

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

8 DECEMBER 2013



Responsorial Psalm

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

One of the images Isaiah uses to describe the coming of the Messiah is that of a lamb lying down with a wolf and having nothing to fear. It is a picture of a time of universal peace – the strong would no longer prey on the weak, or the cunning on the innocent.

Advent, with its wonderful promises of a new world, takes us on a trip to a place called hope. If everything was perfect, hope would not be needed. Hope is needed because we live in an imperfect world. We place our hope in politicians, world leaders, news readers, sports people – so why not in God?!!! Hope is a vital part of life. We spend a great deal of our lives longing, waiting, hoping for one thing or another. Hope is not necessarily the same thing as optimism. In fact, they can be very different. Optimism is the expectation that things will get better, whatever the situation. Hope is the trust that God will fulfil his promises in his way and in his time. The person of hope lives in the present moment, with the knowledge and trust that all of life is in God's hands. Hope springs from the faith that God will fulfil the promises he has made to us. He has given us his Word in the person of Jesus. All great leaders were people of hope. They felt no need to know what the future would look like. They just tried to do what was right in the present, and trusted that God would take care of the future. It was enough for them to know that God was a faithful God.

During Advent God wants us to renew our hope. John's call to repentance, in today's Gospel Reading, is a call to turn around, to turn away from *hopelessness* to becoming people of *hopefulness*. John calls us to change our ways. Changed people can bring about a changed world. But what in practice can we actually do? St Paul brings it down to everyday realities. He says, "Treat each other in the same friendly ways that Christ has treated you." This would make a difference – if we all did it! It's easy to be critical, to be over-hasty in making judgments, to be intolerant of the values of others. If we did as Paul suggests we would make the world, or at least the part of the world in which we live, a more hopeful place. It is our task, as followers of Jesus, to keep hope alive. When all is said and done, this world will never fulfil our deepest hopes. Only God can do that.

**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

Margaret Coleman, Millie Gallegher, Natasha Higham, Sherry Hillman, Vincent Lythgoe, Tom Murray, Winifred Murray, Mark Prescott, Irene & Derek Smith, Slawko Family, Denis Vint, Kathleen Wall, Arthur Wilson, Special Intention.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The next meeting for the children preparing to receive the Sacraments will be on Monday 9th December. There are two meetings, 2.30pm in school or 6.30pm in the presbytery. You only need to attend one of the meetings.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

If you would like your loved ones to be remembered at any of the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please put their name in an envelope along with your donation and hand them into the parish office by Wednesday 18th December. Thank you.

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.

RED MISSION BOXES

The total donations from St Joseph's Church for 2013 was £5050.00. Many thanks go to our dedicated Box holders, donators and collectors for their efforts this year. At his time we do appeal for more people and families to consider having a Red Box or being a donator. Just leave your details at the Parish Office or drop them into the collection basket and you will be contacted. Also volunteer collectors would be most welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATIONS

The Juniors will perform their Advent Service on Wednesday 11th December at 6.30pm in Church.

The infants Nativity Play will be on Wednesday 18th December 6.30pm in Church.

JESUIT MISSIONS

Once again, the Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas to the many kind parishioners who have donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of income for the Mission causes around the world. Their Christmas card can be seen above the collection bag in the main porch.

SACRED HEART

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

REPOSITORY

A diminishing supply of Christmas cards is still 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 as gifts.

SACRED HEART CHRISTMAS FAIR

... took place on Saturday, 30 November. All raffle prizes have already been claimed **EXCEPT the CHRISTMAS CAKE**. Tickets were only sold on the day and the winning

number was Yellow 652. Please check your tickets! Financial results are to be announced next week. Thank you to all who came and spent, all who came and (wo)manned the stalls and all who made donations of goods to be sold as well as prizes. Thanks to the organizers and for the use of the school hall.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The Christmas Draw will take place after Mass today and a list of winning numbers will be displayed in the church porch for you to check your tickets. Good luck!

TWELVE APOSTLES

SELECTION BOX RAFFLE

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

CLUB NEWS

Bingo every Wednesday from 8.30pm. Please consider us for your special occasion tel 01942 209192 for details New Years Eve family disco tickets on sale shortly

HCPT Raffle tickets on Sale £1 a ticket first prize £4000

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 current parish collection for the Foodbank during Advent concludes today, 8 December. Information about the work of the Trussell Trust foodbank network is available at athertonleigh.foodbank.org.uk

NUGENT CARE CRIB APPEAL 2013

"As I was preparing this letter I thought back across the appeals over the years. I came across the Homeless magazine from 1906 when we launched an appeal for homeless children. We had 300 children in our homes, "4d provided a child with bed and bread for 1 night £13 will fully meet the cost of a child's maintenance for one twelve month". How times have changed! We still care for children in our schools, children's homes and catechetical work with children with special needs and our fostering and adoption teams.

