

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

12 JANUARY 2014



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When leprosy broke out among the people of the Hawaiian Islands in the middle of the last century, the authorities responded by establishing a leper colony on the remote island of Molokai. Those who suffered from this terrible disease were forced to leave their families and friends and were sent to the island to perish. It was a terrible situation but the authorities felt that they were doing the "greater good" in protecting more people from contracting this awful disease that could kill them. However, moved by their terrible plight, a young Belgian priest, Damien De Veuster, asked to be allowed to minister to them. Straight away he realized that there was only one effective way to do this: that was to go and live among them. Having got permission, he went to the island of Molokai. At first, he tried to minister to them whilst maintaining a certain distance. But he soon realized that he had to live among them in order to gain their trust. As a result he contracted leprosy himself. The reaction of the lepers was immediate and wholehearted. They embraced him as one of their own and took him to their hearts. He was now truly one of them. The lepers now had someone who could talk with authority about their lives, about brokenness, about rejection and public shame because he was going through what they were going through.

The Baptism of Jesus was a difficult thing to accept for the early Christian Church. Even John the Baptist himself found it strange and, as we hear in today's Gospel, he tried to stop it. He did this because the kind of baptism that John was offering was one of repentance. So, for the early Church, if Jesus WAS the sinless Son of God why did he need baptism? What good could come of it? Jesus submitted himself to John's baptism as a sign of being at one with the people. It was a symbol of solidarity. By being baptized publicly, Jesus was identifying himself with sinners. When he stepped into the River Jordan for baptism it was as though he was saying, "I am with you. I am on your side." As Jesus joined the ranks of sinners at his baptism, God the Father approved what he was doing and set his seal on this by sending the Holy Spirit to anoint him with the oil of compassion for his ministry. What Jesus did at the Jordan was to serve as a model for his whole public ministry. He would not keep himself apart from sinners. He would not simply wait for them to come to him. He would seek them out and go among them. He would befriend them and welcome them. Jesus didn't stand apart or put himself above the people he came to save. He placed himself among them, so much so that the religious authorities of the time accused him of being a sinner and later treated him as a criminal which all led to the Cross on Calvary.

As we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus this weekend, we think very much about our beginnings too. Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan marked the beginning of his ministry among the people. It showed from the very beginning the type of Messiah Jesus really was. The feast-day this weekend must also remind us of our own baptism. It marks a new beginning for each one of us as we strive here on earth to follow the Lord and as we try to minister the love of God in our lives today. So, as we begin this New Year, let us pray that God will grant us all the gifts we need to live out our faith to the full and to share our faith in Christ with others.

**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

Sheila Croft, Betty Dolphin, Kathleen Duffy, Louisa Farrington, Richard Fletcher, Ellen & Joseph Joyce, John Lucas, Tony Manfredi, Tom Ramsdale, Betty Skiffington, Anne Turner, James Unsworth, Special Intention, Special Intention & Thanksgiving Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints, Special Intention & Thanksgiving St Theresa & St Blaise

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Flowers. The money that is over will be used to decorate the church throughout the year.
A very big thank you to Mosses Garden Centre for once again providing the beautiful Christmas Tree.

RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday 20th January. Thank you.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers Prayers will be held on Tuesday 14th January 7.30pm at St. Joseph's church.
All mothers and grandmothers very welcome.

SACRED HEART

The Sanctuary Lamp candle that burns all this week was gifted in memory of Teresa Beades. We will be opening a new list again around about Easter.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME The next meeting for the children who are to be Confirmed and make their First Communion is on Thursday 16th January at 4.30pm. The theme is Holy Spirit: the Helper.

CHURCH CLEANING has become a problem due to a lack of new volunteers. If you could spare an hour or two on Tuesday morning (10.00am) you would be made most welcome, even men!

TWELVE APOSTLES

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME The next meeting for the children who are to be Confirmed and make their First Communion is on Wednesday 15th January at 4.30pm. The theme is Holy Spirit: the Helper.

CLUB NEWS

Bingo every Wednesday from 8.30pm. Please consider us for your special occasion tel 01942 209192 for details.

CHURCH REPAIR FUND

Selection Box Raffle Winning Numbers: Yellow: 211-215, 126-130, 376-380 (claimed), 411-415, 171-175, 166-170
Orange: 316-320, 181-185, 466-470 (claimed), 151-155, 96-100, 6-10 (claimed), 36-40, 366-370 (claimed), 66-70, 241-245. White: 391-395 (claimed). Please check your tickets prizes are at the back of Church
Next Saturday is our monthly retiring collection, please be your usual generous selves

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 16th January 2014 at Twelve Apostles Parish Centre, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Wigan Council want to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

They have access to a small amount of funding to support local ideas and projects in Leigh. Do you have any suggestions? The council want to know. You are invited to join them for lunch at Leigh Miners on:

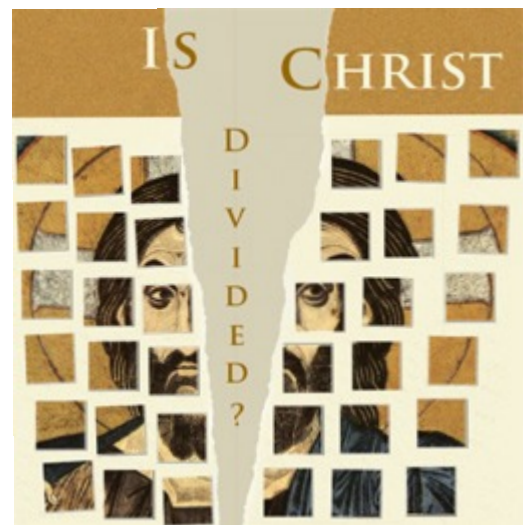
Friday 17th January 12 noon till 2pm

Wednesday 29th January 12 noon till 3pm

Decision Day: Thursday 27th February A speed vote from 12.00 till 2pm or 2pm - 4pm to listen to the presentations before casting your vote.

To book a place call 01942 404260
or email R. Killen @wigan.gov.uk

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18 - 25 January 2014



This year's theme comes to us from the Churches of French Canada. Canadians live in a country that is marked by diversity in language, culture, and even climate, and it also embodies diversity in expressions of Christian faith. Living with this diversity, but being faithful to Christ's desire for the unity of his disciples, has led them to a reflection on Paul's provocative question in 1 Corinthians, "Has Christ been divided?" In faith we respond, "No!" yet our church communities continue to endure scandalous divisions. 1 Corinthians also points us to a way in which we can value and receive the gifts of others even now in the midst of our divisions, and that is an encouragement to us in our work for unity.

THE WORLD - Pray

**Merciful God, as you have made us a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
so draw us together,
strengthening us to do your will.
This we pray through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

**More resources can be found at:
<http://www.ctbi.org.uk/657>**

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL

£1,664.63

The Special Collection this weekend is for the White Flower Appeal on behalf of SPUC.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Jack Joseph Francis Delainey

SICK

Please remember Kitty Gallagher, Baby Kara Hughes, Fr Patrick Shanahan M. Afr. and all who are sick at this time.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Pat Leyland, Baby Peggy & Pearl Hopwood, Josephine Brennan, Mary Sheila Croft, Michael Maloney.
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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)

HELP NEEDED

The Back Stage Crew at St Joseph's Players are looking for help to get the sets ready for the pantomime and also help during the show. If you feel you would like to get involved with the dramatic society in this way, please go along on Monday or Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. It is a friendly atmosphere and your help will be very much appreciated.

BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Friday 17th January at St Ambrose Barlow Hall

The Haggis will be piped in at 8pm

Supper - £5 per person

Includes Haggis, neeps and tatties" a "wee dram" or soft drink and a sweet

As usual we welcome people from across our Pastoral Area to a great evening of food, entertainment and an odd "highland fling" or two!!!

Please contact Des 876050 to guarantee your place

*Living as one family is
the foundation and
pathway to peace*

*Pope Francis
World Peace Day 2014*

TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH THE FABULOUS NOSTALGIA SHOWBAND



50s & 60s Rock & Roll Band

St Joseph's Hall Chapel St, Leigh

Refreshments included

Bar

Saturday 8th February 2014 7.30pm

Tickets £10.00 available from Des 01942 67488

Pauline 01942 604603 or St Joseph's 673517

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SWAP & SHARE CATECHESIS

Animate Youth Ministries are delighted to be hosting a creative workshop "SWAP AND SHARE CATECHESIS" that allows you, the catechist, an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts with people from all the many parts of the Archdiocese of Liverpool and beyond. It is a chance for you to be in the presence of fellow catechists and to share ideas that work for you in your parish and youth groups. There will be a selection of new ideas, ice breakers, small group work, songs and many more fun and exciting activities that have been tried and tested with young people by the ANIMATE team. The ANIMATE team will be on hand to guide you through the activities and to answer any queries. Please bring along any of your own resources and ideas and share them with the group. Date: 23rd January 2014. Time: 6.30 - 8.30pm. Location: Lowe House, St. Helens WA10 2BE.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY CATECHISTS

"Let your light shine"

An Afternoon Preparing to Celebrate Lent

Sunday 9th February

2.00 - 4.00pm at LACE

Led by Jo Boyce of CJM Music

*Please tell one of our priests
if you would like to attend.*

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 11 January *Weekday after Epiphany*

12A 5.30pm 1st MASS OF SUNDAY Liz Cassidy LD

Sun 12 January **FEAST: BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS People of St Edmund Arrowsmith and people of St Margaret Clitherow parishes

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Christmas Season concludes, Ordinary Time begins

Mon 13 January **Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 1, Year 2)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 2.45pm Requiem Mass Josephine Brennan

Tue 14 January **Memorial: St. Kentigern, B. (Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher

Wed 15 January **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Thanksgiving

Thu 16 January **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Mark Prescott

SH 12.00noon MASS A sick person

Fri 17 January **Memorial: St. Anthony, Abbot (3rd/4th c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS William Power

StJ 12.00noon REQUIEM MASS Mary Sheila Croft

Sat 18 January **Weekday in Ordinary Time**

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Allen & Agnes Newton

Sun 19 January **SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

(Day of Prayer for Peace)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Eileen Featherstone

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Ann Devlin

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 3 January the numbers drawn were 3, 8, 10. One lucky winner of £482! Last week's estimated jackpot was £60.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club (29 December) £50, 019, K Wilkinson; £10, 461, K Jones; £5, 036, M Roach; £3, 413, P Purcell; £2, 415, Mrs West. **Bonus Ball** 17, B Woods.

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

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

