

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

9 FEBRUARY 2014



Responsorial Psalm

The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The novelist Graham Greene tells a story, a fantasy which takes place in the distant future when the whole world is governed by a single party. The opening scene is in a little hotel in New York. It is late at night. An old man, tired, down-hearted, wearing a shabby raincoat and carrying a battered suitcase comes to the reception and asks for a room. He signs the register and disappears up the stairs. The house detective looks at the register and says to the clerk: "Did you see who that was? It was the Pope". The clerk replied, "The Pope? Who's that?" Catholicism has been successfully stamped out. Only the Pope survives. He is doomed to rule over a Church that doesn't exist anymore. All the cardinals, bishops and priests have met their fate. The new regime allows the Pope to live because he is useful in demonstrating how dead the Church is. The world dictator gets tired of this game. He wants to put an end to Christianity himself. But just as he sees fit to order the death of the Pope a thought crosses his mind: "Is it just possible that what this man believed in was true?" In that question another Christian is born.

Graham Greene's story illustrates a fascinating truth: that Christianity cannot die. Even if the world succumbed to a regime of complete atheism, there would still be pockets of belief. There would still be believers in God who would keep their faith intact and pass their faith onto others, even though they risked their lives in the process. This has already happened in periods of history in our own country and throughout Europe, and still happens in other parts of the world today. There would always be people willing to share their light of faith. This instinct has always been a driving force of Christianity.

In today's First Reading the importance of sharing light is stressed. The background to the reading is important. The exiles have returned but they have a complaint against God: "Why have we fasted if you did not see, why mortify ourselves if you never notice?" The Prophet Isaiah tells them that genuine fasting is related not only to God but to their neighbour. Their fasting should include sharing their food with the hungry, sheltering the homeless and clothing the naked. When they do these things "Then your light will shine like the dawn and your wounds be quickly healed over." Living out their faith includes caring for others as well as praising God.

This theme of sharing light is repeated in the Gospel as Jesus continues to instruct his disciples. Discipleship is not only about right relationship with God but also about a right relationship with other people. Discipleship is not some personal privilege. It is for the benefit of others and for the glory of God the Father. If the disciples stop witnessing to their faith then they become like salt that is wholly useless. When we Christians share our light in the witness of our faith and our lives, this witness can puzzle other people into wonder. In Graham Greene's story the quiet witness of the last Pope puzzles the Dictator into wonder. This is the beginning of faith for many people. A real Pope, Pope Paul VI, made the point in writing "Evangelization In The Modern World": "Through this wordless witness these Christians can stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live." As disciples of Christ, our witness should lead others to wonder. As Pope Paul observed, this is the first act of spreading the Gospel to others, by simply living out our faith. In other words, we do this by living in the light. If we hide our light we puzzle no one. When we share it with others, another Christian is born.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



Be these.
Matthew 5:13-16

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

James William Atkinson, May Atkinson, Mary Connor, Mary Green, Kathleen Greensmith, William O'Hora, Carole Scully (nee Dare) Special Intention.

FOUNDATION MASSES

Kathleen & Francis James Duffy, The Semple Family, Jennie Unsworth, Frederick & Alice Walmsley.

WOMEN'S SODALITY

The next meeting of the Women's Sodality will be on Tuesday 18th February at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP

The Support Group will meet tomorrow Monday 10th February 2014 at 7.30pm in the presbytery. All welcome.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** candle that burns all this week in Sacred Heart church was gifted in memory of Alfred & Margaret Leyland. We will be opening a new list again around about Easter.

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

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

PARISH SOCIAL EVENING

Once again this year Fr Kieran and Fr Steve would like to say thank you for all the hard word work that people do all year round and the support given to each of the church communities. This year the Social Evening is being held at St Joseph's on Friday 14th February, with Mass at 7.00pm then on to the Main Hall for the entertainment, provided by Fr Kieran and Fr Steve's Hot Pot. Last year proved to be a great success and a good time was had by all. It would be lovely to see more people this year and all our communities to get to know each other better. If you would like to come along please sign the sheet at the back of church. We do need to know numbers for catering purposes, so please sign the list.

