

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

13 JANUARY 2013



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we encounter the adult Jesus for the first time in this Christmas season. The babe at Bethlehem is now a grown adult standing by the Jordan River ready to commit his life at his baptism. He joins the movement of John the Baptist. John offers the people of Israel a ritual by which they can make a break from corrupt society. But why does Jesus submit to baptism? Jesus decides to identify himself with Israel and all its failings, and through baptism he shares a solidarity with his people which will reach its climax when he submits himself to death on the Cross. As he prays after his baptism, the heavens open and Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit. And then the Father acknowledges him as his beloved Son and the servant who will bring justice to the nations. Jesus will now reveal the life of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as he lives it out in his ministry. He will, however, be severely tested by the forces of evil as he proclaims the Kingdom of God. It will ultimately lead to his death on the Cross. Yet his death is not a defeat. His resurrection illustrates the very central message of our faith in Jesus: that life comes out of death. We grow only by taking the risk of trusting in God. The Risen Jesus will offer his disciples a share in his risen life. But it will be through baptism. The Holy Spirit will be poured out upon them and they in turn will begin to baptize those who believe. It is not enough to just have faith in Jesus and remain unattached. Their faith will only mature if they are baptized into Christ and become part of his Body, the Church, which enables them to share in the community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrate this weekend is a good opportunity for all of us to reflect on our own baptism. Do we sometimes behave as though we have remained with Jesus in the manger, allowing our faith to remain childish? Or have we allowed it to grow into an adult faith, which makes us ready to make a deeper commitment as Jesus did at his baptism? Many people today prefer to remain unattached. Yes, they may say, I do believe in Jesus, but I don't want to get too involved with the family of God's Church. Perhaps our own baptism took place, like the majority of Catholics, when we were babies. And maybe our faith has remained at that infant stage, without the time and the nourishment that it needs to grow. One of the best times to deepen our faith is when we have to think about the baptism of our own children or when we are asked to be godparents. We are faced with new responsibilities, which can help us make our faith more mature. We can take time to study and understand it, as we would with any other serious commitment. This feast of the Lord's Baptism is an invitation to take the plunge into the baptismal waters with Jesus. It is an invitation to grow in our faith and allow the love of God to grow stronger in our hearts as we face a New Year. As baptized people, we are invited today to share in the community of love which IS Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

**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

Tony Broster, John Cohen, Louisa Farrington, Margaret Fleming, Elizabeth & William Keaveny, Anthony Manfredi, James Monaghan, Vincent Morris, Edward McGrath, Anne Turner, James Unsworth Jnr., Kathleen & James Unsworth snr., Special Intention, Special Intention Our Lord & Our Lady, Special Intention Angeola, Anitta, Carlo & Louis Manfredi, Thanksgiving St Anthony, St Jude,

Red Mission Boxes The total amount raised by the collectors for Red Mission Boxes and donations during 2012 was £5,070.

Many thanks go to our dedicated collectors, box holders and donors who helped to achieve this sum. New box holders and donations are always welcome, and anyone who would like to participate should contact Paul on 679368 or Peter on 602105 or the Parish Office. We particularly ask for volunteers to be collectors to collect one or two days every quarter. Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday January 21.

Sacramental Preparation The next meeting for preparation for first Communion & Confirmation will be on Wednesday 23 January, there are two meetings to choose from, either in school at 2.30pm or the Mather Room at 6.00pm.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS



Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

By air from Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Friday 26 July - Friday 2 August 2013. Also overland by Jumbulance. Pilgrims who will need help with mobility, nursing or medical care on the journey or in Lourdes, should register as soon as possible with the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: 0151 727 4000. Closing date for registration: 30 April 2013. The Tour Operator is Joe Walsh Tours, 143 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, Ireland; website: www.joewalshstours.ie - there is a reduction for those who book online. Tel: 0151 909 2871 or send email to info@joewalshstours.ie Limited places available. We recommend you book immediately. Deposit £150. Bonded & Licensed as a Tour Operator by the Civil Aviation Authority in UK. ATOL 5163.

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 !!!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

We welcomed staff and students back from a well-earned Christmas break last week, and have got straight back into things. Many of our year 10 and 11 students have modular exams over the next few weeks, and our Sixth Form have important exams over the next few weeks. Please hold them in your prayers as they revise for and sit these exams. The theme of the week this week is the Baptism of the Lord,

though our focus on Holocaust Memorial Day will begin this week, culminating in a service next Friday. All are welcome to attend, details will follow next week. Two Sixth Form students have taken the lead on this, following their trip to Auschwitz last year.

MEMORIAL CANDLES FOR CHRISTMAS

Over the Christmas period there were over seventy red candles arranged around Sacred Heart church shining away in memory of our loved ones. The candles were lit just before Christmas Midnight Mass. This year we were more conscious of fire safety so they were extinguished when the church was empty and relit for each Mass and service. What we would like to do now is to offer the labelled candles back to those who purchased and dedicated them. You could then burn the candle (safely) in your own home. Alternatively, you might prefer that the remnant of the candle still be burnt in church but it will be in a sanctuary lamp, one of which is always lit as a reminder of Jesus' presence in the tabernacle. There would be enough candles remaining to last us until next Christmas. If you want your candle back please just come to the sacristy and ask for it. If you don't ask, it will be presumed that your wish is for it to be used in the sanctuary lamp.

