

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

23 DECEMBER 2012



**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the good old days life seemed to be much simpler and people visited each other a lot more. Today such visits are not so frequent. They have been replaced by the telephone, the internet, facebook, twitter, the TV! A phone conversation is good but it cannot replace a visit between friends. How often do we hear stories of how nowadays people can live next door to each other for years. And even though they may get on OK, never rowing or falling out, a person can live next door to someone else without ever going into their home or spending quality time with them. Many of us may well remember the days when front doors were never locked, when you would think nothing of walking into your neighbour's house if you needed to borrow something. Those days have long gone and, perhaps, sadly society is not the same. When we visit someone, we can really help them and remind them that someone cares. But we also benefit from the visit. We too can be enriched. Especially when we visit the sick or housebound, we may think we are going there to give, but we can also receive. We can leave that person feeling buoyed up. To some extent this can happen in every visit. One is blessed by receiving. The other is blessed by giving. A priest ministering in his parish tells how he went to visit a young woman who was dying of cancer. He went in the hope of bringing her a little comfort. At the end of the visit he came away feeling that he was the one who had been comforted. He marvelled at the woman's faith, and at the serenity she had found in the face of death. His own personal faith was deepened and strengthened by his contact with her.

In the Gospel we hear the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth. She herself had just been visited by the Angel Gabriel, who had brought her the Good news that she was to become the mother of Jesus. However, instead of going off and concentrating on herself, she went with haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also expecting a child. Mary's visit meant a great deal to Elizabeth. But Mary also benefited from the visit. Elizabeth spoke some wonderful words of affirmation and confirmation to her: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." As the elder and more experienced of the two women, Elizabeth was able to help Mary. Essentially what we have in the story is two women in the same condition helping each other. We can receive by giving. And one of the ways we can give is by visiting others. Christmas is a great time for visiting people we may have neglected all year long. Let us pray that, as we do this, we will take with us the blessings of God given to us through Jesus, the Word of God born for us on Christmas Day.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Audrey Ashurst, Ashurst Family, Cooper Family, Ellis Family, Lily & Robert Farrimond, Joan Ganley, Ronald Gore, Peter Gregory, Philomena Hunt, Marlene O'Neill, Roy Parr, Parry Family, Isabella Phillips, Maurice Phillips, Lloyd Pugsley, Terrance Quinn, John Smith, John Topping, Arthur Wilson, Jack Withington, Kathleen Withington, Sylvia Withington, Special Intention,

Christmas Masses: Brian Brawley, Winnie & John Buckley, May Connor, Catherine Curran, Deceased Members of Ganley Family, Marian & Thomas Isherwood, Agnes & Robert Kedward, Terry Malley, Jack & Mary McCall, Jim & Elsie McHugh, Maria McHugh jnr., Michael McHugh snr., Jack McWilliam, Steven Naylor, Mary O'Hara, Michael O'Hara, Harry O'Hara, Elizabeth Agnes Palmer, Wyn Parr, Laurence Gregory Palmer, Benjamin Robinson, Sheila Smith, Jean Standing, Edith & Joseph Smith, Jean Starkey, Eddie Trumble, Deceased Members of Turner Family, John Vickerstaffe, Robert Woods, Special Intention.

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

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.

The Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas season to the many parishioners at St Joseph's who have donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of revenue for the mission causes overseas.

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 as last-minute seasonal gifts.

LOTTERY RESULTS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 14 December the numbers drawn were 6, 8, 29. No winner of 126. Last week's estimated jackpot was £180.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 282, K Grimshaw; £5, 327, M Roach; £3, 145, D Davies; £2, 252, N Flynn.
Bonus Ball 18, P Purcell.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £100, 109, M Seddon; £50, 50, T Bostock; £25, 193, M Thompson; £25, 62, D Jardine; £5: 140, T Thompson; 138, B Mather; 34, K Marsh; 139, J Brundrett; 172, T Thompson; 74, L Stephens; 30, P and J Fisher; 61, M Kelly; 126, A Parry; 28, Marie Frain.

TRANSPORT TO MASS

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.



A WEEK OF FEASTS

As if Christmas over-eating wasn't temptation enough, the Church calendar this week is full of more reasons to celebrate.

On Boxing Day we remember St Stephen who was the very first martyr to shed his blood for Christ and, like his master, full of forgiveness for his persecutors.

On Thursday we glory in the Gospel bearing the name of John, the Beloved Disciple, which is permeated with a sense of wonder at God's sharing in our nature in Christ. That is what makes it so appropriate that this feast should fall within the Christmas Octave.