CARE OF THE SICK

If you have a sick relative in Hospital, in the Hospice or in a Nursing Home, it is important, because of Data Protection rules, that you inform the Nursing Staff that your relative is a Catholic and would like a visit from the priest or lay minister.

If you know of anyone who has come out of hospital or is in need of Holy Communion taking to them please contact the parish office with name, full address including postal code and telephone number.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

World Day of Prayer Service on Friday, 7th March, 7.30pm at St. Mary's parish church, Leigh centre.

Singers' practices on Mondays, 24th February and 3rd March, 7.30pm to 8.30pm at St. Mary's church. Men, women and young people all welcome to help us praise God.

HCPT Quiz Night Saturday 22nd March Twelve Apostles School Prize Bingo 7th March.

MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE 22nd WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2014

Faith and Charity: "We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. On the occasion of the Twenty-second World Day of the Sick, whose theme this year is Faith and Charity: "We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16), I turn in

a special way to the sick and all those who provide them with assistance and care. The Church recognizes in you, the sick, a special presence of the suffering Christ. It is true. At the side of – and indeed within – our suffering, is the suffering of Christ; he bears its burden with us and he reveals its meaning. When the Son of God mounted the cross, he destroyed the solitude of suffering and illuminated its darkness. We thus find ourselves before the mystery of God's love for us, which gives us hope and courage: hope, because in the plan of God's love even the night of pain yields to the light of Easter, and courage, which enables us to confront every hardship in his company, in union with him.

+++++

I entrust this Twenty-second World Day of the Sick to the intercession of Mary. I ask her to help the sick to bear their sufferings in fellowship with Jesus Christ and to support all those who care for them. To all the ill, and to all the health-care workers and volunteers who assist them, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 6 December 2013

FRANCIS

+++++ For the other four paragraphs please go to:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco_20131206_giornata-malato_en.html

The Pope's Lenten message can be found at:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20131226_messaggio-quaresima2014_en.html



Twelve Apostles Walsingham Pilgrimage will be taking place from Easter Monday 21st April until Thursday 24th. Interested persons should see Laurence Hawkins, Therese Thompson or Jane Lovett, with a £20 deposit please, as soon as possible.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 6

The world makes us look towards ourselves, our possessions, our desires. The Gospel invites us to be open to others, to share with the poor.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 4

Dear young people, Jesus gives us life, life in abundance. If we are close to him we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 3

It is important to have friends we can trust. But it is essential to trust the Lord, who never lets us down.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 2

May the World Day of Consecrated Life be a timely occasion to rediscover the centrality of Jesus in our lives.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 1

Sometimes we are saddened by the weight of our sins. May we not be discouraged. Christ has come to lift this burden and give us peace.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Jan 31

No one saves oneself. The community is essential.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£1,312.61
Cardinal Nichol's Collection	£ 399.97
12 Apostles church repair fund	£ 30.55

This week the retiring collection will be for the St Vincent de Paul Society. Next weekend - Catholic Education Service.

SICK

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

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Community through Baptism to Oliver Mark Baxendale.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Special Mass to celebrate Marriage and Family Life with Bishop Tom Williams on Sunday 16th February at 11.00am in the Cathedral. RSVP Mrs Julie Cassidy 0151 522 1040 or email: j.cassidy@rcaol.co.uk

CATHOLICS IN HEALTHCARE

Those working in our hospitals in whatever capacity, the ambulance service and the medical profession as a whole, as well as Eucharistic Ministers and all who serve the sick at home and in hospital, are warmly invited to join Bishop Tom Williams for a Mass with and for Healthcare Workers on Sunday 16th February at 3.00pm in Christ the King & Our Lady's church, Queens Drive, Liverpool L15 6YQ

EVENING COURSES & WORKSHOPS

See Archdiocesan Website for full details:

www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Baptism: Everything You Need for Life

An evening to view and discuss the new Archdiocesan Baptism Resource - 13th February, 7.15 - 9.15pm, at LACE.

Christ in Scripture & Tradition

A module in the Diploma in Pastoral Leadership, 3rd, 10th, 24th February & 3rd March, 6.30 - 9.00pm at Liverpool Hope University.

