

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

9 DECEMBER 2012



**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**

**St. Edmund  
Arrowsmith  
Parish**

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



## Responsorial Psalm

**What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

The London Underground is one of the oldest transport systems in the world. Every day around four million people use the network to travel around the city of London. From early morning to late at night, trains appear from dark tunnels, stop at stations, dropping off passengers and picking up others, carrying the citizens around as they go about their business. All day long the trains travel along their prescribed routes and, somehow or other, people succeed in getting to their destinations. This "somehow or other" is, in fact, the work of a great army of people, many thousands, who are employed by London Underground who, by their expertise and hard work, keep the whole system moving. A team of overseers, using CCTV, monitors the flow of people and trains, and looks out for problems. Station staff sell tickets and give advice and guidance to travellers. Transport police keep a close eye on people for their safety, and look out for those who abuse the system or cause problems on the network. Throughout the night railway workers lift old track and relay new, all in time for the start of another busy working day. Travelling on the Underground, especially at busy, crowded times, is not always easy or pleasant. It is just something that people have to do. That they can do so in safety and relative peace is down to the hard work and dedication of the many people who work to keep the system flowing and the pathways clear.

In the Gospel today John the Baptist is described as a voice, calling for a highway to be made clear, for obstacles to be removed from the path, for winding ways to be straightened, for valleys and hills to be levelled. All this takes place so that it will be possible for the Lord to come among his people. In response to John's call, many people go out to the River Jordan to listen to him, and, moved by what he says, receive baptism and repent of their sins. By making their own lives "pure and blameless", people prepare a clear path for the Lord. When St. Paul went to Philippi in Macedonia, he founded a community which also responded to the call of Christ. They cleared a way for the Lord in their own lives. As a result, Paul praises them and thanks God for the love he finds among them. If the salvation of God is to come into this world, then it is through the witness of the Lord's followers that it will happen. The good work will be brought to completion.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Baruch calls upon the people to leave aside their dress of sorrow and live in gladness, because God will make them a highway for them to walk in freedom. This call is made for us today. Though we sometimes feel like we live in exile we have seen the salvation of God come near to us in Jesus Christ. Like the people of Philippi, we too have heard the Good News of Jesus, risen from the dead. Now it is our turn to be road builders and pathfinders for others in this world. It is for us to make a highway, a clear way for the Lord. We do that, with his grace, when we take the initiative in loving, in goodness and kindness to all we meet; when our knowledge and understanding continue to grow throughout our lives, and when we come to recognize what is best. People travelling on the London Underground perhaps do not know all the things that are done to make their journey safe and successful. Yet, without that army of workers, there would be no travel, no journey. So too in this world, for everything to go well, it needs the faithful and often unsung lives of good people to make a difference and prepare a way for the Lord.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

Twelve Apostles Christmas Fair tomorrow (Sunday) from 1pm: please come along and make the Fair the best ever. We will be setting up the stalls from 9am all help much appreciated. Bingo on Wednesday from 8.30 rooms available to hire tel 209192, the premises is now licenced and a bar is available if required. Thanks to everyone who came along to our Clean up day, remember the Hall is run by volunteers we always welcome a spare pair of hands anytime. New Years Eve Family Disco 7pm till late Adults £5, Children £3 (Family ticket 2 adults, 2 children £15) refreshments available, tickets on sale. Church Repair Fund: today is our monthly retiring collection 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

Phillip John Aldred, Maureen Arouture, Tony Broster, Geoff Carson, Alf Case, Thomas & Theresa Gibbon, Lisa Hession, Eileen Hurst, Mary, Donald, Michael, Baby Christopher Thomas Anne Marsh, Jimmy Maxwell, Marice O'Connell, Edward White, Special Intention.

The Christmas Cake has still not been claimed the ticket No. Is 41 - 45.

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.

Gift Aid We are pleased to report that the sum of £7576.72 has been received from the Inland Revenue in respect of the tax refund due on Gift Aided donations for the year ended 5th April 2012.

Thank you to all those who contribute under the Gift Aid Scheme and may we remind you that if you change your address or your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax just let us know.

Gift Aid Tax Reclamation is a great way to help Parish funds at no extra cost to parishioners. If you are a Tax payer and not already in the scheme please think of joining. The Gift Aid Team can be contacted through Fr Steve or the parish office.

St Joseph's Brownies are holding a Carol Service on Monday 10th December 6.30pm in church. All are welcome.

28th Annual CAFOD Fun Run 27th Decemebr. Chris Hallinan will once again be taking part in the Liverpool CAFOD Fun Run and will be at the back of church collecting sponsor over the next few weeks.



### 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](http://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

A big "thank you" to the organisers, the helpers, the generous donors and all who supported our Christmas mini market and prize draw last week. You raised a total of £850 which is a marvellous effort for our small community. May God bless you and your families during this Advent season of preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ. A list of winning numbers in the prize draw is posted in the church porch – please check your tickets and claim any prize from Brenda, Josie or Kath.

### 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.

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

There will be a meeting for Eucharistic Ministers from Twelve Apostles, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Rosary, at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday 19 December after the 7 pm Mass.

