

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

15 DECEMBER 2013



**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**  
[www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk](http://www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk)

**St. Edmund  
Arrowsmith  
Parish**

**St. Joseph,  
Sacred Heart,  
Twelve Apostles,  
and  
Our Lady of the  
Rosary  
churches**



## Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

On this Third Sunday of Advent we listen to another part of John the Baptist's story. John was the last and perhaps greatest of the long line of prophets who prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He was one of those selfless and courageous people who kept alive the hopes of the people during the long night of expectation, when it seemed that the dawn would never come. And Jesus paid great tribute to him. He said that John was no reed swaying in the breeze. In other words, he wasn't easily influenced by prevailing trends and opinions. He was his own man. He was a strong personality and a man of principle. John didn't go in for a life of comfort and ease. He lived, not in a palace, but in a desert; a place of sand, thorn bushes, heat, cold, hunger, thirst and loneliness. He devoted himself totally to the mission God gave him, which was to prepare the way for Jesus. When his task was done, he moved aside to make way for Jesus. That took greatness and great humility.

John was a true prophet. He was a great spokesperson for God. His lifestyle, as well as his personal integrity, gave credence to his words. He was a living example of what he preached. No wonder the people flocked to listen to him. Yet Jesus pointed out that, great as John was, he missed out on the greatest thing of all. He did not see the coming of the Kingdom of God. And now, instead of the bright, wide-open spaces of the desert, he found himself in a dark, narrow dungeon, awaiting death. There he was obviously troubled by doubts. He wondered if Jesus really was the Messiah, the one who was to come. So he dispatched two of his own disciples to find out. The very meaning of his whole life depended on a positive answer. "Tell John that the blind see, the lame walk ...". In other words, look at the evidence and draw the conclusion yourself. This news must have been a great comfort to John. He could now face death knowing that his life had not been in vain.

Like John, we all can have our own struggles. Life can seem very dark at times. We can all lose faith if we are not careful. This is why we too need to hear the comforting words Jesus spoke to John, "Blessed are those who do not lose faith in me." During Advent we must all draw inspiration from John. It is in Jesus, however, that all our hope must lie. He is the one who gives meaning to all our work and suffering, to our living and dying. He alone can fulfil our deepest longings.

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS

### ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Phillip John Aldred, Vernon Byrne, Lily Farrimond, Rhoda Johnson, Jane Marshment, Jimmy Maxwell, Mana & Ester Pagliuca Thanksgiving Our Lord, Our Lady, legion of Mary, Special Intention, Thanksgiving St Blaise, St Theresa of Lisieux

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> December.**

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATION

The infants Nativity Play will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm in Church.

### AUTUMN FAYER

The Pataks Hamper has still not been claimed. Ticket No. 41 - 45.

### SACRED HEART

The Sanctuary Lamp candle that burns all this week was gifted in memory of Karol Gredecki.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

The children from Year 4 will be making their First Reconciliation on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm. Please keep them in your prayers.

### 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

The **CHRISTMAS CAKE** raffle prize still has not been claimed. Tickets were only sold on the day and the winning number was Yellow 652. Please check your tickets!

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The winning numbers for the Christmas Draw are available in the church porch. Please check to see if you have won a prize. Many thanks to the donors, the organisers and all who supported this fund raising event. Your generosity is much appreciated.

### TWELVE APOSTLES

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Year 4 on their First Reconciliation they made on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue with the Sacramental Programme.

#### SELECTION BOX RAFFLE

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

on Wednesday. 200 Club draw next Wednesday. It is a 'Big One' please make sure your payments are up to date

### 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 £5 adults £3 children (family ticket £15) call the club or e-mail x11apostlesparishcentre@hotmail.co.uk or see Therese Thompson

### WINTER WEATHER

This year we need to ensure that people are prepared should there be extreme weather conditions, especially when it snows or is icy.

Each person has to take responsibility for their own safety and not take unnecessary risks. Strong and safe footwear should be worn (boots, Wellingtons & shoes with good grip) and proper clothing to ensure you are warm (hats and gloves).

It is important to understand the term 'obligation to attend Mass'. In extreme weather situations, if venturing out would put you in danger then the obligation is suspended. God asks only what is possible and reasonable of people to attend Mass.

This is the case when insurance issues are looked at. The Church does not have the resources to clear car parks to allow for safe parking and we have been told that this is not expected of us. The most that could be achieved is a path to the car park at St Joseph's from the side door and the main door. The main gates into St Joseph's Church will not be opened in these conditions. At Our Lady's, Twelve Apostles and Sacred Heart the car parks will not be cleared. A Path will be clear for access to all Churches and the path gritted.

Should a snow storm happen on Saturday night and early hours Sunday like last year then the 8.30am Mass at St Joseph's will be cancelled on that day. This will allow us time to clear and grit paths for the 10.30am Mass, but we will need your volunteers to do this. If you feel you can do this please contact Fr Kieran or Fr Steve

### ST MARY'S

#### Advent Party Fun & Feast

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm - 2.30pm  
Please put your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of church if you wish to attend. You will need to arrange your own transport. Please state if you need a car parking space. Names must be in by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Advent Song

Promised Lord, and Christ is he,  
may we soon his kingdom see.

***Come, O Lord, quickly come,  
come in glory, come in glory,  
come in glory, quickly come.***

Teaching, healing, once was he,  
may we soon his kingdom see.

Dead and buried once was he,  
may we soon his kingdom see.

Risen from the dead is he,  
may we soon his kingdom see.

Soon to come again is he,  
may we soon his kingdom see.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	£1,797.32
Donation	£ 200.00
SVP Our Lady's	£ 34.65

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Davina Oluwashemilore Banjo, Gracie Mae Jones

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Molly Yates, Joan Abernethy, Gerard Waddilove (former parishioner)  
Eternal rest grant unto them....

### 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

## Gaudete Sunday

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning 'Rejoice Sunday'. The phrase comes from the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass. We rejoice because the great Feast of Christmas is fast approaching: the Lord is coming to save us.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> February  
Evening Performances curtain 7-15pm,

Three matinees Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

## TWELVE APOSTLES



### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

## 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 December

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

### Mon 16 December **Weekday of Advent (Week 3)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Tue 17 December **Weekday of Advent (Proper)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Tommy Walsh

### Wed 18 December **Ferial**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS  
OL 1.30pm Joan Abernethy  
SH 7.00pm MASS Jim Fearnley

### Thu 19 December **Weekday of Advent (Proper)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 9.00am SCHOOL MASS IN CHURCH **All welcome** Anthony Martin  
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Molly Yates  
SH 6.00pm First Confessions

### Fri 20 December **Weekday of Advent (Proper)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS  
StJ 1.00pm REQUIEM MASS Gerard Waddilove  
OL 10.00am MASS Marie Burke (sick)

### Sat 21 December **Weekday of Advent (Proper)**

OL 10.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
OL 12.00noon MASS  
12A 5.30pm MASS Hulme & Buckley families

### Sun 22 December **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS  
SH 9.30am MASS William Landers  
StJ 10.30am MASS  
OL 11.00am MASS Sean Connel  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 6 December the numbers drawn were 2, 10, 18. No winner of £238. Last week's estimated jackpot was £300.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 238, B Ellis; £5, 365, M Houghton; £3, 041, Jennifer & Fiona; £2, 311, M Roach. **Bonus Ball** 25, U Lightford.

### **.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](mailto: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](mailto: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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