A Skills Workshop - Ways of Working with Scripture

Tuesday 25th February, 6.30 - 9.00pm, at St Patrick's, Southport.

Are you having a party? Do you need a venue?

Why not consider booking one of the Parish Halls?

The Main Hall complex at St Joseph's consists of a side hall for 80 or so guests, with a well maintained kitchen. The ballroom/theatre holds approx. 280/300 guests. The Mather Room (Sodality Hall) holds approx. 100 guests. Both locations have ample parking and are easily accessible and have been refurbished.

We take bookings in both halls for birthday parties, wedding, baptism & funeral receptions, dance classes, keep fit etc and in our main Hall dance shows, musicals, plays etc.

We also have Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, Slimming World, Keep Fit, Zumba and Karate, dancing classes. Please contact Mrs Prince on 01942 709034 for further details of these classes or to enquire about a booking.

Twelve Apostles Parish Hall has a Lounge (30-40), Concert Room (100-120), Small Meeting Room (20-30) and the Common Room which can hold children's parties.

Sacred Heart also has a Meeting Room with catering facilities for groups of between 40-50.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND,

(The Best Band In The Land)

ASHTON - ON - MERSEY- SHOWBAND

Presenting

"A NIGHT AT THE PROMS"

St Joseph's Main Hall, Chapel St. Leigh,

SATURDAY 22ND March 8pm

Ticket only Event price £8-50p

Available NOW from Pauline on 01942-604603

and RATCLIFFES BIKE SHOP BRADSHAWGATE LEIGH,

All profits to be donated to Pensioners Link, Leigh

(Voluntary service for the support of elderly persons in our community).

We see you

*God of light and life,
we see you in the rising sun,
the golden fields of new daffodils,
and the feel of a spring shower.*

Help us to see your light reflected throughout creation.

*God of compassion,
you are there with those people
who are facing the effects of a changing climate,
and are affected by floods, droughts and famine.
Show us how to be there with them too.*

*God of truth and justice,
you hear those people around the world,
who struggle to make their voices heard.
Open our ears and the ears of those in power
to hear the cries of those living in poverty.*

*God of hope,
we see you in people who refuse to give up,
who will not lose faith and keep on fighting,
for your earth and for your people.
Lift us, so that we may never lose hope.*

Amen.

Michaela McGuigan/CAFOD

ANNUAL CIVIC MASS

... will be celebrated at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 9th March at 11.00am. Those in public life and service within our Archdiocese do a wonderful job. This is a good opportunity to give them the support they need - chance to make them feel appreciated ... that they are part of the solution, not part of the problem.

MASS WITH CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS

Following his investiture as Cardinal, Vincent Nichols will return to his native city on Sunday, 16th March to celebrate Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent in the Metropolitan Cathedral at 3.00pm. It will be an opportunity for the clergy and people of his home diocese to congratulate him and to join with him in prayer as he embraces this added responsibility in his ministry. Bishops of the Northern Province have also been invited to participate in this Mass. On this occasion he will be presented with the gift from the archdiocese that has been collected for the Friends of the Holy Land.

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 8 February

12A 5.30pm MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 9 February

StJ 8.30am MASS **FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

SH 9.30am MASS Annie Connolly

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Tommy Sale

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 10 February *Memorial: St. Scholastica, OSB, V. (5th/6th c.)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 11 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 5, Year 2)*

(World Day of Prayer for the Sick)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher

Wed 12 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Pat Davies

Thu 13 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Anthony & Thomas Hunter

SH 12.00noon MASS Keith Cooper

Fri 14 February **FEAST: ST. CYRIL, Monk, and ST. METHIDIUS, Bp. (9th c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 12.00noon MASS

StJ 7.00pm MASS

Sat 15 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS Karol Gredecki

Sun 16 February **SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

(Education Sunday)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS John Wilcock

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Shaun O'Brien (LD)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 31 January the numbers drawn were 5, 17, 21. No winner of £248. Last week's estimated jackpot was £300.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 Mrs A Unsworth 035, £5 C Ellis 24, £3 M Sanderson 112, £2 Jennifer & Fiona 041

Bonus Ball Sue Holt No. 29

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

