

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

17 MARCH 2013



## Responsorial Psalm

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once upon a time a man was caught stealing and was brought before the king, who immediately gave orders that he should be executed. However, as he was being led to the gallows, the man told the prison governor that he had a wonderful secret, which was given to him by his father. He claimed that using this secret he could plant the seed of a pomegranate and make it grow and bear fruit overnight. He said that it would be a pity if the secret died with him, and that he was willing to reveal it to the king. The governor was so impressed with the idea that he halted the execution, and brought the man before the king. There the man dug a hole in the ground, and taking a pomegranate seed said, "Your Majesty, the seed must be planted by a person who has never taken anything that didn't belong to him. It must be a man of great virtue and honesty. I being a thief cannot do it." Then, turning to one of the king's officials, he said, "Perhaps you would like to plant it."

But the official refused saying, "In my younger days I kept something that didn't belong to me." Then the man turned to the king's treasurer and said, "Well then, maybe you would like to plant it." But the treasurer too refused, saying, "Over the years I've handled a lot of money. Now and again I may have kept a little for myself." And so it went on. Finally there was only the king left. Turning to him the man said, "Perhaps your Majesty would do the honour of planting the seed." But the king said, "I'm ashamed to say it, but once I kept a watch that belonged to my father and I never gave it back, so I can't plant the seed either." Then the thief said, "All of you are great and powerful people and want for nothing. Yet none of you can plant the seed, whilst I who have stolen a little because I was hungry must pay for it with my life." The king felt moved to pardon him. That story would have ended differently if the king had not been prepared to listen. Instead, thanks to his patience and thanks to the imagination of the condemned man, no one died and they all learned a valuable lesson.

The Gospel we hear today could have ended in a very ugly manner. If Jesus had gone along with the script of the Scribes and Pharisees, the woman would have died a horrible death. Who would have benefited from that? Instead, thanks to the understanding and compassion Jesus showed her, she was able to put this whole episode behind her and make a new start. The fact that he didn't condemn her does not mean that Jesus thought lightly of adultery, or of any sin for that matter. He realised that she had already been condemned. What she needed now was compassion. He treated her in such a way that it made her want to reform her life. What God wants is NOT the death of the sinner but the conversion of the sinner. In his wisdom, God understands our weakness, and in his mercy he forgives our sins. He not only helps us to put our sins behind us, but to draw good from them. And surely the fact that we have all sinned, and stand continually in need of God's mercy, will help us when we feel like throwing the stones of condemnation at others.

**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**  
[www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk](http://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

Brian Ashton, Sarah Byrne, Alf Case, Terence Donohue, Brian Edge, Lilly Farrimond, Brenda Hoffman, Edmund & Teresa Hurst, Pat Leyland, Dominic Noon, Julia Noon, Edith Smith, Doris Stout, Sylvia Withington, Special Intention

### EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

Both Masses at St Joseph's on Easter Sunday will be said for our loved ones. If you would like your loved one to be included in the Masses please hand their names and a donation into church by Wednesday 27 March. Thank you.

### MOODS OF EASTER

Tuesday, 19 March at 6.30pm Year 4 children from St Joseph's School will be presenting *Moods of Easter*. Everyone welcome.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The next meeting for the children preparing for Confirmation and First Communion will be held on Wednesday, 20 March. One meeting will be in school at 2.30pm or 6.00pm in the Mather Room.

### WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 19 March at 8.00pm in the Side Hall of St Joseph's Main Hall. All ladies welcome.

### 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 Audrey Brown.

### TWELVE APOSTLES

The cleaning of the church for Easter will take place on Monday 25th at 10.00am we are desperately in need of help please try to come along if you have an hour to spare.

### CHURCH REPAIR FUND

Tickets are on sale for our Easter Egg Raffle 50p a strip, all donations of eggs will be much appreciated. Today is our monthly retiring collection please be your usual generous selves. Wednesday is our 200 club draw.

### PARISH HALL NEWS

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

Tickets for the Easter Raffle are on sale in the church porch. The closing date for Easter lilies is on Palm Sunday – this gives us time to order the lilies and enter all the names in the Book of Remembrance.

### ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

We finish this week for the Easter holidays, with a staff inset day on Friday. This week all year groups will attend a liturgy planned by the Head of R.E., Mr Welsh, and Br. John to commemorate Easter. A number of students have put a lot of work into preparing a mime with Br. John and we are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labour. We will also be drawing the winners of our Easter Raffle, raising money for CAFOD and Nugent Care. Winners will be notified in the first week back after Easter. We wish everyone a restful break, and a Happy Easter (when it comes!).

## Habemus Papam! Cardinal Bergoglio Elected Pope



(Vatican Radio) Citing the Latin formula, Habemus Papam, the Proto Deacon, French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran appeared on the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica Wednesday evening to announce the election of the 265th Successor of Saint Peter:

Argentinian Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., the first Jesuit pope in history, was elected to the papacy, taking the name of Pope Francis.

Cardinal Tauran appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's basilica at 8:12 p.m. to the cheers of tens of thousands of people gathered under umbrellas in the square. Billowing white smoke appeared from the chimney over the Sistine chapel at 7:06 p.m signalling that the new Pope had been elected in the fifth ballot of the two day conclave.

