

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (YEAR C) 24 NOVEMBER 2013



Responsorial Psalm

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once, two travellers were going through a forest when night came upon them. In a matter of minutes, the narrow path which they had been following became invisible. In the darkness terror lurked everywhere. Then, to make matters worse, a violent thunderstorm broke over the forest. Terrifying flashes of lightning were followed by loud peals of thunder which shook the ground under their feet. Torrents of rain poured down on them.

The first man looked at the storm as a calamity. Every time there was a flash of lightning, he looked up at the sky and cursed the bad weather. The result was that he strayed from the path and got lost in the forest. The second man, however, looked on the storm as a blessing in disguise. Each flash of lightning lit up a little bit of the path ahead of him, and thus he was able to take a step forward. By keeping his head down, he succeeded in staying on the path. And so, a step at a time, he made his way out of the forest. Sometimes this is the way it is in life. There is just enough light to take the next step. There is enough strength and energy to do the present task. The thunderstorm was the same for both men. Yet, for one it proved to be a stumbling block. For the other it proved to be a stepping stone.

The travellers in the story remind us of the two thieves in today's Gospel. Both of them were caught up in terrible darkness. First of all there was the darkness of their own lives of crime. Then there was the terrible darkness that descended on Calvary at the death of Jesus. One of them cursed the darkness. The other saw a gleam of light through it. That light came from the presence of Jesus, the friend of sinners, who came to seek out and save the lost. The second thief's humble confession went straight to the heart of Jesus. It won for the thief, not only forgiveness, but the gift of salvation. In the end the only one who knows us and understands us fully is God himself. He is the only biographer in whose accuracy we can absolutely trust because he alone sees what is in our heart. He sees our wounds and sorrows, our scars and inabilities, our hopes and our longings.

Jesus looked at the thief and, seeing the sad tatters of his life, was moved with compassion for him. The good thief gives hope to us all, but especially to those who come to the end of life and have nothing to show but the works of darkness. Even at the eleventh hour there is the possibility of turning to the light. Through his sheer goodness, Jesus can turn our darkness into light, but only if we let him. Salvation is always a gift from God. May the promise of Paradise always be in our hearts as we remember that there is always a way back to 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

Brian Ashton, Mandy Barwick, Vernon Byrne, David Harrison, Anthony Hughes, Stanley Jones, Annitta, Louis, Angiola & Carlo Manfredi, Rev. Dcn. A. Mee, Steven Naylor, O'Brien Family, Agnes Richardson (nee Plover), Theresa Ryder, Marian Woodward, Successful Operation Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Successful Operation St Teresa & St Blaise.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The next meeting for the Sacramental Programme will be on Monday, 25 November. There will be one meeting in St Joseph's School at 2.30pm and the same session will be repeated at 6.00pm in St Joseph's Presbytery. You only need to attend one of the meetings.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The new Rota is now available for collection from the Sacristy. The dates in December read Sun 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th. They should of course be 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th. I am sorry for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the family of the late Mrs Elizabeth Agnes Palmer for donating a new book, *Welcome the Word*, for the Children's Liturgy, in memory of Elizabeth.

WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday, 26 November at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

THE LEGION OF MARY

We have a statue of Our Lady of Grace which we take to homes within the parish. If you would like to have Our Lady's statue in your home for approximately one week and share in this devotion, please telephone 01942 675721 and we will happily put your name on the list.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Christmas cards will be on sale at the back of church after both Masses.

ST JOSEPH'S AUTUMN FAYRE

This Year's Fayre is today, Sunday, 24 November after the 10.30am Mass. Please come along and give your support.

SACRED HEART

PARISH HOLY HOUR

Today marks the end of the Year of Faith and so the Parish Holy Hour which has been observed every Tuesday in Sacred Heart church will be suspended for the time being. The Sanctuary Lamp candle that burns all this week was gifted in memory of Maria Ashbrook.

REPOSITORY

A new supply of Christmas cards is now available to buy in our little shop in church. The shop is next door to the confessional on the right hand aisle and stocks a wide range of religious items both for yourself and suitable for gifts. There will also be a selection available on a stall at the Christmas Fair next week.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

... on Saturday, 30 November at 1.00pm in Sacred Heart School Hall. Refreshments, Tombola, Repository, Cakes, Fancy Goods, Paintings donated by various local painting groups. Volunteers to sell raffle tickets are still urgently required.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Our coffee morning will take place after Mass next Sunday, 1 December. Christmas Draw tickets on sale for the next few weeks. Prizes on view in the church porch.

TWELVE APOSTLES

Sorry, no Bingo this Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS FAIR £1,193.43

SELECTION BOX RAFFLE ?

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the draw such a success: we raised nearly £1,200. Draw results: Christmas Hampers 01587 T Leonard, 00154 Fr Kieran, 02511 R Johnson, 03043 N Skitt, Chocolates 03452 L Garvey & 01448 P Fisher.

HELP NEEDED

Sr Megan is looking for help for a family who are in difficulties. Any item of furniture, white goods, bedding etc would be appreciated; especially a Hoover. Please ring 01942 683554.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

If you are looking for a Christmas present for someone who has everything, why not consider a World Gift from CAFOD. You can buy anything from a community well to drought resistant crops, from teaching someone to read to vaccinations for children. Gifts start at £4 for a queen bee. You will really be helping someone who needs a gift at Christmas! Catalogues available at the back of church.

