

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 15 SEPTEMBER 2013



Responsorial Psalm

I will leave this place and go to my father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

There are many well documented stories concerning Charles Dickens. He lived his life to the full but, perhaps not very well known, he spent much of his time helping others. This is because he himself felt the brute force of poverty and spent a number of childhood years working as a child labourer in the most awful conditions whilst, at the same time, visiting his father in the debtor's prison. These days certainly inspired most of his writing as well as his life. There are many stories of him walking through the streets of London, observing the poor and destitute. The power – and the evil – of money was something that he found revolting. One of the things he did was open a home for destitute women, many of whom had drifted into prostitution. This home was completely financed by the profits he made from his novels. His idea was that, if the home saved one poor woman from living on the street then it was worthwhile. It saved many even though Dickens insisted he would have done the same thing if only one had been saved.

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus share three parable stories. Along with the parables of the lost coin and the Prodigal Son, he shares the story of the Good Shepherd. If one were to ask the shepherd, "Was all the time and effort you spent looking for that one lost sheep justified?" He would have said "Yes", like Dickens did of the people he saved from poverty and destitution. There was nothing exceptional about the shepherd in Jesus' story. Any shepherd worthy of the name would do the same. Of course, Jesus was not talking about sheep but about people – sinners, to be precise. The Pharisees were scandalized at seeing him spend so much time in the company of sinners. And he didn't wait for sinners to repent before befriending them. He befriended them in their sinfulness, in their lost state. This is what scandalized the religious authorities. Jesus associated himself with sinners while they were still sinners. He knew that their need was the greatest. He knew that they were lost and needed to be found. The shepherd doesn't wait for his lost sheep to come home. He has to go out and find them himself.

In associating himself with sinners Jesus wasn't condoning their sinfulness. Rather, he was trying to show them a better way. But he could not do this with associating himself with them and being sympathetic towards them. We can never improve people by rejecting them or being critical towards them. In acting that was he did, Jesus revealed the mercy of God towards sinners. It reminds us that, no matter what we have done in the past, there is always a way back with God. Other people may reject for our past actions but God doesn't. He wants to welcome back ALL his children into his Kingdom one day. In today's Second Reading, St. Paul never forgot that he was once an enemy of Jesus. But now he regards himself as a witness to the fact that Jesus came to save him and to save all sinners. Just as a virtuous person is a witness to the grace of God, so a repentant sinner is a witness to the love and mercy of God.

**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

Tony Broster, Pat Brennan, George Brown, Vernon & Christine Charlesworth, Dierdre & Patrick Costello Snr., Kathleen, Francis & James Duffy, Hector Logguarnio, Monica Martin, Ann Louisa McCarthy, Joseph O'Rourke, The Semple Family, Jenny Unsworth, Frederick & Alice Walmsley, Sebastian Wood, Veronica Worrall, Stan Yates, St Jude, Special Intention.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

If your child is in Year 4 at school but does not attend a Catholic school and you would like them to make their First Confession, receive Confirmation and make their First Holy Communion, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. The new Sacramental Programme will be starting in October.

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.

SACRED HEART FATHERS' SPONSORED WALK

The annual Clent Hills Sponsored Walk is taking place at the end of September. Chris Hallinan will be at the back of church on Sunday to collect sponsors. All money raised goes to the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers of Betharram Foreign Missions.

WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 17 September at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

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.

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 SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING

Because of holidays September's coffee morning is today, 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 Thomas & Winifred Blakeley.

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, 20 October (date corrected since earlier announcements), 11.00-3.00. 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. Next weekend will be our retiring collection for the church repair fund.

VOLUNTARY CLEANERS NEEDED

Fr. Stephen and Fr. Kieran are looking for voluntary cleaners to help at Twelve Apostles Parish Hall. There are a lot of groups that use the hall's facilities and so there is a constant need to keep it clean and tidy. If anyone could spare a few hours each week to help out, we would be very grateful. Either speak to us after one of the weekend masses or call the parish office.

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.

NEW SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME **'With You Always' for Sacred Heart/Our Lady of the Rosary/Twelve Apostles**

The New Sacramental Programme for First Confession, Confirmation and First Holy Communion will start at the end of September. More details will follow next week. The sessions will be held in either Twelve Apostles' School or Sacred Heart School. If your child doesn't go to either school please contact Fr. Kieran as soon as you can.

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.

THE ROSARY

A decade of the Rosary is prayed in St Joseph's church every weekday morning at 8.30am and Monday, Wednesday & Friday before 12 noon Mass. The Rosary is such a tremendously powerful means of prayer and a way of bringing God's Kingdom of peace into our world. Mary waits for our prayers. If you speak to her she always listens. She is our mother.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,919.23

RUBY WEDDING

Congratulations to Vernon & Christine Charlesworth on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Hannah Rose Williams, Faye Marie Jones, Lucy Grace Jones, Jay Thomas Jones.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patricia Brennan, Arthur Hennessy, Derek Metcalf, Wilfred Mort

SICK

Please remember Tom Brennan, Patricia Carlson, Teresa Doughty, Kitty Gallagher, Iside Greco, George Gibbons, Margaret Poyner, Geoff Prescott, 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. We already have five firm candidates so don't be shy, come and join us. If you have read this far and know someone who should be interested please tell them about RCIA.

ST JOSEPH'S PLAYERS

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

Billy Liar

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

For this production 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 October production.

THE BOLTON AMATEUR THEATRE SOCIETY AWARDS EVENING

Congratulations to Carl Hughes, a member of St Joseph's Players, who was nominated for **Best Actor in a Comedy** for his role in Mr Wonderful at the recent Bolton Amateur Theatre Society Awards. Also St. Joseph's Players were one of the three nominations for **Best Sets and Costumes** for 'Enchanted April'. Sadly they did not win the actual awards, but it was great to get nominations after having been in BATS for only one year! **Congratulations to The Three Towns Operatic Society** who won the prestigious award of **Best Musical** for its performance of The Yeomen of the Guard at St. Joseph's Hall, Leigh in May. Director, David Kay, received the award on behalf of the Society from David Thacker, artistic director at the Bolton Octagon. David Kay and Victoria Goulden were nominated **Best Actor in a Musical** and **Best Actress in a Musical** for their portrayal of Jack Point and Elsie Maynard. The society will be performing 'The Merry Widow' 13 - 17 May 2013 at Joseph's Hall, Leigh. Open auditions will take place on Wednesday evening, 23 October. For further information email 'contact@thethreetowns.net'.

LEIGH MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

28 & 29 September, St Joseph's Hall, with layouts and show-you-how demonstrations. Full trade support and free advice. Refreshments available. 10.00am - 5.00pm Adults £4, Concessions £3, Family (2 adults, 2 children) £10. Under 5's free.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN SYRIA

***O God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp,
nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart
may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict
may forget evil and so be healed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.***

St John Damascene, pray for us.

Prayer text from Roman Missal © 2010 ICEL

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 14 September

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

Mon 16 September *Memorial: Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, B. MM. (3rd c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
 StJ 12.00noon MASS
 3.15pm FUNERAL SERVICE Patricia Brennan Howe Bridge Crematorium

Tue 17 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 24)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
 SH 12.00noon MASS R.S. (sick)
 SH 3.00pm EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for one hour

Wed 18 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
 StJ 12.00noon MASS
 SH 7.00pm MASS Christopher McCaul

Thu 19 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
 12A 9.30am MASS Yvonne Giles
 SH 12.00noon MASS Rory Carroll

Fri 20 September *Memorial: Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, P.M., and Companions MM. (19th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
 OL NO MASS
 StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Arthur Hennessy

Sat 21 September **FEAST: ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
 OL 12.00noon MASS
 12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Agnes & Jack Grundy

Sun 22 September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

Day of Special Prayer for Thanksgiving for Harvest and/or fruits of Human Work

StJ 8.30am MASS
 SH 9.30am MASS John & Anna Connolly
 StJ 10.30am MASS
 OL 11.00am MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith and people of St Margaret Clitherow parish
 StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 7 September the numbers drawn were 3, 13, 15. No winner of £152. Last week's estimated jackpot was £200.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 265, M Smith; £5, 360, M&D Flannery; £3, 362, Mr&Mrs T Ellis; £2, 401, Mr&Mrs T Ellis. **Bonus Ball** 5, J Ramsdale.

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