Our Advent appeal this year is to support homeless adults and people at risk of being homeless. Throughout the year we give out starter packs of food, bedding and small items of kitchen equipment to homeless individuals and families on low incomes across the Archdiocese. Last year we supported over 2000 people and this year the demand is even greater.

Becky is one of the people we are helping at the moment. Becky was orphaned at 5 years old and went to live with her grandmother, who could not cope with Becky's older violent brother and committed suicide when Becky was just 12. She was taken into care. At 18 Beck got her own flat and was doing well until her brother was released from prison and went to live with her and the violence began again. On her 21st Birthday her brother tried to strangle her. Becky was introduced to the Nugent Care New Beginnings Service 10 months ago after she fled her home. She is now being supported by Rachel from the homeless team and she has told her that her future is brighter and she is looking forward to moving on with her life.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers."
Marie Reynolds

Please help Nugent Care continue their work.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,964.66
Twelve Apostles Repair Fund £ 46.78
The collection after all Masses at St Joseph's this week is on behalf of the S.V.P. Society.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Jessica Rose Pilling, Samuel Patrick Hammond, Bobby Peter Barton.

SICK

Please remember Kitty Gallagher and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

George Hardman, Kathleen Wall, Elizabeth Cassidy
Eternal rest grant unto them....

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION RITE 2

Thursday 12th December, 7.00pm at the Sacred Heart Church, Service of Reconciliation with individual confession.

'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).

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

5.30pm Twelve Apostles
6.00pm St Gabriel's & St Richard's
6.30pm St Joseph's
8.00pm St Ambrose Barlow
11.30pm Holy Family
Midnight Sacred Heart

Christmas Day (Wednesday)

8.30am St Joseph's
9.00am Holy Family
9.30am Sacred Heart & St Richard's
10.30am St Joseph's
11.00am St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family
11.15am Our Lady of the Rosary

CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who wrote a Christmas card (80 received) for our Catholic sisters and brothers in the Holy Land. Thank you for your generous postal donations, amounting to £52.40. This covers airmail postage: the remainder towards posting (surface) a 15kg parcel to the Little Sisters of St. Francis in Uganda. (Some of you may remember Sr. Joan's visit here) Your cards have been sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem who will pass them onto one of the following churches:

Church of the Annunciation, Jerusalem
St. Catherine's, Bethlehem
The First Miracle Church, Cana
Holy Family, Gaza
Good Shepherd, Jericho.

'Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem'.

May the justice of God fall down like fire
And bring a home for the Palestinian.

May the mercy of God pour down like rain
And protect the Jewish people

And may the beautiful eyes of the all holy God
Who weeps for all his children

Bring the healing hope for his wounded ones
For the Jew and the Palestinian.

So pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

Words and music by Garth Hewitt.

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

St Joseph's Players

Present

The 2014 Pantomime,

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

From Wednesday Jan. 22 to 1st February
Evening Performances curtain 7-15pm,

Three matinees Jan. 25th, 26th and 1st February
curtain 2pm.

Adults £8 16yrs and under £4

Tickets are available from Ratcliffes Bike Shop,
Bradshawgate, Leigh.

Special Offer, 2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 WED and THURS.
(TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST SO BOOK ASAP)

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 December

12A 5.30pm MASS John Fisher LD

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

(Bible Sunday)

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

Mon 9 December **SOLEMNITY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 10 December **Weekday of Advent (Week 2)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Special intention (J&DT)

Wed 11 December **Weekday of Advent (Week 2)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Kathleen Wall

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Marion Woodward LD

Thu 12 December **Weekday of Advent (Week 2)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Mark Prescott

SH 12.00noon MASS John Conroy

OL 11.00am REQUIEM MASS Elizabeth Cassidy

SH 7.00pm Service of Reconciliation, Rite 2

Fri 13 December **Memorial: St Lucy, V.M. (3rd/4th c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

OL 10.00am MASS William & Ethel Wilkinson

Sat 14 December **Memorial: St John of the Cross, ODC, P.D. (16th c.)**

StJ 10.00am until 2.30pm Exposition & Reconciliation "Confessathon" interrupted by

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith and people of St Margaret Clitherow parishes

Sun 15 December **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Terry Johnson

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Roman Grosvenor

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 29 November the numbers drawn were 6, 10, 28. No winner of £176. Last week's estimated jackpot was £230.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 461, K Jones; £5, 365, M Houghton; £3, 077, M Sanderson; £2, 299, A Unsworth. **Bonus Ball** 15, N Flynn.

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
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
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