### CONFESSIONS

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)

### SATURDAY MASS ROTA

Please note that our usual rotation of Saturday noon Masses, preceded by Exposition and Reconciliation continues during December with a slight variation. On the third Saturday of December (next Saturday, 15 December) it will be at Our Lady of the Rosary instead of at St Joseph's. On the fourth Saturday the Confessathon will be at St Joseph's only.

### 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

Due to the fact that there is no Mass on Christmas Day at Our Lady's, anyone who requires a lift to Sacred Heart church for the 10.00am Mass, is asked to put their name, address and telephone number on the list at the back of church

We are looking for volunteers to transport people from Our Lady's church to Sacred Heart church for the 10.00am Mass on Christmas Day. If you can help in any way please let Fr Kieran or Fr Steve know.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,951.28

St Joseph's S.V.P. Collection £ 509.93

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank the person who has very generously given a large donation to help with the poor in the parish. The S.V.P. will ensure that this money will bring relief and joy to young and old within our parish. A very big thank you to the donor for her generosity.

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to:  
Scarlet Rebecca Stuart, Tara Louis Fox

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead Jean Markland...  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Assembly rehearsals are in full swing, with big thanks due to all students who are giving up their time to help with it. Forms are working their way through the advent calendars, preparing for Christmas in a way that isn't focussing on all the things we need to buy or sort before the big day. In thinking about Advent and preparation for Christmas, last week a Year 7 form planned and led a morning prayer, and invited specific staff and students to join with them. They wrote some beautiful prayers and worked very hard – well done 7M!

### 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.



**YEAR OF FAITH** 2012  
2013

As part of our celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council we have already held two Holy Hours in our parish; in October at Our Lady's and November at Twelve Apostles churches. December's "Hour" will be at St Joseph's during the Confessathon and will begin at 10.15am. It will be themed on the dogmatic constitution on divine revelation, *Dei Verbum*, published in 1965. There will be scripture readings and hymns and periods of silent reflection and eucharistic adoration as well as petitionary prayer and concluding with simple benediction before Mass begins at noon. January's hour will be on the first Saturday in January at Sacred Heart church and the theme will be the decree on Ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*. So, why not plan on spending a little longer in church instead of just popping in for confession?



**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**

**Glass of sparkling wine on arrival  
& spot prizes**

**Available from Des on 01942 674868**

**Pauline 01942 604603**

**St Joseph's Parish Office 673517**

## ST MARY'S SENIOR CITIZENS



This year's Party is being held on Wednesday, 19th December between 12.30 and 2.30pm. If you would like to go along, please let the parish office know (01942 673517). If you require a parking space please let the parish office know when you book your place at the party.

### CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who took part in this campaign. Twenty-eight cards were sent to the Holy Land and postage costs were covered. Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

**May the justice of God fall down like fire,  
And bring a home for the Palestinian.  
May the mercy of God pour down like rain,  
And protect the Jewish people.  
And may the beautiful eyes of a holy God,  
Who weeps for all his children,  
Bring the healing hope for his wounded ones  
For the Jew and the Palestinian.  
So, pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.**

*Garth Hewitt*

### JUSTICE & PEACE

The Pastoral Area Justice and Peace Group are inviting us all to send a Christmas Card to Prisoners of Conscience. Leaflets are available in all churches with further information.

### Twelve Apostles



## 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 8 December

12A 5.30pm MASS Anthony Martyn

### Sunday 9 December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

*(Bible Sunday)*

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

### Monday 10 December *Weekday of Advent (Week 2)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Jean Markland

### Tuesday 11 December *Weekday of Advent (Week 2)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS James & Mary Mullery

### Wednesday 12 December *Weekday of Advent (Week 2)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 10.00am MASS Kenneth Monks  
StJ 12.00noon MASS  
StJ 6.30pm Infant School Nativity  
SH 7.30pm Service of Reconciliation (rite 2)

### Thursday 13 December *Memorial: St. Lucy, V.M. (3rd/4th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 9.30am MASS Derek Smith  
SH 12.00noon MASS Hannah Stones

### Friday 14 December *Memorial: St. John of the Cross, ODC, P.D. (16th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OL 10.00am MASS Theresa Power (LD)  
StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Saturday 15 December *Weekday of Advent (Week 2)*

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
OL 12.00noon MASS Brenda Morgan  
12A 5.30pm MASS People of the Parishes of St Edmund Arrowsmith and of St Margaret Clitherow

### Sunday 16 December **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS  
SH 9.30am MASS P. McGinty  
StJ 10.30am MASS  
OL 11.00am MASS Sacred Heart Confraternity  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 30 November the numbers drawn were 7, 11, 20. AGAIN A WINNER! (£58). Last week's estimated jackpot was £60. We thank the winner of the 23 November draw who generously gave back £100 as a donation to parish general funds. We thank all our ticket buyers because the parish and Sacred Heart school are winners every week!

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 012, S Wilkinson; £5, 102, C Ackers; £3, 070, G Nightingale; £2, 028, J Atherton.  
**Bonus Ball** 1, T 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](mailto: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  
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Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady  
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

