

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 JANUARY 2013



Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Rosaleen grew up in a lovely walled garden in the company of thousands of other roses, all red like herself. She was told that it was a great privilege to have been born into the Red Rose Clan. High standards were expected of her, and she had to obey a lot of rules. One of those rules forbade her to attempt to climb over the garden wall. But as she got older she began to ask herself what lay on the other side of the wall. One day, overcome by curiosity, she climbed the wall and took a peep over. What did she see? She saw another walled garden similar to her own. And in it grew lots of other roses, like herself in everything but colour – some were pink, some white and some yellow. She was shocked. After all, she had been told that there was only one rose – a red one. But then an elder of her clan told her, “Forget those flowers on the other side of the wall. They don’t belong to our clan. Remember this: the only true rose is a red rose.” But try as she might she could not forget them. So, another day, she climbed the wall again and began to chat with a pink rose from the other side. Her example caught on. More and more roses from both sides of the wall began to meet and talk and become friends. Slowly a great transformation took place. Having come to acknowledge each other’s existence, the roses gradually came to accept their differences. And even though the wall continued to stand between them, they learned to communicate with each other in spite of it. And in time they came to see themselves as members of one large family, the Rose family, a family of great variety and beauty.

The Feast of the Epiphany is a very revolutionary feast. Christ is revealed as the Saviour, not of a select group of people, but of ALL people. Jesus broke down the great barrier that existed between Jews and Gentiles. In fact, all the barriers of tribe, of kinship, are transcended by the message of Jesus, the Universal Brother. The Epiphany is a beautiful feast because it brings everybody together. “All now share the same inheritance, they are part of the same Body”, as St. Paul writes. But this doesn’t mean that these barriers have magically disappeared. Wherever we go today we see divisions among people, in families, communities, cities, countries, the whole world. Today’s barriers are often racial, ethnic, social and religious ones. All these divisions are reflections of our separation from God. God sent Jesus into the world to reconcile people with him and with one another. As people were reconciled with God through Jesus, we have been given the gift of reconciliation. Talking across fences and across barriers is important. Christians are called to be agents of love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds. Epiphany challenges us to make the Church a place where all barriers fall down, a place where there is room for everyone.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
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**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Kathleen Duffy, James Frost, Stephen Green, Irene Gregson, Ellen Anne & Joseph Joyce, Joey O'Rourke, Eric Peters, Joe & Tony Shovelton, Special Intention.

Red Mission Boxes Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday January 21.

Women's Sodality There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 8 January at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Refreshments will be available after Mass today, 6 January - everyone welcome.

TWELVE APOSTLES

Mission Books are at the back of church. Thank you for the money you raised in 2012, the total was £861.00. The selection box raffle raised £100, winning numbers at the back of church. Please support the parish hall during 2013. Consider it for your special occasion, tel. 209192 for details.

VOCATIONS (YOUNG MEN 14-21)

Today, Sunday 6 January the Vocations Team are due to be holding their monthly discernment meeting at St Mary's Lowe House, St Helens, The meeting begins at 5.00pm, and 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, socialize 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.

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Come along and join us in a traditional evening to celebrate the great poet, Robert Burns, on Saturday 19 January. The Haggis will be piped in at 8.00pm. Haggis, neeps and tatties supper served with a "wee tot". A great night - £6 per person. Bring your own drinks. Venue - St Ambrose Barlow Hall. Please contact Mary B - 01942 889388 - book early as we filled the Hall in 2012 !!!

URGENTLY REQUIRED

Sr Megan is asking for a double bed, a chest of drawers and a table for a family in need. If anyone can help, please contact her on 01942 683554

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£1,905.77
Donation	£ 100.00

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... Baby James George Sutton, Harry Grundy, Joseph Grainey, Edward John McGrath
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

Sing & Swing

Lowton Civic Hall, Saturday 19 January 2013

In aid of HCPT The Cheshire Chord Company
a 9 piece swing band

7.30pm start

Tickets £8 concessions £5 Inc free drink
tel. 07580832800 to book tickets.

St Joseph's Players

Present

DICK WHITTINGTON

Wednesday 16 - 20 January
& 23 to 25 January

Curtain 7.15pm. Matinees on both Saturdays
& Sunday 2.00pm

Tickets £8.00 concessions £4.00
Available from Ratcliffes Bike Shop, Bradshawgate.

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday 5 January

12A 5.30pm MASS Frank Stout

Sunday 6 January SOLEMNITY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Tommy Walsh (LD)

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS William & Ethel Wilkinson

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Monday 7 January Weekday after Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tuesday 8 January Weekday after Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Teresa Cooney (sick)

Wednesday 9 January Weekday after Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.45am Funeral Service Joseph Grainey

StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Harry Grundy

SH 7.00pm MASS Kathleen & Philip
McLoughlan

Thursday 10 January Weekday after Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Yvonne Giles (LD)

SH 12.00noon MASS Margaret Dootson (sick)

Friday 11 January Weekday after Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Bridie Greenhalgh (sick)

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 12 January Weekday after Epiphany

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS Special intention (D&K)

12A 5.30pm MASS Allen & Agnes Newton

Sunday 13 January FEAST: BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS People of St Edmund

Arrowsmith parish and of St Margaret Clitherow parish

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 28 December the numbers drawn were 11, 17, 27. No winner of £250. Last week's estimated jackpot was £300.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 056, R Ellis; £5, 349, M Roach; £3, 131, A Unsworth; £2, 111, M Roach.

Bonus Ball 36, E Nuttall.

ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH OFFICE

The office for the administration of our parish is based in St. Joseph's presbytery, Mather Lane. email stjosephs@live.com or telephone 01942 673517