

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C)

5 MAY 2013



Responsorial Psalm

Let all the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Change is often difficult for us, especially when it involves letting go of things or people who have been very dear to us. In the Gospel we see Jesus at a moment of great change. He must leave his friends, face the Cross, and so open up the path to the new life of the Resurrection. In this new life Jesus is, in a sense, absent; but he is also present in a new, more profound way to his followers for all generations to come. And so, before his Passion, the Lord seeks to reassure and comfort his friends, promising that, even as he goes away and all seems lost, the great gift of the Holy Spirit will be theirs.

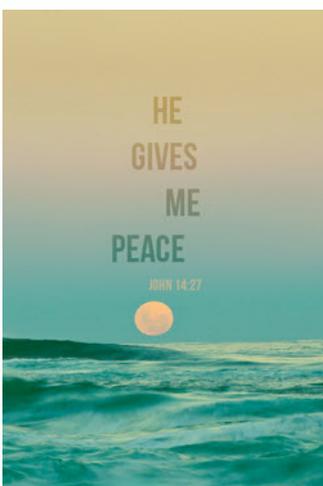
The disciples are called to be at peace and untroubled in the face of all this change and loss. They are challenged to put their complete trust in the promise of God. This trust cannot be learnt all at once: indeed, it can take a lifetime of learning for most people. In the Church, too, it can take time to argue and discuss, and so to learn where God is taking us. This is something that the first disciples really struggled with, as we hear in today's First Reading. The debate over whether circumcision and many of the other traditions of the ancient Law was necessary for Christians was a very heated one. This involved even more heated arguments between the two pillars of the early Church, Peter and Paul. It took time and heartache before the disciples could recognize something that was "decided by the Holy Spirit". Only then was a decision for opening up the way of salvation and lifting unnecessary burdens of the Old Law made possible. It was difficult for the early Christians to accept such changes at first. Yet when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, they were able to look forward and accept that their lives were very different now, not only because Jesus was no longer with them, but because they were the new leaders of God's people.

Change and loss, moving on – these things can shape our lives at all levels. While such experiences, especially losing people we love, can obviously be very unsettling, and at worst distressing, they are always, in our lives as Christians, moments for potential growth when the Holy Spirit seeks to come and lead us on. As Blessed John Henry Newman remarked, "To live is to change. To be perfect is to have changed often." Today we are called to reflect on how we respond to change, in our own lives, in the lives of those we love, and within the Church and the whole world. Often our fears and hurt can put up barriers to the graces of the new life God is offering to us. It can be difficult to learn to trust completely in God in times of loss and disruption. But, like a plant that every now and then needs pruning, so God allows these things to happen in the hope that the Holy Spirit will allow his gifts to grow more strongly in us. It is sometimes hard to let go of the things we have been used to, especially difficult to let go of the people that we love. Let us pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit in these difficult days, so that God may help us grow stronger and become the people he wants us to be.

**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

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much to all who generously donated and attended this event. The amount raised for the Epiphany Trust to date is £285 - a truly magnificent result. All raffle prizes have been claimed.

MAY PROCESSION

This year's May Procession will be held on Wednesday, 22 May at 7.00pm. We would like to invite the children of St Joseph's School to lead the Procession, especially the children who are receiving the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in June and also Y6, who are saying the Rosary with Mrs Gibbon once a week at lunch time. You are welcome to bring a flower to place on Our Lady's Altar.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 7 May at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers are welcome.

EDDIE ROBBINS CHARITY EVENING

Thank you to Celia Cooney, Anne Smith, Pauline & John Dowsett, & Christine & John Prince, to everyone who donated raffle prizes and all who came along to rock and roll and make the evening such a great success. A fantastic £840.00 was raised for Fr Patrick's Street Children.

GARDENING DAY

A very big thank you to the eight people who came to tend to the church gardens on Thursday. As you can see by the results they worked very hard and the gardens are looking lovely.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALLS

There are lots of activities taking place in the Main Hall and Mather Room. All these activities are helping to support our Church Halls. At the moment the Halls are self-sufficient but to assure their future it is vital that we increase the number of individuals/groups using our Halls and thus generate more revenue.

The Three Towns Operatic Society have now moved to St Joseph's and we are delighted to welcome a society of such stature and repute.

With improvements made to the facilities in our Halls in recent years, we can accommodate anything from sage productions to children's birthday parties. We also have disabled access in both Halls and disabled toilets. We do offer special rates for weddings and children's parties.

If you have an event coming up or know of anyone who might need a venue for a stage production, dance, wedding, meeting family function please contact Mrs Prince on 01942 709034.

Below is a list of activities currently in our Halls: if you are interested in joining any of the societies or clubs or would like more information about any of them please contact Mrs Prince via the parish office.

