

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

3 MARCH 2013



**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

The Lord is compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

A vineyard is a very special place, normally reserved for vines only. Yet in his parable Jesus talks about a fig tree which was planted in a vineyard. At that time this was not so unusual. Good soil was so scarce that trees were planted wherever they could grow. We are dealing then with a tree planted in a very privileged place. In the normal course of events it takes three years for a fig tree to reach maturity. If by that time it is not bearing fruit it is likely that it will never ever bear fruit at all. Such was the case with the tree Jesus was talking about. For three years the owner had been coming to it and finding it barren. He came to the usual conclusion that the tree was useless. It was drawing nourishment from the ground but giving nothing back. It had to go. It was taking up valuable space. So he told the gardener to get rid of it. But the gardener, who had great knowledge of fig trees, replied "Sir, give it one more year. I'll dig the earth around it, and put on plenty of dung. Then, if there are no figs on it this time next year, we'll cut it down." The owner of the vineyard agreed. We are not told what happened to the fig tree. In a sense this doesn't matter because Jesus had made his point. Just as the gardener was patient with the fig tree, so God is patient with sinners.

This Gospel has sometimes been called the "Gospel of the Second Chance". God is patient with his people. The history of the Church is full of stories of barren fig trees that in time become fruitful. In other words, there are stories of many sinners who become saints. Moses, at the centre of today's First Reading, is a good example. In his younger days he actually killed another man. Yet God did not write him off. It is true that he had a fiery temper, but there was good in him. He was that rare being – the kind of man who couldn't stand idly by when he saw an injustice or a crime taking place. It was because of this inner quality that God chose him to lead his people from slavery to freedom. Some people develop slowly, or turn to God later in life. What such people need is someone to believe in them, someone who will have patience with them. The parable of the fig tree should remind us that there is always a second chance with God, for he believes in each one of us more than anyone else.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED

Kelly Bowden, Sydney Butterworth, Kevin Fleming, John Garvey, Joseph Garvey, Kenneth Howcroft, Joyce Hughes, Harold Hunter, Brenda Leaver, William Leigh, Amber Lynch, Vincent Maggee, Ellen Mullahy, Thomas McCulloch, Vincent McKiernan, Bill O'Conner, Josephine Cora Oddie, Sherlock Family, Tony Short, Doris Stout,

WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 5th March at 8.00pm in the Side Hall of St Joseph's Main Hall. All ladies welcome.

EASTER CARDS

Easter cards are now on sale in the card rack in St Joseph's Church.

SACRED HEART PARISH HOLY HOUR

To mark the Year of Faith the Parish Holy Hour continues every Tuesday between 3.00pm & 4.00pm in Sacred Heart church. The Sanctuary Lamp candle that burns all this week was gifted in memory of Thomas Beads.

TWELVE APOSTLES ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Once again we are running the pilgrimage from Easter Monday to Thursday the cost is £150, this is your last chance, the balance needs to be paid by next Sunday 10 March, many thanks.. Tickets are on sale for our Easter Egg Raffle 50p a strip, all donations of eggs gratefully appreciated. Bingo on Wednesday in the Lounge from 8.30pm. Please consider using the Parish Centre for your special occasion ring 01942 209192 for details.

OUR LADY'S

As is customary at Our Lady's we decorate the sanctuary with lilies at Easter. Each lily represents a prayer and a reminder of loved ones who have died. The lilies cost £1.50 each and if you would like to remember family and friends in this way, please print their names on a sheet of paper, enclose it with your donation in an envelope and place it in the marked box at the back of church. Each name will be inscribed in a Book of Remembrance which will be placed on the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and remain there until the Feast of Pentecost.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be available after Mass today – all are welcome. We've had a good starting response to the appeal for prizes for the Easter Raffle – please bring your donations in to Brenda or Kath. The Easter Lily fund will remain open until the Sunday before Easter.

ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

A massive well done to all students and staff involved in Buggy Malone last week – rave reviews all round! We had a very young cast this year, and they really stepped up – some stars of the future! As we have so far in Lent, we will be having a Hunger Lunch on Tuesday, allowing students to donate money to CAFOD and stand in solidarity with those who don't have much to eat on a daily basis by having a simple soup and roll for lunch. Students also have the opportunity to join with staff for morning prayer twice a week during Lent, to do something different for Lent – something other than giving up chocolate!

SKILLS WORKSHOP

Ways of working with Scripture Are you involved in Liturgy of the Word with children, helping families or with adults?

Monday, 11 March, 6.30 to 9.00pm at Lowe House, 99 Crab Street, St. Helens WA10 2BE. Places are limited.

ARCHBISHOP PATRICK KELLY RETIRES



It was announced in Rome on Wednesday 27 February 2013, that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Patrick Kelly as Archbishop of Liverpool and Metropolitan of the Northern Province. This decision took effect immediately.

Archbishop Kelly made his request to the Holy Father in January because of the stroke he experienced on 10 December 2012.

The Archbishop says: 'last Sunday in a letter read at all Masses I reflected on the retirement of the Holy Father and my own. I recalled the thanksgiving in which many shared on the occasion of my Golden Jubilee as a priest on 18 February 2012. All that remains to be said will find its place within the Mass to be celebrated tomorrow, Thursday, evening at 7.00pm in the Metropolitan Cathedral which will accompany the Holy Father's moment of retirement; and again in the great annual diocesan celebration called the Mass of Christ in the Cathedral on Wednesday of Holy Week, 27 March, at 7.30pm.'