ATHERTON & LEIGH FOODBANK

Our next collection for the Foodbank will be during Advent on 1 & 8 December. Volunteers are required for the next supermarket collections, for two hours on either Friday, 29 November or Saturday, 30 November, at either Tesco Leigh or Tesco Atherton. Please phone Valerie Thomas (01942 874160) if you are able to help. Information about the work of the Trussell Trust foodbank network is available at athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk

ORDER OF DEACONS

There will be a meeting at St Joseph's, Meeting Lane, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB, 7.00pm for 7.30pm on Friday, 6 December 2013. The meeting is open to all: it should be of special interest to men thinking about serving in the Ordained Ministry of Deacon.

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER CENTRE, FORMBY

St Joseph's Prayer Centre are holding a retreat: "Preparing for Christmas", held between 6-8 December, will be a retreat helping us to keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas celebrations.

For more information or to book a place, please phone 07722 572753 or 01704 879665.

JUSTICE & PEACE MEETING

... 7.30pm at Sacred Heart on Tuesday, 26 November.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£1,722.46
CAFOD	£1,605.69

The second or retiring collection this weekend (Youth Sunday) will be for the benefit of Catholic Youth Services. Next week at Twelve Apostles - church repair fund.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Elodie Rose Walsh, Holly Monks, Jayden Thomas Hamer.



WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Christopher Daniel Barker & Anna Babilinski, who were married at St Joseph's last weekend.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Venon Byrne, James Mark Kelleher, Joseph Kerfoot, Alan David Tickle, Irene Wilkinson, Marian Woodward. Eternal rest grant unto them ...



SICK

Please remember: Jack Jones, Mary Marsh, Mabel Mee, Geoff Prescott, and all who are sick at this time.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

5.30pm	Twelve Apostles
6.30pm	St Joseph's
Midnight	Sacred Heart

Christmas Day (Wednesday)

8.30am	St Joseph's
9.30am	Sacred Heart
10.30am	St Joseph's
11.15am	Our Lady of the Rosary

BUILDING MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

It has been confirmed by the Archdiocese, after checking references and ratification, that John Ledger was the successful candidate to take on the role of Building Maintenance Assistant, replacing Gerald Harris who retired 20 months ago. John is from St Helens and will begin work in January.

OLD GREGORIANS

The Annual Mass for deceased former pupils and teachers of St Gregory's R.C. High School, Ardwick Green, Manchester is to be celebrated at St Kentigern's church, Wilbraham Road, Fallowfield, M14 7DW at 7.30pm on Friday, 29 November 2013 and will be followed by a gathering in the St Kentigern's Social Club. For further information telephone

Terry O'Neil on 0161 442 6839 or e-mail terry.oneil43@ntlworld.com. St Gregory's was a school which drew its pupils from all over Greater Manchester and surrounding areas and who are now living far and wide. Over recent years attendances at the Annual Mass have increased to around 200.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Manchester Road, Astley

Imagine, Believe, Achieve

OPEN EVENING

**Thursday, 28 November 2013
5.30 – 8.00pm**

Results reach a new high! **99.7%** A*-E and **49%** A*-B at A Level

100% pass rate in all BTEC courses with
70% of students gaining Distinction/Distinction*

Talks will take place at 6.00pm and 7.00pm.

Subject staff will be available to discuss and promote their courses.

Contact us on 01942 884144 or

e-mail: sixthformenquiries@smchs.org.uk

New Years Eve Celebration

St Joseph's Parish Hall

Chapel St, Leigh

Starring

Eddie Robbins

The Sunbeams

Boogie Nights

Spot prizes Bar Free Raffle

**Tickets £12.50 including Traditional
Supper and glass of wine on arrival**

**Available from Des 01942 674868, Pauline
604603 or the Parish Office 673517**

HOLY LAND CHRISTMAS CARDS

To encourage our suffering Christian sisters and brothers, you are invited to send a small Christmas card. In order to catch the Royal Mail last posting date to the Holy Land, Christmas cards must be brought to church next Sunday, 1 December. Please write a greeting in your own **small, religious** Christmas card (or one of the cards provided at the back of church). There is no need to address the envelope or to buy the right stamp. Small cash contributions towards Air Mail postage are most welcome (20 grams costs £1.28). The cards will be sent to Church of the Annunciation, Jerusalem; St. Catherine's, Bethlehem; The First Miracle church, Cana; Holy Family church, Gaza and Good Shepherd church, Jericho.

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 23 November

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Frances Newton LD

Sun 24 November **SOLEMNITY: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (Year C)**
(Titular Feast of the Cathedral) (Youth Sunday)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Nora & Jack Pearson

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS In Thanksgiving for Ordination

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 25 November **Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 34)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am Funeral Service Joseph Kerfoot, Howe Bridge Crematorium

StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Vernon Byrne

Tue 26 November **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Marion Woodward

Wed 27 November **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS James Mark Kelleher

12A 1.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Irene Wilkinson

SH 7.00pm MASS Agnes Coleman

Thu 28 November **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS John Fisher LD

StJ 9.45am FUNERAL SERVICE Alan David Tickle

SH 12.00noon MASS Christopher McCaul

Fri 29 November **Ferial (Week 34)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Chris Heavey

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 30 November **FEAST: ST. ANDREW, APOSTLE**

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS Doreen Marsh LD

Sun 1 December **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Parishes of St Edmund Arrowsmith and of St Margaret Clitherow

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Fr Bernard Doyle P.P.

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 15 November the numbers drawn were 4, 8, 13. No winner of £56. Last week's estimated jackpot was £100.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club: £10, 214, B Ellis; £5, 152, N Flynn; £3, 384, E Nuttall; £2, 295, J Waterfield.
Bonus ball: 38, C Ackers.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club: £40, 125, B Mather; £15, 35, K Marsh; £5, 116, M Gredecki; £5, 70, K Hulme.

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

