

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

16 DECEMBER 2012



LEIGH PASTORAL AREA

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



Responsorial Psalm

**Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once upon a time there lived an extraordinary lamp lighter by the name of Mr. T. He was totally reliable and as punctual as a clock. Each evening, at the onset of darkness, he went around lighting all the gas lamps. How he judged the time nobody knew because he had no watch. The people often watched from their front windows as he went up and down the street, leaving a trail of light in his wake. It was obvious to everyone that he loved his job. His life was not an easy one but, because of his special job, his life glowed with meaning. He was loved by everyone, especially by the children. When darkness threatened to put an end to their street games, Mr. T would come along, light the lamps, and they would continue to play. What made Mr. T even more special was the fact that he was blind. The man who was so faithful in bringing light to others never saw it himself.

Eventually technology caught up with him and electricity arrived and Mr. T, now advanced in years, was made redundant. His life suddenly lost meaning. He felt useless and unwanted. Sadly, the people who once loved him and needed him, now forgot about him. The new electric light was so superior to the old that no one regretted its passing. He spent his days and nights alone in the darkness of his basement flat.

Mr. T reminds us of John the Baptist. Like Mr. T, John worked hard to bring his own light to the people. He brought them light in the darkness. He gave them hope for the future. For a while, he dominated the scene and enjoyed great popularity. But he was always conscious of the fact that a greater light was coming, a light that he himself was never destined to walk in. When this light appeared in the person of Jesus, he moved aside to make way for the new Messiah. This took greatness. To make way, or even just to make room for another person, calls for humility and generosity. Indeed, it calls for a person to die to one's self. Sometimes people spoil things by hanging on too long to the reigns of power and control instead of letting go and allowing the next person to take over and run everything their way.

All of us are tempted to hug the limelight. We often, inadvertently perhaps, dominate others and try to relegate them to the shadows. Like John, we must allow the light that is within us to shine the best that we can, whilst being careful not to block the path of God's light in others. And, whilst we must always be grateful to those who prepared the way for us, let us try our best to prepare a way for God's light in the lives and hearts of those around us.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Brian Ashton, Audrey Ashurst, Annie Buterworth, Winnie Derbyshire, Lily & Robert Farrington, Brenda Hoffman, Thomas Snr. Thomas Jnr., Mary, Donald, Michael & baby Christopher Jones, John Kelleher, Thanksgiving & Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Thanksgiving & Special Intention Angiola, Anitta, Carlo & Louis Manfredi, 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 19 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 5 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 so that 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 10 December at 6.30pm in church. All are welcome.

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

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

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

Infant Advent Service Wednesday 19 December in church 6.30pm.

A Feast for Advent The Junior Advent Service took place on Wednesday. It was a very informative and prayerful Service which helped all present to think more deeply about Christmas and what it means in our lives. Congratulations to the staff and children for the Service, especially the children who read and sang so beautifully. Also congratulations to all on receiving Outstanding at the RE Ofsted this term. Next week we will have art work done by the children on the board at the back of church.

SACRED HEART & XII APOSTLES SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The second session for the With You Always Sacramental Programme for Y4 children will take place on:

Wednesday 19 December at 5.00pm in XII Apostles School & Thursday 20 December at 3.45pm at Sacred Heart School.

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

There are several unclaimed prizes from the Christmas Raffle, including the first prize. Please check your tickets against the list in the church porch.

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 7.00pm Mass.

CONFESSIONS

Thursday 20 December 7.30pm, Holy Family (Boothstown) 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 (15 December) it was at Our Lady of the Rosary instead of St Joseph's. On the fourth Saturday the Confession 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

£1,855.43

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Millie Rose Taylor, Alfie Francis Lowe, Oliver Francis Holton-Isherwood.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Carly Marie Baxendale & Adam James Hather who were married at St Joseph's Last Saturday.

SICK

Please remember Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Brenda Hoffman & Bill Parr and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... Agnes Harper, Arthur Wilson
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

As we enter our last week of term, we are trying to remember that Advent is a time of preparation and it is not Christmas yet! It is easy for all of us to get carried away and sometimes, by the time we actually get to Christmas, we're a little bored of it! Sixth Form have been thinking about those who are less fortunate than us, and wore 'Christmas Jumpers' to school on Friday, donating money to Save The Children – Director of Sixth Form, Chris Glennon looked particularly impressive in his jumper! The rest of the school will be thinking about those less fortunate when they have a non-uniform day on the last day of term. Students will be donating money which will be split between a number of student and staff nominated charities. On Thursday and Friday this week we will be having Christmas Assemblies. A lot of effort has gone into these and we hope they go well – please hold us in your prayers! All staff and students at St. Mary's wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas season.

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, 19 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.

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Fair such a success. We raised £1,100, a magnificent effort. Grand Draw winners: Spirit Hamper 3004 Brenda (claimed), Food Hamper 3508 Pat Fisher 3503 (claimed), Chocolate Hamper 1659 CARoline (claimed), Beer and Wine Hamper 3965 Mike (claimed), Steamer 0115 Michelle Kay, Tin of Biscuits 1213 B McDonough. Parish Hall Bingo on Wednesday from 8.30 rooms available to hire tel 209192, the premises is now licensed and a bar is available if required. New Years Eve Family Disco 7.00pm 'til late Adults £5, Children £3 (Family ticket 2 adults, 2 children £15) refreshments available, tickets on sale, call in on Wednesday between 7.30 and 8.30. Ladies Christmas Party on 4 January, three course meal £20. Last week's retiring collection for the church repair fund came to £42.78 many thanks indeed Selection Box raffle tickets on sale after Mass 50p a strip, all donations gratefully received. Wednesday is the 200 Club draw and it's a 'big one'. We are putting up the Crib and Christmas Tree on Saturday 22 December from 2.00pm: any adults or children who want to come along to help the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides will be very welcome.



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 15 December

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

Monday 17 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS
StJ 6.30pm Brownies Carol Service

Tuesday 18 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Martin Downs (sick)
SH 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Agnes Harper

Wednesday 19 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS
StJ 6.30pm Junior School Advent Service
SH 7.00pm MASS Joe Buchanan

Thursday 20 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.10am School MASS in church. Dennis Sweeney. All Welcome.
SH 12.00noon MASS Joan Ganley

Friday 21 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00am MASS Sheila Pendlebury & Margaret Brown (LD)
StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Arthur Wilson

Saturday 22 December Weekday of Advent (Proper)

StJ 10.00am-11.45am Exposition & Reconciliation **CONFESSATHON**
StJ 10.15am Holy Hour for the Year of Faith
StJ 12.00noon MASS
StJ 12.30pm-2.30pm Confessathon
12A 5.30pm MASS McArt & Cendron families

Sunday 23 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS William Landers
StJ 10.30am MASS
OL 11.00am MASS Austin Woods
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 7 December the numbers drawn were 15, 28, 30. No winner of £64. Last week's estimated jackpot was £120.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 258, J Ramsdale; £5, 019, Kath Wilkinson; £3, 277, Kate Grimshaw; £2, 433, B Woods. **Bonus Ball** 27, K Sales

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