Archbishop Kelly will continue to reside at Archbishop's House, Liverpool, until his successor is appointed.

It was also announced in Rome on the same day that the Holy Father has appointed the Right Reverend Thomas Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, as Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Liverpool to ensure that necessary oversight and pastoral leadership are maintained during the period of *Sede Vacante* (the seat being vacant).

LENTEN SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 6 March, 7.30pm at St Joseph's
(Please note: this service will include Individual Confession)

"Confessathon"

(Individual Confession)

Saturday 16 March at St Joseph's

10.00am - 2.30pm

(except during Mass at 12.00noon)

Tuesday 26 March, 7.30pm at Holy Family, Boothstown

PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A POPE

*O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,863.65

CAFOD £ 588.49

CHEQUE PAYMENTS

The Parish account in the bank has now been changed to St Edmund Arrowsmith, so in future if you are making a cheque out for Masses etc to any of our four churches, it must be made payable to St Edmund Arrowsmith. Thank you.

SICK

Please remember all who are sick at this time. Pat Fisher

RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead: ... Doris Stout, Wilfred Lloyd.
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Craig Barrow & Jennifer Louise Preece who were married at St Joseph's church last Saturday.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Imogen Sophie Perry, Rory James Joyce.

SERVICES FOR LENT AND EASTER

Services During Lent

8.30am	Monday - Friday	Morning Prayer	St Joseph's
3.00pm	Tuesday	Holy Hour	Sacred Heart
7.30am	Friday	Mass	St Joseph's
7.30pm	Friday	Stations of the Cross	St Joseph's

The Stations of the Cross will alternate weekly with St Thomas'

Easter Triduum (28-30 March)

7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Our Lady's
	Watching till 10.00pm	
3.00pm	Celebration of the Passion	Sacred Heart
7.30pm	Easter Vigil	Twelve Apostles

Easter Sunday

8.30am	St Joseph's
9.30am	Sacred Heart
10.30am	St Joseph's
11.00am	Our Lady of the Rosary
6.30pm	St Richard's

CANCER CHARITY

Some of you will remember Ron Blenkinship, who sadly passed away last year, from his successful drama productions in St Joseph's school. To mark what would have been Ron's 60th birthday, his family, friends and young people he worked with in Preston are running a 24 hour "performathon" in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and Macmillan Cancer Support. The event will take place in Preston beginning at 12.00noon on Saturday March 9 and ends at 12.00noon on Sunday March 10. If anyone would like to support the event by donating money to these two wonderful charities, a Virgin Money Giving Page has been set up at www.virginmoneygiving.com/60460. Many thanks.

"Aladdin" - The Pantomime

St Ambrose Players present their production
Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th March
In St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Tickets Adults £6.00, Seniors and children £3.50.
For reservations please contact
Des 01942 876050.
Come and enjoy the show!

St Patrick's Night

16th March 2013

7.30pm

St Joseph's High School,
Chorley New Rd, Horwich

Featuring the
Flatcappers Irish Band
In Aid of HCPT

St Joseph's Players Present "ENCHANTED APRIL"

By Matthew Barber

From the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

Tuesday 16th - Saturday 20th April

Directed by Doreen Johnson

St Joseph's Hall Chapel St

Curtain up 7.30pm prompt

Tickets £8 pay on the door on the night

50's & 60's Night

Featuring

The Fantastic Eddie Robbins

Cliff Richard Tribute Artist

Also

Rock & Roll with

Long Tall Phill

Saturday 27th April 2013

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

7.30pm till late.

Tickets £10 including Refreshments

Licenced Bar

Raffle

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 2 March

12A 5.30pm MASS Tom & Nellie Dunne SI

Sunday 3 March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS Margaret Dootson (sick)
StJ 10.30am MASS
OL 11.00am MASS Brian Smith
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Monday 4 March Monday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS
OL 12.00noon MASS Betty O'Neill

Tuesday 5 March Tuesday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Wilfred Lloyd
SH 12.00noon MASS Fr Chris Dykehoff LD
SH 3.00pm EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for one hour

Wednesday 6 March Wednesday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS
SH 12.00noon MASS Ned Hyland
SH 7.00pm NO MASS
StJ 7.30pm Penitential Service

Thursday 7 March Thursday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.30am MASS Peggy Booth LD
SH 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Doris Mary Stout

Friday 8 March Friday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 7.30am MASS
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL NO MASS
StJ 12.00noon MASS
StJ 7.30pm Stations of the Cross at St Thomas's

Saturday 9 March Saturday of Week 2 Lent

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation & Holy Hour
12A 12.00noon MASS Christine Cleworth SI
12A 5.30pm MASS Terry Wilcock

Sunday 10 March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS Peter Unsworth
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 22 February the numbers drawn were 5, 16, 19. No winner of £56. Last week's estimated jackpot was £111.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 134, C Ackers; £5, 248, N Flynn; £3, 363, M Roach; £2, 481, K Jones. **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 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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Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood
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Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint