

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

1 DECEMBER 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

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
And give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's readings give us all a wake-up call: "The time has come, you must wake up now". St Paul tells us that we must stay awake and make ourselves ready for the coming of God's Kingdom.

Sometimes we can't wait for the morning to come. We wake up with great anticipation of the day ahead. We feel good to be alive. We give thanks to God for a new day. Other times we are apathetic about the morning, especially on these cold winter mornings we are having at the moment. Life may seem monotonous or empty for us. Some days perhaps we feel like we have little to look forward to. And most of us know or have known days, hopefully not too many, when we dread the approach of morning.

How we greet each morning is very important. If we greet the day with joy and thankfulness, we can bring energy and enthusiasm to our lives. But if we greet the day with apathy or fear, we will remain in a negative mode. Everything will feel like a massive task for us. No one has a perfect life. All of us have to face difficulties of one kind or another. It is what we make of these difficulties that really matters. These difficulties of life can be very challenging but they can also help to form us into the people that God calls us to be.

Advent issues a spiritual wake-up call to us, and has an awakening power. Unless we are spiritually awake we are only half living. How many people in our world have eyes but do not see, and ears but do not hear? If we are not careful our minds can be narrow and closed, and our hearts can be hardened to the needs of others. Advent calls us to look beyond our present lives to see the life that God has planned for us. It challenges us to be aware spiritually, to be open and receptive, to be vigilant and active.

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus urges us to stay awake, to be on our guard, to be on the watch. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain from answering Advent's wake-up call.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Jack Cleworth, Julie Condron, Eileen Featherstone, Teresa & Thomas Gibbon, Paul Gore, Charlotte Johnson Hayes, Mark Keleher, James Andrew Marsh, Patricia Montague, Marian Wodward,
Special Intention St Jude.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

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

ST JOSEPH'S AUTUMN FAYRE

Thank you to all those who organised and helped with the Autumn Fayre, to all those who donated and to you who came to support it. A special thanks to Fr Cooper for his Hot Pot. £2,307 was raised. A wonderful effort! A list of prize draw winners is up in both porches. The Patak Hamper has not been claimed, winning ticket No. 41-45 and also the winning Programme No. 80.

ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL

Our church will be decorated for Christmas in memory of loved ones. Please complete a form, available from both porches, along with your donation and return to the parish office. Please mark envelope Christmas Memorial. Closing date **18 December**.

SACRED HEART

The Sanctuary Lamp candle that burns all this week was gifted in memory of John Evans.

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.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

... is due to take place on Saturday, 30 November. Results are to be announced next week.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Our coffee morning will take place after Mass today Sunday, 1 December. Christmas Draw will take place on 8 December. Tickets on sale for prizes on view in the church porch.

Deacon Dennis writes:

My grateful thanks to everyone who helped to mark my retirement from active ministry last Sunday in such a wonderful way. Your gifts, cards, expressions of gratitude and good wishes are very much appreciated and the depth of feeling shown was truly remarkable and quite emotional. In giving thanks to God for my ordination and my sixteen years of diaconal ministry, I also extend my heartfelt thanks to all those who have allowed me to walk with them as a deacon and a friend as they have celebrated births, baptisms and marriages; those who have suffered the pain of bereavement and the tears we have shared together; those who I have travelled with through the RCIA programme; and all those in every church in the parish who have given me their prayerful support through the years. It's been a huge privilege to have been able to serve you. May God bless you and your families and may the love of Jesus be with you always.

TWELVE APOSTLES

SELECTION BOX RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are on sale for our selection box draw 50p a strip all donations much appreciated.

CLUB NEWS

Twelve Apostles School are holding a Fashion Show on Friday, 6 December at 7.30pm everyone welcome. Bingo every Wednesday from 8.30pm. Please consider us for your special occasion tel 01942 209192 for details

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.



LILFORD SCOUT DISTRICT CAROL SERVICE

Sacred Heart church, Leigh

Thursday, 5 December 2013 from 7.00 - 8.00pm.

The Scout groups from Leigh will be hosting this year's carol service and will be joined by scout groups throughout the district. Families and friends are welcome to join us and light refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the service. A collection will be taken in aid of Derian House Children's Hospice.

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.

FR STEVE'S CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

Orders are now being taken for Fr Steve's Christmas Puddings. Order forms are available in all churches. If you would like a pudding, please complete the form and return to St Joseph's by next weekend.

1/2lb for 1 - 2 people £3, 1lb for 4 - 6 people £5,
2lb for 8 - 10 people £10, 5lb 20 -25 people £20

ATHERTON & LEIGH FOODBANK

Our next parish collection for the Foodbank will be during Advent on 1 & 8 December. 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,709.63

Catholic Youth Services £ 418.10

The second or retiring collection this weekend at Twelve Apostles will be for the church repair fund.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Colin David
Jamie Antony Dewitt Duddle, Ella Sophia Smith.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Eileen Mary Featherstone, Liz Casidy, Geroge Hardman

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.

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 have been brought to church this weekend. 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.

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Leigh

St Mary's Way

Wigan Choral Society

Performing

Handel's Messiah

Saturday 7th December, 7.30pm

Admission £10 - pay on the door.

All profits will go to Wigan & Leigh Hospice

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**

'CONFESSATHON'

The priests of the Pastoral Area will be available for Individual Confession at St Joseph's on Saturday, 14 December: 10.00am - 2.30pm (except during Mass at 12.00 noon).



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 30 November

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

Mon 2 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.30pm Lilford Scout District REHEARSAL for Thursday's Carol Service

Tue 3 December **Memorial: St. Francis Xavier**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Philomena Gaughan

Wed 4 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Don Kennedy

Thu 5 December **Memorial: St. John Almond P. M.**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Bernadette Kay née Mulroy LD

SH 9.30am REQUIEM MASS Eileen Mary Featherstone

SH 12.00noon MASS Winnie Carney

SH 7.00pm Lilford Scout District Carol Service

Fri 6 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE George Hardman

(OL) 10.00am MASS at Moss Bank Court Margaret Barlow

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 7 December **Memorial: St. Ambrose B. D.**

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS John Fisher (SH)

Sun 8 December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS John Heneghan

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Mrs Lennon

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 22 November the numbers drawn were 1, 10, 20. No winner of £120. Last week's estimated jackpot was £180.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club: £10, 400, A Sharkie; £5, 264, M Smith; £3, 384, E Nuttall; £2,142, C Ellis.

Bonus ball: 15, N Flynn.

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

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

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Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady

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