The feast of the Holy Innocents on Friday introduces a harsh note into the Christmas season. Yet it underlines the message of Christ's sharing in our nature - even in the suffering of those who bear witness "not by speaking but by dying."

St Thomas Becket of Canterbury, the patron of the pastoral clergy of England, is remembered on Saturday. He was born in 1118 and became Chancellor of the Kingdom against his will. He was steadfast in his defence of the rights of the Church. He was exiled by King Henry II for six years and after his return was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. He was canonised in 1173 and King Henry was one of the first pilgrims to Canterbury.



Even next Sunday is a feast, the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which honours their family group. This feast developed only in the 17th century. Built on the Gospel accounts, this family is looked upon as an excellent domestic unit representing the ideal family life. To promote family life and build up devotion to the Holy Family, a feast was established for the Universal Church in 1921 (under Pope Benedict XV).



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,867.25

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Joshua John Pilkington, Saskia Rebecca Aldred, Charlie Peter graham Clavert

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Paul Michael McCarthy & Jane Marie Brady who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... Tommy Walsh, Brian Joseph Meredith, Laurance Thomas Kehoe
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary's broke up on Friday for a well-earned Christmas break. We ended the term on a high, with students attending the Christmas Assemblies, and many year 7 and 8 students taking the opportunity to watch the Christmas Carol in school. A massive thank you to all the students who gave up their time to do the Christmas Assemblies; dancers, choir, readers and actors! We ask for your prayers for students who will be sitting important exams in January: exams start the first week back after the holidays. St. Mary's staff and students wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

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 must be brought to the sacristy after Mass TODAY.

Looking for something new to do over the winter months?

Turnpike Community Theatre may have something to offer all members of the local community with their new programme of events at Twelve Apostles Parish Hall.

Adults

Turnpike Community have secured funding to host a number of professionally led workshops which commence in January. These twelve workshops will provide the opportunity for people to develop a range of skills in relation to theatre. They will also be a great opportunity to learn more about theatre and performing if this is something that is new to you.

Young People

For those young people aged between 7 and 16, Junior Turnpike Community Theatre continues to offer weekly workshops led by professionals from the drama field. If you would like your child to become involved and develop a range of performing and interpersonal skills (including confidence) then sign them up for the Junior group. The weekly subscriptions are £3 and there is no minimum sign up period – why not bring them along to see if they like it. A poster with further information is on our pastoral area's website. For more information and to book for a workshop,
email: turnpikecommunitytheatre@hotmail.co.uk



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

Sing & Swing

Lowon Civic Hall

Saturday 19th January 2013

In aid of HCPT

The Cheshire Cord Company

a 9 piece swing band

7.30pm start

**Tickets £8 concessions £5 Inc free drink
on arrival**

tel. 07580832800 to book tickets.

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

After Christmas Eve Mass everyone is welcome to the Parish Centre to start off the Christmas Celebrations. There are some lists of winning draw tickets for the Christmas Fair at the back of church. New Years Eve Family Disco 7pm till late Adults £5, Children £3 (Family ticket 2 adults, 2 children £15) refreshments available, tickets on sale tel 209192 (not many left). Ladies Christmas Party Friday 4th January, £20 for a course meal and disco see Ann Clews or Therese Thompson (tel 253507). Church Repair Fund Selection Box raffle tickets on sale after Mass 50p a strip, the draw will take place on Christmas Eve in the Lounge.



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 22 December

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

Monday 24 December *Weekday of Advent (Proper)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm First MASS of Christmas Day Mary Langan & family

StJ 6.30pm First MASS of Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December **SOLEMNITY: CHRISTMAS DAY**

SH 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS Mary & Paul Caren

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 10.00am MASS Stanley Woods

StJ 10.30am MASS

Wednesday 26 December **FEAST: ST. STEPHEN, The First Martyr (1st c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Thursday 27 December **FEAST: ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Eileen Hurst

Friday 28 December **FEAST: THE HOLY INNOCENTS MM.**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 11.45am REQUIEM MASS Tommy Walsh

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 29 December **FEAST: ST. THOMAS BECKETT (OF CANTERBURY), B.M. (12th c.)**

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS

Sunday 30 December **FEAST: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Joanne Smith

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Ruth, Walter & Dorothy Elmer

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)

6.00 pm St Gabriel's, Higher Folds
6.00 pm St Richard's, Atherton
8.00 pm St Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.30 pm Holy Family, Boothstown

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)

9.00 am Holy Family, Boothstown
9.30 am St Richard's, Atherton
11.00 am St Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.00 am Holy Family, Boothstown

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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

