news and some sad news with those who attend St Gabriel's in Higher Folds. The good news is that St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, which is currently located on two sites, will come together on one site during the next school year (2013-14). The Archdiocese is investing £1.4 million in a plan to provide Higher Folds with a one-and-a-half form entry Catholic school which will be as good as new. This will secure the future of education for all the children on Higher Folds for many years to come.

The sad news is that the Church of St Gabriel's is likely to close in the Autumn of 2013. This will not be a surprise to the Catholic community in Higher Folds, although it is still a shock and a cause of a great deal of sadness. The reason the church building is likely to close goes back to a meeting we had at St Gabriel's in 2008 when we knew we had to look at the future. We realised that, as income dwindled, it was becoming increasingly difficult to meet the costs of keeping the building open as a church. A way forward was to pin our hopes on the building becoming part of the school, which would mean it would be available for Mass at the weekend while being used by the school during the week. Unfortunately, the 'new' school is to be located on the site of the former county primary school because developing the site next to the church is simply too costly. Now that the Governors of the School have made that difficult decision, the community finds itself with a church building which needs substantial repairs (including a new roof, rewiring, and extensive work to one side of the building), but with not enough income to meet basic running costs. Even if money were available, we would still have to ask: can we justify keeping the building for two hours a week? It is for these reasons that St Gabriel's is likely to close next year.

There will be a further meeting this Saturday for all those who attend St Gabriel's in the church and also Tuesday, 27 November, at 7.00pm, to allow parishioners to discuss the matter in more detail.

**Tickets Now Available for
!!NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!!**

**ST. JOSEPH'S HALL
8.00pm START LATE BAR**

**TICKETS £12.50 INC REFRESHMENTS
Glass of sparkling wine on arrival
& spot prizes**

**Available from Des on 01942 674868
St Joseph's Parish Office 673517**

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OL = Our Lady of the Rosary, StR = St Richard

Saturday 24 November

12A 5.30pm MASS William Robinson

Sunday 25 November SOLEMNITY: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (YEAR B) (Titular Feast of the Cathedral) (Youth Sunday)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Decd. Members Gore & Leyland families

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS The Smith Family

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Monday 26 November Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 34, Year 2)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tuesday 27 November Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Philomena Gaughan

Wednesday 28 November Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

1.45pm Funeral Service Howe Bridge Crematorium John Harold Seddon

SH 7.00pm MASS Karen Toolan

Thursday 29 November Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS November List

SH 12.00noon MASS Ann & James Marsh

Friday 30 November FEAST: ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Rose Arnez

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 1 December Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS John Heneghan

12A 5.30pm MASS Dennis Michael Sweeney

Sunday 2 December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith parish and of St Margaret Clitherow parish

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Thomas Hynes

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 16 November the numbers drawn were 6, 8, 21. No winner of £676. Last week's estimated jackpot was £750.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 141, D&F Quinn; £5, 359, M Moore; £2, 465, A Wilkinson; £2, 245, M Moore. **Bonus Ball** 14, Celia Ellis.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40, 190, R Johnson; £19, 181, H Lally; £5, 17, Jane Thompson; £5, 99, Catherine Thompson.

ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH OFFICE

The office for the administration of our new parish is based in St. Joseph's presbytery, Mather Lane. Email stjosephs@live.com or telephone 01942 673517 weekdays 8.30 - 4.00pm and speak to the parish secretary. In case of pastoral emergency only at other times you may contact any available member of the pastoral area team, if necessary even Fr Dave or Fr Paul who are based in St. Margaret Clitherow parish.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

Priest: Fr. Stephen Cooper
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: fathercooper@btconnect.com

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

