

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

23 MARCH 2014



Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice:
“Harden not your hearts.”

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

One theme runs through all of the readings this weekend. It is a very important and comforting theme. We could say that it is at the very heart of the Good News. The theme is that we are loved in our sins.

We see this in the First Reading from Exodus. In spite of the ingratitude and the grumbling of the people, God doesn't write them off but shows his love for them by providing water for them in the desert.

The message is repeated by St. Paul in the Second Reading. Paul says, “What proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us whilst we were still sinners.” And we see this message in action in the Gospel. Jesus meets the woman from Samaria at the well. His approach to this outcast woman is so gentle. He didn't force himself into her life. Had he done so she would have immediately walked away. Jesus began from a position of weakness. He asked for a drink of water. In this way he disposed her to receive the gift he wanted to give to her. His heart was already open to her. Now that she was helping him her heart was open to him too. A wonderful dialogue ensued, and a marvellous exchange took place.

Jesus treated the woman with great respect. There was no hint of judgement or condemnation. She felt accepted and understood, perhaps for the first time in years. No one had ever paid such close and loving attention to her before. Jesus explained her life to her more sympathetically and more fully than she had ever been able to understand it herself. Before she realized it, she had shared with him the whole story of her sad and confused life.

The story of the woman at the well, and the other readings this weekend reminds us that Jesus meets us where we are. He says to us today what he said to the lost woman, “If you only knew the gift God wants to give to you.” We can sometimes find it very difficult to admit our poverty, weakness and sinfulness. Hence we feel unable to receive the gift God wants to give to us.

God loves us BECAUSE we are sinners, not because we are perfect. Knowing that we are loved like this can give us surprising courage and energy. Let us pray that, as we journey through Lent, we can share this love 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 MASS INTENTIONS

Geoff Carson, Terence Donohue, Margaret Featherstone, Maureen Gallagher, Theresa Heavey, Vincent Higgins, Kevin Kinney.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St Joseph's with St Thomas'

Stations of the Cross will be held in St Joseph's church every Friday in Lent at 7.00pm. Tea & coffee will be available afterwards.

Sacred Heart

There will be Stations of the Cross after Mass on Thursdays at the Sacred Heart.

EARLY MORNING MASS

Every Friday during Lent, at 7.30am there will be Mass at Sacred Heart church.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

St Joseph's	Mon 24 th March 2.30pm in school or 6.00pm in church
Twelve Apostles	Wed 26 th March 4.30pm

CONFESSATHON

5th April at the Sacred Heart church
Confessions 11.00am - 12.00 noon
Mass 12.00 noon 12.30 pm
Confessions 12.30pm - 2.30pm

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 15th April at 7.30 pm
Holy Family, Boothstown

The **Sanctuary Lamp** candles that burn this week in Sacred Heart church were gifted in memory of Barry Scotson, also 'All deceased members of the travelling community'. We will be opening a new list again around about Easter.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY EASTER RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale after Mass today for the Easter Raffle. Donations for prizes would be most welcome. Thank you to those who have already donated.

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

Tickets are on sale (50p/strip) for our Annual Easter Egg Raffle. All donations gratefully receive.
200 Club Draw £40 no 51 M Gredecki, £15 no 3 L Ashley, £5 no 27 A Morris, £5 no 34 K Marsh.
Today, Saturday 22nd March HCPT Family Fun Quiz at 7pm. All proceeds to help underprivileged children to have the holiday of a lifetime in Lourdes please come along and support us.



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

Mar 20

May we learn to say "thank you" to God and to one another. We teach children to do it, and then we forget to do it ourselves!

Mar 19

I greet the World School Network for Encounter.

Today we plant the first virtual olive tree for peace. @info-scholas

Mar 18

Christian love is loving without counting the cost. This is the lesson of the Good Samaritan; this is the lesson of Jesus.

Mar 17

Thank you for all your warm wishes on my anniversary. Please continue praying for me.

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

How to Find Time in the Day for Lent

The fast pace of your life may seem to leave little time and energy for the traditional Lenten practices. But you can weave moments of spiritual awareness and service into even the busiest of schedules. The trick is to see Lenten practice as part of, rather than in addition to, each activity of your ordinary hectic day.

The three foundational practices of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Here's how to think about them in a new way:

Praying Daily

If you make a habit of saying a little prayer whenever someone irritates you, cuts you off in traffic, or makes life difficult; when someone does you a favour, you experience great and friendly service, or when something joyful happens to you - you will soon find yourself praying your way through the day. Try this simple practice and you will be observing the Catholic Church's call for greater prayer during the Lenten season. You will also find that this habit makes your life flow more smoothly, your self more centred, and your Spirit more aware of God's presence.

A Different Type of Fasting

There are many ways to fast. Why not fast from criticism, gossip, judging others, or passing on rumours? Why not abstain from unwarranted fear and anxiety? You can also tell that inner voice inside your head that criticizes you to abstain from eroding your ability to be the confident, blessed person God calls you to be. These are beautiful ways to observe the Lenten call to fasting and abstinence.