Main Hall

Monday	Dramatic Society
Tuesday	Keep Fit, Adults Dance Class, Karate, Women's Sodality
Wednesday	Pensioners, Keep Fit
Thursday	Rainbows, Dramatic Society, Karate

Mather Room

Monday	Brownies, Guides
Tuesday	Slimming World
Wednesday	Julie Foulds School of Dance
Thursday	Keep Fit, Julie Foulds School of Dance

Friday
Saturday

Julie Foulds School of Dance
Karate

MASS INTENTIONS

Lynn Bletcher, Tony Broster, Alf Case, John Gilmartin, Kathleen Fairhurst, Virginia Ferguson, Margaret Fleming, Alfonso Graceffa, Eva McHugh, Bill Rigby, Jean Rigby, Richard Yates, Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Special Intention St Jude.

SACRED HEART

THE REPOSITORY

... is a very grand name for our little shop in what used to be the second confessional box half-way down the right-hand aisle of our church. So, even if you haven't been a customer before, you shouldn't be surprised at how small it is inside. You might be surprised by the large range of items in stock. New stock at the moment is of cards and small gifts suitable for the Confirmation and First Holy Communion of the children in Year 4 which will soon take place. There is always a wide choice of Sympathy cards, Mass cards, even Birthday cards as well as religious devotional articles for all needs. Please come and have a look. The repository is open before and after Sunday Mass.

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 Tommy Walsh.

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB NEWS

Please consider using the Parish Centre for your special occasion, also please try to support the many groups who use it tel 209192 for information. Many thanks to those who supported the Quiz in any way for Rachel and Mairead we raised over £400. Bingo every Wednesday at 8.30pm in the Lounge.

NEWS FROM OUR HIGH SCHOOL

After the Bank Holiday our theme of the shortened week is the Ascension of the Lord. All of our Year 8 students have attended an informal reconciliation service over the last few weeks, and this week it is the turn of Year 10 students to try something a bit different. Our Year 8s have been very positive about trying something different, and have enjoyed the more interactive nature – especially the service when Fr Cooper had the students standing on chairs to "get a different perspective!" This is something we will look to develop more with our students; trying different ways of exploring spirituality.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£1,983.63
PTF	£ 98.27
12A church repair fund	£ 48.45
SVP Collections 7th & 14th April	£ 379.41

The retiring collection next weekend at all churches in our archdiocese will be for the use of the Church in maintaining and improving her communications methods. The theme of the 47th World Communications Day is *Social Networks: portals of truth and faith; new spaces for evangelization.*

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 Monica Davies, Teresa Doughtey, Jamima Oxendal, Bill Parr, Barbara Rodgers, Peggy Sharrock, Irene Winifred Smith and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them ... John Seddon, Liam Bradshaw, Kathleen Fairhurst.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Nancy Agnes McLoughlin, Marley Grace Abbott.



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present
Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Yeomen of the Guard

Tuesday 7th - Saturday 11th May 2013 7.30pm
St. Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £10 & £12 Concessions available
Contact 01942 883722

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEIGH

Present
a Concert in aid of local charities

A String Quartet by Members of the HALLE ORCHESTRA

7.30pm Friday 17th May 2013

Leigh Parish Church

Tickets £10.00

Ring Bryan Kay 01942 673068

Charity

Back to School

70's & 80's

Leigh Lancastrian Squash Club

Sat 18th May, 7.30pm till late

Fancy dress optional

2 Great Female artists to get the party going
plus resident DJ

Including Hot Pot Supper

Only £10.00

Please contact

All proceeds to Meningitis Trust

Fashion Show and Sale

at

Twelve Apostles Club

on

Friday, 17 May at 7.00pm

admission £3.00

High Street names at incredibly low prices

No seconds

Bar open

Ring 07719357069 or pay on the door

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 4 May

12A 5.30pm MASS Marion Sanderson LD

Sunday 5 May

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (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 people of St Margaret Clitherow parish

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Monday 6 May *Weekday of Easter (Week 6)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tuesday 7 May *Weekday of Easter*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

11.45am FUNERAL SERVICE SANKEY'S CHAPEL John Seddon

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Liam Bradshaw

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

Wednesday 8 May *Weekday of Easter*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Kathleen Fairhurst

SH 7.00pm MASS Ruth Lowe

Thursday 9 May *Weekday of Easter*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Mark Prescott

SH 12.00noon MASS Fr Phil Reece

Friday 10 May *Weekday of Easter*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 12.00noon MASS Sick Person

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Saturday 11 May *Weekday of Easter*

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS Ryan & Anita

12A 5.30pm MASS Frank Stout

Sunday 12 May **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR C)**

World Communications Day

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Sylvia Withington

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Robert Woods

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 26 April the numbers drawn were 3, 15, 28. One lucky winner of £68. Last week's estimated jackpot was £70.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club 28 April £10, 289, N Flynn; £5, 188, A Sharkie; £3, 289, M&D Flannery; £2, 462, M Moore. **Bonus Ball** 26, B Ryan. **21 April** £10, 188, A Sharkie; £5, 131, A Unsworth; £3, 358, M Moore; £2, 491, J Causby. **Bonus Ball** 14, C Ellis.

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

Tel: 01942 673517

Email: fathercooper@btconnect.com

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

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

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady

Tel: 01942 673517

Email: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk