

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 8 SEPTEMBER 2013



Responsorial Psalm

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we see that Jesus did not try to hide reality from his disciples. He pointed out the difficulties, the hardships and the sacrifices that they would need to make if they wanted to follow him. He told them in no certain terms that it would not be easy. Relying upon the grace of God isn't an easy thing to do. It means giving up control and placing our complete trust in God. Jesus knew that the disciples would sometimes find this very difficult. But Jesus tells us quite bluntly, that if we are not able to carry our cross, we cannot be his disciples.

Jesus uses two stories to help his followers understand a little better. He uses two examples of people faced with difficult decisions. Firstly, someone is building a tower. If he fails to budget for his building properly, he will end up a laughing stock, as he will leave it only half built. The other example he uses is that of a king making up his mind whether to take on an enemy with twice the number of soldiers at his command. If he cannot work out in advance whether he can win the battle with his smaller numbers, then he needs to sue for peace in advance. In both cases we have people calculating wisely what they need to do to achieve a satisfactory outcome to their planning. For his followers, Jesus says that this means freeing themselves of any earthly attachments or possessions. If we try to follow Jesus without this freedom of mind and heart, these attachments will simply get in our way. We will not have the right frame of mind to follow through our good intentions to do what God asks of us.

Today we live in a world in which we have become very dependent upon material possessions, much more so than the people among whom Jesus lived. We could argue that this makes it all the more difficult for us to be his disciples. It will certainly be impossible for most of us to take his words literally and strip ourselves of all our human connections and material possessions. This stripping away, however, is not an end in itself. It is to ensure that we are open to the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that enables us to follow Christ. Freeing ourselves from our possessions clears the way for the Holy Spirit to act in us freely and more successfully. We can test our own dependence on our possessions by seeing how easily we can let go of them. Could we cap the amount we spend on ourselves by giving away as much as we buy? Is there some cherished possession we could give away? Could we choose to give to charity rather than going on a shopping spree? Could we spend time with someone who needs our company rather than with our friends? Such choices may seem insignificant but they are a way of revealing the strength of our attachments, and how far we truly allow ourselves to be free to do God's will.

**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 ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Fr Anthony Gallagher, Annie Garvey, Rosemary Barber-Starky, Birthday Mass, Special Intention St Teresa & St Blaize, Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Special Intention Carlo, Louis, Angiola, Annitta

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

Some changes have had to be made to the Eucharistic Ministers Rota. It only affects the 10.30am Mass, so could all Eucharistic Ministers who serve at that Mass, please collect a new rota from the sacristy. Thank you.

HELP

We are trying to compile a list of men from St Joseph's Parish, who served in the Second World War. All the names are listed in the Parish Magazines, but we are missing one magazine - January 1942 No. 351. If you are in possession of this magazine, would you be prepared to lend it to us so we can complete the list. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to help. Thank you.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who came to tidy the gardens up before winter. You have done a magnificent job all year round and the garden are looking lovely. Thank you also to Robert and his helpers who come every week to cut the grass and do the weeding etc.

READERS

We are urgently in need of more readers at both the 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Masses at St. Joseph's. The commitment would be approximately once every six weeks and a rota is provided. If you feel that you are able to help us in this area, please contact Fr. Cooper, or Kath Roberts on 01942 601878.

CATECHISTS

As I am sure you are aware, we have four weeks in every ten when there is no longer a Little Church. This is because we are so short of Children's Catechists. We just need another two to four people to fill that gap. There is a lot of support and help. All the catechists are very friendly and supportive. Could you please consider helping your church in this way. Please speak to Fr Steve or one of the Catechists if you would like to know more. Thank you.

SACRED HEART HOUSEKEEPER

The Archdiocese have allowed us to appoint a part time House keeper at the Sacred Heart to help Fr Kieran. The new House Keeper is Anne Wilkinson. We hope that she will be very happy in her new role.

SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING

Because of holidays September's coffee morning will be held on 15 September. It will return to the usual second Sunday in October and subsequent months.