Give of Yourself

Daily life also offers countless opportunities to give of yourself to others (alms), and most don't involve dipping into your wallet. Give encouragement to the doubting, give a word of praise to the insecure, show kindness to someone who could use a friend, and offer a word of thanks to those whose service to others often goes unappreciated. Give the gift of your attention to someone who simply wants to be noticed. Don't be stingy with your smiles - give them freely to everyone you meet. And most importantly, give your love to those close to you. Hug them, hold them, and tell them what they mean to you. In this way you open your heart to God and others.

So no matter how busy your are in life, with some greater awareness and new perspectives you can consciously pray, fast, and give of yourself this Lent - and you will be ready to celebrate when a joyful dawn breaks upon you on Easter morning.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,203.10
CAFOD £ 567.46
The Retiring Collection next week is the for Lenten Alms Collection, but it will be open all through Lent.

FOOD BANK

Next weekend 29/30th March and the following weekend 5/6th April there will be a collection for the Food Bank in all our Churches. If you would like to donate, please bring non perishable food and leave in the porches. Thank you

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Please collect the new sets of Offertory Envelopes for the year commencing 6th April 2014 which will be available after Masses at each church on Saturdays 22nd and 29th March and Sundays 23rd and 30th March.

The Gift Aid Envelopes will have names and addresses on the boxes.

SICK

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

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Community through Baptism to: Coco Angel Walton-Hilton, Fletcher Gary Collis.

RECENTLY DECEASED

John Harold Dyer, Philip Maloney, Theresa Heavey
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

NORTH WEST THIRTY-SOMETHINGS

Are you in your 30s? Would you like to meet other Catholics your age? We are a group who share the same faith and interests. Recent events have included art galleries, meals, theatre, city tours. Our next event is on Saturday 12th April, meeting outside Manchester Town Hall for lunch, then Manchester Art Gallery and concluding with Mass at the Hidden Gem. We welcome new members. Just come along or, if you would like to receive our newsletter of future events, contact Fr. Hugh on hugh@p2030onmicrosoft.com or Sarah on sarahheaton@uwclub.net

GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (aged 15 to 25 years)

We now have a Guide "Senior Section" unit in Leigh who meet at Twelve Apostles Community Centre. For more information ring either Lesley on 01942 887709 or Cheryl on 07719 357069.

OVER 60's TEA PARTY

Over 60's Easter Tea Party at
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

On Wednesday 9th April 2014
1.30pm – 3.00pm

Phone 01942 674226 to reserve a place.



St Joseph's Players Present

"SAILOR BEWARE"

A Comedy

By Philip King and Falkland Cary
Produced by June Lee

From Tuesday 8th April to Saturday 12th April
Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets £8 Adults 16yrs & under £4
Advance Tickets Ratcliffe's Bike Shop
Bradshawgate, Leigh.
or Pay on the Door on the Night
Bar.

SPRING MARKET POSTPONEMENT!

Sunday 23rd March

Twelve Apostles Club
11.00am to 4.00pm

entry only 50p for adults (children free)
stalls £10 pre-booked (£15 on the day if space)
to book a stall ring 01942 887709 or 07719357069
or see Lesley Garvey

It has become necessary to delay this event until Friday, 9th May. Sorry to everyone and special apologies to all who have been inconvenienced.

Cushion Concert!

(Bring your own Cushion)

Sunday 30th March, 7.30pm

St Joseph's Church

Mather Lane, Leigh

Band Concert

comprising of local brass musicians from
The Halle, Liverpool Philharmonic and
Local Brass Bands

Admission Free

(Donation if desired to the upkeep of St Joseph's church)



The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present

The Merry Widow

Tuesday 13th – Saturday 17th May 2014 7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £11 & £13 Concessions available

Contact 01942 883722

www.threetowns.net

Intrigue, glamour and romance, set to Franz
Lehar's enchanting Viennese music.

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 22 March

12A 5.30pm MASS Charles Fairclough

Sun 23 March

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Edna Massey

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Sarah Rafferty & Family

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 24 March

Monday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE John Harold Dyer

Tue 25 March

SOLEMNITY: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 8.30am MASS in School all welcome

SH 12.00noon MASS Frank & Cecilia Grogan (Diamond Wedding)

StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Philip Maloney

Wed 26 March

Wednesday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Theresa Heavey

SH 7.00pm MASS Joseph & Patricia McCaul

Thu 27 March

Thursday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS Special Intention

SH 12.00noon MASS Betty Brookes

SH 12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Fri 28 March

Friday of Week 3 Lent

SH 7.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Liz Cassidy LD

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 29 March

Saturday of Week 3 Lent

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS Steven Naylor

Sun 30 March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Andrea Southern

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Frank Griffin LD

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 14 March the numbers drawn were 8, 17, 19. No winner of £666. Last week's estimated jackpot was £750.

Our Lady's 200 Club £10 No. 116 C. Ellis, £5 No. 420 M. & D. Flannery, £3 No. 493 J. Waterfield, £2 No. 481 M. Sweeney.

Bonus Ball No. 8 A. Simpson

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. Kieran O'Grady

Tel: 01942 673517

Email: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

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