

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

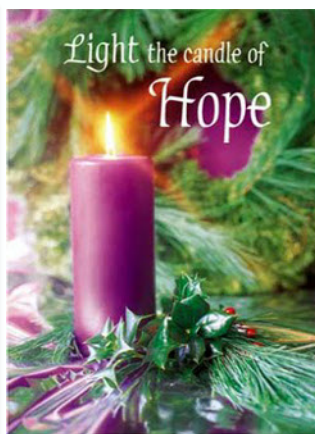
2 DECEMBER 2012



**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This week the finalists for the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year were announced. Not surprisingly most of the twelve finalists were Olympians. What a great year it has been for sport. How does it feel to be the best in the world at something? How does it feel to have run the fastest race, climbed the highest mountain, to be part of a world champion team? All the hard hours of training, the self-discipline and self-control have paid off, and now you are world champion or Olympic gold medallist. This must be an amazing experience! However this has been a bad year for sport in terms of performance enhancing drugs. How would you feel if you had become a champion by using such drugs? Even if you avoided all the tests, you have the medal, your name is there in the record books – still you know you have cheated. You know you are not really the best. Someone else's name should really be on the medal, and in the record books. We can apply this theory to the world of work, when people have been promoted because of who they know instead of what they know and what they can achieve. Is it right to achieve our goals and dreams by any means?

Clearly these are not just modern problems. The prophet Jeremiah experienced the trickery and corruption of Jerusalem in the 6th Century BC, and he looked forward to a time when Judah and Israel would have an honest ruler who practiced integrity. Through the prophets God wanted to form a nation that would practice justice and integrity and be a light and good example to the surrounding peoples. From our point of view, we find this ideal leader in the person of Jesus. By word and example, Jesus announces a new vision for the whole world - the Kingdom of God. The vision of Jesus, of a people who can change the world with love, inspired Saint Paul in setting up new Christian communities. He knew, however, that this is always a work in progress, dependent upon the grace of God and the individual and collective commitment of the people. But with prayer and a desire to remain faithful to the vision we have received, we must believe that it will happen. Jesus himself is very realistic. He knows that the powers of this world are not simply going to stand by and let their way of running things come to an end. The change envisaged by Jesus will create turmoil that will engulf us all. So he warns us to be ready, to face up to whatever is going to happen, to remain true to what we believe and trust that he will come to set us free.

Today, on the First Sunday of Advent, we are being challenged to look at our own attitudes to morality and good living. There are so many ways in which our Christian values are being threatened and eroded that our tendency may be to go into our shell and hide from the big bad world, believing that we are unable to change anything. But this is not the message of the Word of God today. There is power in our community of faith. We need that power first of all to sustain us and encourage one another. But we need that power also to witness to a way of life that is different, that is based on love and truth and the respect that is the God-given right of each and every human being. So as we begin this time of waiting, let us get ready to witness to God's presence in our lives and prepare his way, truth and life in the hearts of others.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

Bingo on Wednesday from 8.30 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 tomorrow** (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 if anyone needs to have anything collected ring John Thompson (253507). 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 (tomorrow) 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. Next weekend is our monthly retiring collection for church repair fund, please be your usual generous selves. We will shortly be running our annual selection box raffle all donation gratefully received.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Maureen Aruoture, Milly Gallagher, Eileen Hurst, Robert & Agnes Kedwood, Peter Lyhgoe, Mary Winifred Murray, Annie McDermott, Mario & Ester Paglucia, Charles & Eileen Westwood, Successful Operation, S.V.P.

First Reconciliation: The children in Y4 will be making their first Confession on Wednesday evening at 6.00pm.

St Joseph's Christmas Draw: 1st prize Irene Rosbottom, 2nd prize Mrs Boardman, 3rd prize Anne Ganley, 4th prize J Frampton, 5th prize A Pugh, 6th prize Mrs Hadgiany.

St Joseph's Autumn Fayre: Thank you to the organisers, helpers and everyone who supported the Fayre. The final total raised has not been established yet, but it will be in the region of £2,800. A list of Raffle prize winners is below.

Hamper - Mrs Patrick; Cake - Marian; Champagne - Mrs Blackledge; Biscuits - Mrs Case.

Patak's Hamper not claimed ticket No. 41 - 45.

Christmas Cake not claimed ticket No. 41 - 45.

St Joseph's Church Support Group Next meeting will be on Monday 3rd December 7.30pm.

Christmas Flower Memorial Once again our church will be decorated for Christmas in memory of our loved ones. If you wish to participate, please complete and return the slip, available in both porches, along with your donation to the presbytery before the 19th December. Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Infant Nativity Wednesday 12 December in church 6.30pm

Junior Advent Service Wednesday 19 December in church 6.30pm.

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. At present, you can read or download the weekly newsletters of both our parishes as well as see maps, photographs and other information which is still being added to.

NEWS FROM OUR LADY'S

Our Christmas mini market and prize draw will take place after the 11.00am Mass today. You might win a top prize in the draw or pick up a good Christmas bargain from a stall. Everyone welcome to join in the fun.

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.

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 4 December 7.30pm St Richard's Service of Reconciliation (Rite 3)

Wednesday 12 December 7.30pm Sacred Heart Service of Reconciliation with Confession (Rite 2)

Thursday 20 December 7.30pm Holy Family Service of Reconciliation (Rite 3)

CONFESSATHON

Saturday 22 December at St Joseph's church

Confessions 10.00am-11.45am

Mass 12.00noon

Confessions 12.30pm - 2.30pm.



Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)

5.30 pm	Twelve Apostles, Westleigh
6.00 pm	St Gabriel's, Higher Folds
6.00 pm	St Richard's, Atherton
6.30 pm	St Joseph's, Leigh
8.00 pm	St Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.30 pm	Holy Family, Boothstown
12.00 am	Sacred Heart, Leigh

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)

8.30 am	St Joseph's, Leigh
9.00 am	Holy Family, Boothstown
9.30 am	St Richard's, Atherton
10.00 am	Sacred Heart, Leigh
10.30 am	St Joseph's, Leigh
11.00 am	St Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.00 am	Holy Family, Boothstown

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 **today 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). Cards are now available in case you forgot to bring yours.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Fair. Thank you to Mrs Ahmed for allowing us to use the school. The amount raised was £1,426.84p. The raffle second prize remains unclaimed. Blue ticket 991 was sold at church and the prize includes fresh fruit. Please check your tickets and claim soon!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,133.51
Catholic Youth Services £ 424.99

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to:
Harrison James Howarth, Phoenix Marley Molyneux

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to Charles & Eileen Westwood on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

SICK

Please remember Bill Parr and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... Eileen Hurst, Maureen Aruoture, Ellen Rix Donohue, Jean Markland
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Now that Advent has started we are beginning the build up to Christmas in earnest. Rehearsals are in full swing for the Christmas Assemblies, we're having weekly reconciliation services at lunch time for staff and students, and the students are getting excited for Christmas Day. To mark the season as different, a series of daily reflections have been prepared for each year group, to help them to focus on the real meaning of Advent and Christmas, with thoughts and challenges to help them prepare. A big thank you to those who supported the Christmas Shoebox Appeal! The shoeboxes have now been collected, and will be making their way to Swaziland. Between St. Mary's, St. Richard's and St. Joseph's, we sent off a massive 326 shoeboxes. So well done to everyone involved!

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?

Today, 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.

MEMORIAL CANDLES FOR CHRISTMAS (at SACRED HEART)

Over the Christmas period there will be an opportunity to burn an eight-day votive candle in church in memory of a loved one. The candles will be lit and placed around Sacred Heart church at Christmas Midnight Mass. They will be left lit in church right over the Christmas period. Inscribed on a label attached to each candle will be the name of the person in whose memory it is dedicated. The cost of each candle is £5.00. If you wish to dedicate a candle please write the name of the person and put it with £5 in an envelope marked "Memorial Candle" which should be dropped through the letterbox at Sacred Heart Presbytery.



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

ST. JOSEPH'S HALL, CHAPEL STREET

FEATURING: DAVE RUSSELL

Fantastic Keyboard Vocalist

+ BOOGIE NIGHTS

8.00pm START LATE BAR

TICKETS £12.50 INC REFRESHMENTS

Available from Des on 01942 674868

St Joseph's Parish Office 673517

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

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition, although the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21).

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ.

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 1 December

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

Monday 3 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tuesday 4 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Eileen Hurst

1.45pm FUNERAL SERVICE Howe Bridge Crematorium Ellen Rix Donohue

Wednesday 5 December Memorial: St. John Almond P.M.

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Patricia Flanagan

Thursday 6 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 11.15am FUNERAL SERVICE Maureen Aruoture

12A 9.30am MASS Mark Prescott

SH 12.00noon MASS

Friday 7 December Memorial: St. Ambrose, B.D.

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

(OL) 10.00am MASS at MOSS BANK COURT Elizabeth & Agnes Palmer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 8 December Weekday of Advent

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS Special intention (R & F)

12A 5.30pm MASS Anthony Martyn

Sunday 9 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Thomas & Kathleen Clinton

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Bridget Lennon (LD)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 23 November the numbers drawn were 6, 16, 20. ONE LUCKY WINNER of £756! Last week's estimated jackpot was £50.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 478, Mr Collins; £5, 260, J Ramsdale; £3, 323, K Jones; £2, 417, N Jones. **Bonus Ball** 37, C Ellis.

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

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

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

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

