

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

2 MARCH 2014



**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

In God alone is my soul at rest.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

“Does a mother forget her baby, or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.”

When the prophet Isaiah spoke these wonderful words of hope, the people of God had reached a very low ebb. The temple had been destroyed, Jerusalem sacked, and the people taken into exile in Babylon. They felt that God had abandoned them. But Isaiah assured them that God had not abandoned them, no more than a mother could abandon her child.

A poor woman in a Dublin parish had a son who was ruining her life. He wouldn't do anything to help her. He certainly wouldn't work. He spent his time drinking and hanging around with trouble-makers. He robbed everything of value she had in the house. Again and again she pleaded with him to change his life, but he refused to do so. He broke her heart and made her life a misery. Eventually he ended up in prison. Surely now she would leave him to his fate? Not at all. She visited him without fail every week, carrying cigarettes and other things for him in a little carrier bag. One day one of the priests from the parish met her as she was on her way to the prison. “This son of yours has ruined your life,” the priest said. “He'll never change. Why don't you just forget about him.” “How can I?” he replied. “I don't like what he's done, but he's still my son.”

Some people would possibly say that the woman was foolish. Yet she was only doing what any good mother would probably do, that is loving her child through thick and thin. A mother never gives up. For many of us, the love of a parent is the most reliable kind of human love we will ever experience. It's no wonder that throughout the Bible a mother's love is used as an image of God's love for us. If a mother, who after all is a mere human being, is capable of such steadfast love, then how much greater is God's love for us who are all his children. Even when we are in sin, God does not cease to love us.

People accumulate money and possessions because they give people the illusion of security. Then when they start to lose some of these, they get anxious and worried. People of faith are challenged not to rely on wealth and possessions but to rely instead upon the love of God. God is our security and our chief concern is to do his will. When Jesus says, “Do not worry about tomorrow”, he is not condemning human resourcefulness. We have to plan for tomorrow. But we can be in constant danger of becoming immersed in the ways of the world and becoming enslaved to material things. Jesus reminds us that we are God's precious children, and that only in God can we find rest. We must put our future in his hands and pray that he will always be with us, especially when we are in most need.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Philip Aldred, Brian Ashton, Mildred & Tony Baker, Sydney Butterworth, Jim & Sandra Garner, Joseph Garvey, John Garvey, Dorothy Mort, Fr Lloyd, Desmond Sarsefield, Annie Smith, Special Intention & Thanksgiving Our Lord, Our Lady, All Saints, Special Intention & Thanksgiving Annita, Angiola, Louis & Carlo Manfredi.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Session 5: Teach us to Pray
St Joseph's Monday 3rd March 2.30pm in School or 6.00pm in Church.

WOMENS' SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Womens' Sodality on Tuesday 4th March at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

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

OUR LADIES - COFFEE MORNING

Today (2nd March) after Mass is our Coffee Morning. Everyone welcome.

EASTER RAFFLE

We will be having our usual Easter Raffle at Our Lady's. Any donations will be appreciated. Thank you.

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

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

Family Quiz at Twelve Apostles Parish Centre, Westleigh Lane Leigh on Saturday 22nd March at 7pm. Please come along and support this wonderful group who give disadvantaged children a holiday of a lifetime in Lourdes every Easter

If you could donate any raffle prizes we would be grateful

ASH WEDNESDAY - 5th MARCH



9.00am	St Joseph's School Mass in Church
10.00am	Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary
12noon	Mass at St Joseph's
7.00pm	Mass at Twelve Apostles
7.00pm	Mass at Sacred Heart
	For Twelve Apostles and Sacred Heart School Masses, please ring Fr Kieran for details.
9.15am	Morning Prayer & Mass at Holy Family
12 noon	Mass at St Richard's
7.00pm	Mass at St Ambrose Barlow
7.00pm	Mass at Holy Family

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.

Men, women, young people and children are all most welcome. All (male, female, any age) who enjoy singing were invited to the singers' practices, led by Mrs. Ursula Lightford, on Monday, 24th February and 3rd March, 7.30 to 8.30pm, at St. Mary's church.

DE-CLUTTER SALE

There will be a Wardrobe De-clutter Sale at St Richard's Social Centre on Friday March 14th from 2.00pm - 4.00pm and Saturday March 15th 10.00am - 2.00pm. Proceeds from the sale will go to CAFOD.

Good quality men's, women's, children's and babies' clothing and accessories donated for the sale can be left in the church porches at: Holy Family, St Ambrose, St Gabriel's or St Richard's on weekends February 22nd/23rd and March 1st/2nd. For further information, please contact Joan 07785112206.



Twelve Apostles Walsingham Pilgrimage from Easter Monday 21st April until Thursday 24th. We require £20 deposit as soon as possible. Please see Laurence Hawkins, Therese Thompson or Jane Lovett as soon as possible.



Pope Francis@pontifex

Lord Jesus, make us capable of loving as you love.

Confirmation is important for Christians; it strengthens us to defend the faith and to spread the Gospel courageously.

Let us never lose hope! God loves us always, even with our mistakes and sins.

Our Lady is always close to us, especially when we feel the weight of life with all its problems.

All of us who are baptized are missionary disciples. We are called to become a living Gospel in the world.

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,855.39

SICK

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

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Community through Baptism to:
Louis Eric Barrow, Matthew James Buke.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Jim & Sandra Gardener on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

Congratulations also to Mildred & Tony Baker on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Anne Smith, Kevin Kirwin, a former teacher at Sacred Heart School, sadly passed away last Sunday. His Funeral Mass will be held at St Ambrose Barlow Church on Monday 3rd March at 12.30pm. May he rest in peace.

Eternal rest give unto them....

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
or St Joseph's 673517

All profits to be donated to Pensioners Link, Leigh

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

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.



Hungry for change: what you have achieved so far

Since November 2012 we've made great progress in campaigning for change to stop one in eight people going hungry. Over 50,000 of you took action for our Hungry for Change campaign calling for a fairer deal for small-scale farmers and checks on the power of global companies.

Last year at Lent, you donated nearly £2.1 million and for harvest Fast Day, over £1.4 million; in addition many of you signed up to make a monthly gift. In such difficult times when food bills are soaring throughout England and Wales, this has helped to ensure more women, men and children around the world can flourish by growing and eating nutritious healthy food.

To help people in Niger who struggle to get enough to eat, you helped to give food to over 19,000 people that need it most. Your help has also meant hope for the future:

14,3000 people also received seeds to grow enough food for their families.

3,587 homes received animal feed - vital to keep their animals alive.

In parts of Bolivia affected by climate change, you have helped to ensure farmers can grow more food. Those taking part in this project have seen the amount they grow increase, on average, by 118%. That means a family that was struggling to grow enough can now feed themselves and sell any they have left over.



Family Fast Day Friday 14th March

Please consider Gift Aid, where your donation will be increased by 25p for every £1 you give, at no cost to you.

Your garden of plenty

Giver of life,

From tiny seeds and parched earth
your gentle hand grows richest fruit.

Reveal to us, Creator God, the seeds within us;
moisten the soil that our neglect has made dry.

For alone we lack the vision of your Kingdom.

Alone, we fail to recognise the hungry in our midst.

Alone, we lack the strength to fulfil your purpose.

With your inspiring love, Redeemer of all,

may the shoots of our potential break free

and our hands, voices and spirits toil in communion

so that your garden of plenty can be shared by all.

Amen.

Anna Cronin-Nowakowska/CAFOD

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 1 March

12A 5.30pm MASS Kathleen McArt

Sun 2 March

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

(Day of Prayer for the Unemployed)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS B and S Fletcher
StJ 10.30am MASS
OL 11.00am MASS March Teresa Williams (LD)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 3 March

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 8, Year 2)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 4 March

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Special Intention

Wed 5 March

ASH WEDNESDAY Day of fasting and abstinence

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS for the School in Church
OL 10.00am MASS Roman Grosvenor
StJ 12.00noon MASS
SH 7.00pm MASS Pat Leyland
12A 7.00pm MASS John Fisher

Thu 6 March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.30am MASS John Fisher
SH 12.00noon MASS Sylvia Davey

Fri 7 March

Friday after Ash Wednesday (Women's World Day of Prayer)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
(OL) 10.00am MASS at MOSS BANK COURT Marian Woodward
StJ 12.00noon MASS
7.30pm WWDP PRAYER SERVICE at St. Mary's Leigh Parish church

Sat 8 March

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 12.00noon MASS Marion Sanderson
12A 5.30pm MASS Fr. Peter Mockler (LD)

Sun 9 March

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS Kevin Kirwin (LD)
StJ 10.30am MASS
OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 21 February the numbers drawn were 08, 10, 13. No winner of £358. Last week's estimated jackpot was £440

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
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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
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