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 Annie & John Connolly.

TWELVE APOSTLES

Please use the Parish Centre for your special occasion and support the many groups who use it. 01942 209192 for info. Bingo every Wednesday at 8.30pm in the Lounge. Hobby &

Craft Fair Sunday, 23 October, 11-3. Ring the number above or e-mail: x11apostlesparishcentre@hotmail.co.uk for stall bookings. Christmas Fair 17 November, helpers meeting soon. 200 club draw 18 September. Numbers £1 a month from John Thompson on 01942 253507.

WEEKEND COURSE

Friday evening, 27 September to Sunday, 29 September 2013 will be a welcoming and affirming weekend; offering a chance to reflect share and pray together at Loyola Hall Jesuit Spirituality Centre, Prescot, Merseyside. This can be attended on a residential or non-residential basis. Contact www.loyolahall.co.uk or phone 0151 426 4137

NEW ALTAR SERVERS WANTED

If you have made your First Holy Communion, you are invited to become part of our Altar Servers Team. Please speak to Fr Kieran or Fr Steve after Mass. Being an Altar Server is a great way of helping in your Church and learning more about the Mass.

ST MARY'S SCHOOL OPEN DAY

The pupils and staff at St Mary's would like to invite you to attend their Open Day on Saturday, 28 September 2013 9.30am - 12.00 noon for September 2014 intake. The purpose of the day is to provide an opportunity for Year 6 students and their parents to see for themselves why St Mary's has such an outstanding reputation in the local community for its academic performance and pastoral care. The day will begin at 9.30am with a talk from the Head teacher, Mr Dawson. The talk will be repeated at 10.30am. There will be an opportunity to tour the school and meet students and staff. (Please arrive early if you wish to tour the whole school).

For further information please contact us on 01942 884144.

SYRIAN CRISIS - CAFOD

The alleged use of chemical weapons in Damascus highlights how catastrophic the humanitarian situation has become for millions of people in Syria. We are continuing to support our local Church partners as they provide aid to the most vulnerable on all sides of the conflict. We are also calling on MPs in the UK not to rush into supporting any form of military intervention. Church leaders in Syria and Lebanon have warned of the possible consequences of Western military action. Pope Francis called for peace during his Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square. "It is not confrontation that offers hope to resolve problems, but rather the ability to meet and dialogue," he said. Over the last few months, CAFOD has supported efforts to push for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria. We are also calling on all sides to respect international humanitarian law, and to allow aid to reach all those caught up in the conflict. CAFOD is one of relatively few UK aid agencies able to support the delivery of aid inside Syria: the extensive community networks of the Church, even as a minority faith, mean that is well placed to provide aid in some of the worst hit and most inaccessible parts of the country. We are also working with Church partners to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Thanks to your generous donations to our Syria Crisis appeal, we have been able to commit more than £1.8 million to respond to the crisis. But the needs on the ground are enormous, and we urgently need to scale up our work.

Please pray for a peaceful solution to the Syrian Crisis. If you wish to donate to the CAFOD appeal, visit www.cafod.org.uk

CAFOD
just one world

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,893.54

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Christopher Thomas Snape & Tracy Ann Kelleher, who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Congratulations to Christine & Bernard Burke on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Tyler James Woodacre.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Michael Sharples, Baby D'Arcy Faith Brennan - Maloney

SICK

Please remember Tom Brennan, Patricia Carlson, Teresa Doughty, Kitty Gallagher, Iside Greco, George Gibbons, Margaret Poyner, Peggy Sharrock, Morris Smith, Elsie Stanley, and all who are sick at this time.

EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

We welcome inquiries from everyone. You may be someone who has never belonged to any faith community or you may have been baptised in another Christian tradition. You may simply feel a sense of curiosity to find out more or you may have already decided to seek membership of the Catholic Church. Whatever your starting point you are very welcome. You may be asking yourself:

What is R.C.I.A.?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (or RCIA for short), is a sacramental process rather than a programme of study and is the normal way in which newcomers are welcomed into the life of the Church. Over the weeks and months that follow, you will be listened to and helped to grow spiritually as you deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Lord and the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is easiest to think of this process as a journey in faith that has four periods of preparation and three "Rites". The Rites are like doorways that you pass through marking the end of one period and the start of the next. These Rites are liturgical celebrations that may also be thought of as milestones or "Steps" along your journey.

How long does it take?

The rites take place during the six weeks of Lent, with the sacraments of Baptism (for the unbaptised), Confirmation and Eucharist all received during the Easter Vigil, which will be later next year on Saturday, 19 April 2014. But first comes a time of preparation.

How long does preparation take?

Preparation takes as long as you, in your circumstances, want it to take. Meetings will begin at Sacred Heart church in the first week of October this year. If you are still attending meetings, haven't changed your mind, and feel ready by March 5 (Ash Wednesday) next year, you can then commit to the completing stages. Some people aren't ready and need to defer until the following year. It's up to you. We do not ask for any earlier commitment to the process. You can drop out at any time.

Who do I contact?

If you are already attending church then please leave your details with the local priest. If not, or if you prefer, please leave your name, number and address with Deacon Tony on 01942 606329 or e-mail deacon@sacredheartleigh.org.uk. And don't forget to bring a friend!

ST JOSEPH'S PLAYERS

Productions at
St Joseph's Concert Hall
Chapel Street
Leigh
WN7 2PR

The Hollow

A murder mystery by Agatha Christie
Produced by Donna Wood.
Tuesday 10 September to Saturday 14 September
7.30pm

Billy Liar

By Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall
"A brilliant comedy"
Produced by Nicola Reynolds
Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 October
7.30pm

For these productions the ticket price is £8: you can pay at the door on the night. Advance tickets are available from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop, Bradshawgate, Leigh.

Our annual pantomime is

Beauty and the Beast

Written and produced by Doreen Johnson
Wednesday 22 January to Saturday 1 February 2014

Advance tickets for the pantomime will be on sale during the 2013 September and October productions.

LEIGH CATENIAN ASSOCIATION

Dance to Swing Time

St Richard's Parish Hall, Atherton

14 September 2013

7.00 for 7.30pm - 11.30pm

Tickets £10.00 Buffet included
available from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop Bradshawgate

OUR CATHOLIC PRAYERS

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

This ancient and venerable hymn is sung or said at Mass on Sundays outside Advent and Lent, also on solemnities and feasts. The "new translation", apart from the final third, is worded quite differently from the one we had been used to. Here is the "new version".

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OL = Our Lady of the Rosary, StR = St Richard

Sat 7 September

12A 5.30pm MASS Pat Atherton

Sun 8 September

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

Racial Justice Day

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Don Kennedy

StJ 10.30am MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith and people of St Margaret Clitherow parish

OL 11.00am MASS Margaret Redmond

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 9 September **Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 23)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 11.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Michael Sharples

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 10 September **Memorial: St Ambrose Barlow, OSB, P. M. (17th c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Raymond Madej

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

Wed 11 September **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

2.30pm Funeral Service Howe Bridge Crematorium Baby D'Arcy Faith Brennan - Maloney

SH 7.00pm MASS John Tighe

Thu 12 September **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Terry Hill

SH 12.00noon MASS Doris Stout

Fri 13 September **Memorial: St John Chrysostom D. (4th/5th c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Sick person (DQ)

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 14 September **FEAST: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Fisher LD

Sun 15 September **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)**

Home Mission Day

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Harvey Dowell LD

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Chris Herlihy

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 30 August the numbers drawn were 2, 6, 12. No winner of £104. Last week's estimated jackpot was £150.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 427, P Purcell; £5, 364, M Houghton; £3, 447, A Sharkie; £2, 246, N Flynn. **Bonus Ball** 48, M Smith.

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

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

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