READERS MEETING

There will be a meeting for Readers from Sacred Heart, Twelve Apostles and Our Lady's churches on Wednesday, 23 January at 7.30pm after the Mass at Sacred Heart.

PARISH HOLY HOUR

To mark the Year of Faith we are starting the Parish Holy Hour every Tuesday between 3.00 & 4.00pm.

Saint Edmund Arrowsmith's Parish Council Notes of the Minutes of the meeting at 12 Apostles 6th November 2012 at 7.30pm

1. ROLE CALL

The following people were in attendance. Fr Cooper, Fr O'Grady, * John Thompson 12A, * Peter Galloway SH, * Gillian Elliot SJ, * John Prince SJ, * Paul Clews 12A, * Kathleen Smith SH, * Debbie Davis OLOR.

Apologies * Peter Percell OLOR,* Parish Council Representatives, Parishioners Josephine Maxwell SJ, Anne Jones SJ, Christine Prince SJ.

John Thompson (Chairman) opened the meeting. Fr O'Grady said prayers. The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed as a correct record. Signed John Thompson.

Matters Arising

Fr Cooper gave a list of people who had been nominated for the Pastoral Area Council as follows. Kathleen Daniels SH, Maureen Lunt SJ, Michael Warner SJ, Peter Percell OLOR, Peter Galloway SH, John Thompson 12A.

Next Pastoral Area meeting 5th December 2012 at St Ambrose Barlow after 7.00pm mass at 7.45pm.

Current Business.

Fr Cooper gave an update of the confirmation and first communion progress. Dates of Christmas Mass's are to be the same as last year. A discussion took place outlining the reasons why OLOR had no mass last year and this year. Various points of view were expressed and these will be taken into consideration when a review takes place for next year's masses. Novena In response to a request Novena and Benediction will recommence at Sacred Heart on Wednesdays. Prior to 7pm mass. This will be advertised in the news letter. **Date for the next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 15th January 2013 at OLOR.**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL

£1,805.19

White Flower Appeal - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual appeal next week-end. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, pro-family issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead ... Marion Sanderson
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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.

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

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Are you a boy in year 3-5? Do you enjoy singing and working hard in a team? If so, you are invited to come and meet the choristers at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool and sing in the largest Catholic church in the country for a day! We are holding a 'Be a Chorister for a Day' event for the very first time on Sunday, 3 February from 10.30am until 4.00pm. Come and find out more about being a chorister and have fun playing, singing, eating and exploring. Application forms and further information are available on the Cathedral website: www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk or by contacting the music office music@metcathedral.org.uk / 0151 708 7283. Places are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. A similar event for girls will take place in June.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

In a letter to the priests of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Kelly has announced his intention to retire and, in accordance with the Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church, has offered his resignation to Pope Benedict XVI.

The Archbishop continues to make good progress following the slight stroke he suffered early last month and begins his letter by thanking people for their prayers and good wishes. He says: 'Thank you for all the prayers and messages I have received in the past few weeks; they have been deeply moving and much appreciated'. The Archbishop continues by saying that he is returning to Liverpool to continue his convalescence but there is no question of his thereupon resuming pastoral engagements.

Archbishop Kelly concludes by saying: 'Indeed, although the recovery has gone well, I have decided that I must offer to the Holy Father my resignation as Archbishop of Liverpool. It rests with the Holy Father to respond to the request I have put before him. Until he does so pastoral responsibility for the Archdiocese remains with me'.

Note: Under the Code of Canon Law, a Bishop has to submit his resignation to the Holy Father at the age of 75. Archbishop Kelly will be 75 on 23rd November this year.

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 26 January

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

Tickets £8.00 concessions £4.00

Available from Ratcliffes Bike Shop, Bradshawgate.

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH HALL NEWS

Bingo every Wednesday from 8.30pm, please consider the hall for your special occasion, or to support those who use it call 209192 for details. Date for your diary, Irish Night Friday 15 March. Church Repair Fund Selection box raffle, lists of winning numbers at the back of church. Next weekend is our monthly retiring collect, please be your usual generous selves.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Join us to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 25th January at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Wigan Town Hall, or at 1.30 pm in The Derby Room, Turnpike Centre, Leigh Civic Square.

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 12 January

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

Monday 14 January Memorial: St Kentigern, B. (Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tuesday 15 January Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 1)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Rory Carrol

SH 3.00pm EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for one hour

Wednesday 16 January Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 1.00pm Funeral Service Edward McGrath

SH 7.00pm MASS Jim Fearnley (LD)

Thursday 17 January Memorial: St. Anthony, Abbot (3rd/4th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Timothy Stott

SH 12.00noon MASS Evelyn Quinn (SI)

Friday 18 January Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Margaret Dootson (sick)

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 19 January Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS Frank Stout

Sunday 20 January SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

(Day of Prayer for Peace)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Joseph Graine (LD)

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Sacred Heart Confraternity

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 4 January the numbers drawn were 1, 13, 21. No winner of £300. Last week's estimated jackpot was £380.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 271, J Waterfield; £5, 324, J Evans; £3, 488, C Ellis; £2, 072, R Foxcroft. **Bonus Ball** 2, M Haughton.

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 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
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Email: fathercooper@btconnect.com

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