O God, who in your providential design  
willed that your Church be built upon blessed Peter,  
whom you set over the other Apostles,  
look with favour, we pray, on Francis our Pope  
and grant that he,  
whom you have made Peter's successor,  
may be for your people a visible source and foundation  
of unity in faith and of communion.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Roman Missal)

### LENTEN SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 26 March, 7.30pm at Holy Family, Boothstown

### THIRTY SOMETHING

Are you in your 30s? Would you like to meet other Catholics your age? If so, we would like to meet you on Saturday 6th April at St Joseph's Church, 1 Tatton St (off St Petersgate), Stockport SK1 1EJ (parking available behind the church). Mass at 5.00 pm, and then an opportunity to chat and socialise afterwards and discuss future events. For further details, or to get on our mailing list, please contact: Sarah on [sarahheaton@uwclub.net](mailto:sarahheaton@uwclub.net) or Colette on [candjrowe@btinternet.com](mailto:candjrowe@btinternet.com), or text/phone Hugh on 07977 904479, or just turn up.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,751.17

### 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.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

For all those lately dead: Brenda Hoffman, Barbara Ludlow  
...  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Zachary James Ryder, Gabrielle Ama Afrakoma Nell

### CHRISM MASS

**Cathedral of Christ The King, Liverpool,  
Wednesday 27 March**

Please sign up on the lists at the back of all our churches if you wish to attend. A coach will be provided, times and details of pick up points to be confirmed.

### CHOIR PRACTICE

There will be a practice for musicians and singers for the Triduum on Friday 22 March, 7.30pm at St Joseph's.

### 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 Thomas'

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

## *Easter Triduum*



7.30pm	Maundy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper Watching till 10.00pm <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>
11.00am	Good Friday	Walk of Witness <i>St Joseph's to Parish Church</i> Celebration of the Passion Watching <i>Sacred Heart</i>
7.30 - 8.30pm		
7.30pm	Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil <i>Twelve Apostles</i>

## 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, from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop,  
Bradshawgate, or pay on the door

## 50's & 60's Night

Featuring

**The Fantastic Eddie Robbins**

Also

Rock & Roll with

**D.J. Long Tall Phil**

Saturday 27th April 2013

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

7.30pm till 11.00pm

Tickets £10 including Refreshments

Available from Des 01942 674868 or the

Parish office weekdays only 673517

Licensed Bar

Raffle

All proceeds **The White Fathers**

**Street Children Appeal**

The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present

Gilbert & Sullivan's

## *The Yeomen of the Guard*

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £10 & £12 Concessions available

Contact 01942 883722

Set in the Tower of London during the sixteenth century, 'The Yeomen of the Guard' is a tale of ill-fated love, intrigue and escape in Tudor England. A framed Colonel is to be executed on charges of sorcery. A mock marriage would cheat his betrayer of his estate. The court jester's sweet-heart is offered a bag of coins ..... and the plot is set.

As events unravel you will be totally captivated by the twists and turns of the plot. Many believe that the music is Sullivan's finest. Do not hesitate to contact Eileen our ticket secretary for your choice of seating. If you have any queries she will be delighted to assist.



## 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 16 March

12A 5.30pm MASS Frank Stout

### Sunday 17 March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS  
SH 9.30am MASS Jim Roberts LD  
StJ 10.30am MASS  
OL 11.00am MASS Tom Sales  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

### Monday 18 March Monday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Tuesday 19 March SOLEMNITY: ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY

*Patron of the Universal Church, Patron of the Diocese*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's Church today  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Doris Stout LD  
SH 3.00pm EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for one hour

### Wednesday 20 March Wednesday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Brenda Hofman  
SH 7.00pm MASS Fr Bernard Eager

### Thursday 21 March Thursday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 9.30am MASS Marion Sanderson LD  
SH 12.00noon MASS Patrick Donohue

### Friday 22 March Friday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 7.30am MASS  
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OL 12.00noon MASS Special intention  
StJ 12.00noon MASS  
StJ 7.30pm Stations of the Cross at St Thomas's

### Saturday 23 March Saturday of Week 5 Lent

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
OL 12.00noon MASS Tommy Walsh  
12A 5.30pm MASS Joseph Patrick Buchanan

### Sunday 24 March PALM SUNDAY

StJ 8.30am MASS  
SH 9.30am MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith parish and of St Margaret Clitherow parish  
StJ 10.30am MASS  
OL 11.00am MASS Betty Gill & Edward Keegan  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 8 March the numbers drawn were 14, 21, 25. No winner of £200. Last week's estimated jackpot was £268.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 394, B Ryan; £5, 379, M Flannery; £3, 300, C Ellis; £2, 439, J Riley. **Bonus Ball** 18, P Purcell.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:fathercooper@btconnect.com)

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood  
Tel: 0161 790 2390  
Email: [frdave@virginmedia.com](mailto:frdave@virginmedia.com)

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady  
Tel: 01942 673517  
Email: [shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk)  
Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon  
Tel: 01942 883395  
Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

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

