

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 22 SEPTEMBER 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

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's First Reading we hear the story of Amos. He lived in a small town called Tekoa, just five miles from Bethlehem. He received a call from God to leave his flocks and become a prophet. It is not the career he would ever have chosen for himself but he does it because he believes that it is God's call. He is sent to the northern kingdom of Israel, a society that is sharply and cruelly divided between the rich and the poor. Through the mouth of Amos, the invisible God speaks to his people. Amos confronts the vast problem of social injustice by publicly criticizing those who cannot wait for the religious festivities to end so that they can get back to their real devotion of exploiting the poor. What is the point of impressive liturgies that feed the egos of the rich and powerful when the poor are left as the permanent victims of an unjust system? When liturgy becomes the ally of oppression, it becomes an affront to God. When the worship of God remains wholly uncritical of what is happening in an unjust society, it becomes privileged theatre signifying nothing. For the prophet Amos, the best liturgical music is when justice sounds through the land.

The same point is made by Jesus in today's Gospel. He comes from the same area as Amos and has a similar message: "You cannot be the slave both of God and of money." Jesus expresses his belief that people who cannot be trusted with money can hardly be trusted with the genuine riches of the Kingdom of God. Jesus tells his listeners an unusual story which seems to support dishonesty. A steward who manages his master's estates is accused of wasting his employer's goods. He is dismissed, but before he goes he must submit his final account. This gives the steward time to plan his future. He is about to join the ranks of the unemployed and he wonders how he will survive. He doesn't waste much time looking at digging and begging as job-creation schemes. Instead, he calls in those who owe his master money and deals with them one by one. As a smart operator, he knows the value of secrecy. He gives the debtors offers that they cannot refuse by reducing the amount that they owe. By the time he has finished, all these merchants owe him a huge favour for his inventive arithmetic. Now, his job prospects look healthy. His future is looking good. In a time of crisis the steward takes firm and immediate action to ensure his own future will be good. He is praised not for his dishonesty, but for his resourcefulness in coping with an emergency with such speed. If a dishonest man can use his employer's money to ensure there will be people to welcome him and employ him when he is out of a job, how much more should honest people use all that they have to ensure that they will be welcomed into the Kingdom of God. This is not to argue that anyone can but their way into God's Kingdom. They can't. The story acknowledges that if the use of money and wealth is unrelated to the values of God's Kingdom then usually people get hurt. And the people who usually get hurt most are the poor.

Whenever God speaks to us, a reminder about the poor and the needy is never far away. Amos and Jesus both voice God's concerns for social justice and personal responsibility to look after others. The worship of God HAS to influence the way we live and care about others. Our love for each other indicates our worthiness of the gift of God's Kingdom. It's all tied together.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Eileen Appleton, Brian Ashton, Monica Bibby, Alf Case, Salvadore Clancey, Oswald Greensmith

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.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Monday, 30 September at 3.00pm in the Presbytery. Fundraising, in particular the 2013 Autumn Fayre, is the main topic of the meeting - which is open to all parishioners and everyone is welcome. If you are unable to attend but have any queries or suggestions regarding the church community you could contact the Parish office and these would be discussed at the meeting.

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 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 Neil Aspinall.

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 23 September at 7.00pm in the Lounge. This weekend will see 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

Sacred Heart/Our Lady of the Rosary/XII Apostles

The First Session of 'With You Always' Sacramental Programme for our Y4 children will take place on:
Thursday 26 September, 4.30pm in Sacred Heart church
Saturday 28 September, 4.00pm in XII Apostles church.
If your child doesn't go to either school please contact Fr Kieran as soon as you can.

JUSTICE & PEACE MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday 24 September, 7.30pm at St Richard's, Atherton. All welcome to attend.

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 £1,629.88

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Bobby Christopher Vause, Harrison John O'Brien, Finton James Maxwell-Smith

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Sean Daniel Peers & Rhiane Caren who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Harold Dean, Geoffrey James Mills.
Eternal rest grant unto them.....

SICK

Please remember Tom Brennan, Margaret Poyner, Geoff Prescott, and all who are sick at this time.



BECOMING A CATHOLIC

If you have read this newsletter for the last two weeks you will know that the normal way for adults to enter the Catholic Church is through R.C.I.A. If you read the newsletter you are probably a practising Catholic already but you might be able to pass the message on to the people for whom it is intended and who don't see the newsletter. In past years we have had all kinds of candidates, baptized, unbaptized, young and old. There have been spouses of Catholics who gradually realized that they wanted to worship and fully share in the faith of their spouse and children. There have been persons preparing to marry Catholics as well as independent enquirers. There have been Catholics who stopped learning after school, those who missed Confirmation for some reason. All are welcome and we particularly welcome those who might be comfortable in their Faith but can act as sponsors and friends, sharing their Faith experiences with candidates while having the chance to refresh and deepen their own religious knowledge and spiritual life.

Who do I contact?

If you are already attending church then please leave your details with the priest after Mass. 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 enough enquirers to make the course viable this year but we can still cope with a few more. Please pass on this message to anyone else you think would be interested. Weekly meetings will begin on Wednesday, 2 October at 7.30pm in the Chapel of Joy & Hope within Sacred Heart church. Just turn up on the night if you want to sample RCIA without commitment and decide whether it might be for you.

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.

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.

Archdiocese of Liverpool

Building Maintenance Assistant

An opportunity is available for a part time, permanent Building Maintenance Assistant based at St Joseph's Presbytery, Leigh to assist with the management, development and monitoring of buildings within the parish communities of St Edmund Arrowsmith and St Margaret Clitherow, Leigh.

Salary £12,500-£14,000 per annum
dependant upon qualifications, skills and experience
Part-time – 20 hours per week

to be worked flexibly over 3-4 days
25 days holiday (pro rata), pension and salary exchange schemes

The nature of the work will vary from responsive to preventative maintenance programmes of small repairs to managing a wider rolling programme of works in response to quinquennial reports which may include dealing with roofs, rainwater disposal, internal structure and external walls and general building services.

A full application pack including job description is available to download from our website at:
www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/job

Closing Date: Monday 30 September 2013

This post is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

A Lay Chaplain is required at St Mary's Catholic High School. Contract: Permanent, Full-time, term time + 4 weeks. Salary: G7 £22,443 -£26,536.

For further information, or if you would like to visit the school please contact Miss Foster, Human Resources Manager. 01942 884144. Full details of the post and application form and associated documents are available to download from the school website smchs.org.uk Closing date noon on Wednesday 9 October 2013.

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 21 September

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

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

Mon 23 September *Memorial: St Pius of Pietrelcina, OFM Cap, P (19th/20th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 24 September *Memorial: Our Lady of Walsingham*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH NO MASS

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

Wed 25 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 25)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS Tom Murphy Successful Operation

Thu 26 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS John Fisher LD

SH 12.00noon MASS Sheila O'Grady

Fri 27 September *Memorial: St. Vincent de Paul, CM, P. (16th/17th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Eric Robinson

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 28 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY McArt & Murnan family

Sun 29 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Peter Cosgrave

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Eileen Massey

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 13 September the numbers drawn were 3, 10, 19. No winner of £226. Last week's estimated jackpot was £280.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 105, T Jones; £5, 355, M&D Flannery; £3, 330, M&D Flannery; £2, 245, M Moore. **Bonus Ball** 46, B Jones.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40, 78, R Foxcroft; £15, 113, Rachel Thompson; £5, 98, M Watt; £5, 109, M Seddon.

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