

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

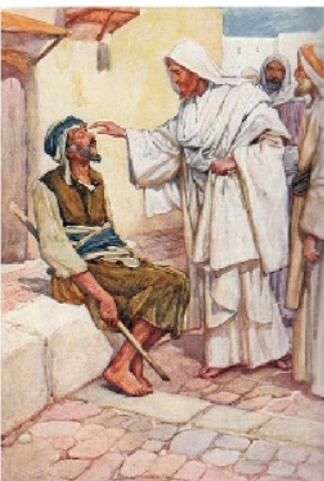
30 MARCH 2014



**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

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we have a good example of God's choice to do something, a choice which confuses the religious leaders of the day. The Gospel tells how a blind man comes to see the light in Jesus, both physically and spiritually. When Jesus' disciples first see the blind man they presume that his affliction is a result of sin. But Jesus sees something else in the blind man. This roadside beggar who has always inhabited a world of darkness will be the one to display the work of God and to point to who Jesus really is. When Jesus heals the blind man he returns home a new man. His surprised neighbours check their memory and some refuse to believe their eyes. They are unwilling to let this new event interfere with their fast memories – in spite of the man's protest: "I am the man." He doesn't claim any special knowledge of the one who cured him but identifies him simply as "The man called Jesus".

The Pharisees have their seminar too and are doubtful that, given who Jesus is, he could produce such a sign. Unlike the healed man, the Pharisees are sure who Jesus is. But as they grow more blind, the former blind man grows in insight and now identifies Jesus as a prophet. This is not a welcome development, and the man's parents are hauled in as prospective allies in the case against Jesus. They state that their son is old enough to speak for himself. And speak for himself he does! He refuses to deny his own experience: "I only know I was blind and now I can see." He soon realizes that he will be listened to only when his testimony confirms the prejudice of his interrogators. But, rather than frighten him, this knowledge frees him to develop his evaluation of Jesus as a man of God. He does this so well that he annoys his listeners who refuse to be enlightened by someone who, until recently, was living on the streets. They drive him away, but Jesus seeks him out and reveals himself to him. Now the rejected man is the only one in the community who sees Jesus as he really is, the Son of God.

Both the story of the blind man in the Gospel and the story of David in today's First Reading speak to us about the choice of God. Because God sees the heart he chooses in a different way than we would. Both David and the blind man are remembered because they point beyond themselves and the lives they are living to the reality of God's plan for them. We honour David as the one who points ultimately to the Son of David, Jesus. We remember the man born blind as the one who points to the Son of Man, the light of the world. God calls us to display his works in our lives today. He challenges us to allow his light to shine through us into the lives and hearts of other people. In our baptism we have been chosen to point to Jesus by the quality of our discipleship today. To many people, including ourselves, we may seem an unlikely choice. But our greatness lies in the fact that we have been chosen. We did not choose him, necessarily – he chose us!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Boon & Campbell Families, Julie Booth, Marion Corner, Barbara & Kevin Kinney, Edna Massey, Sr Anne, John Topping, Alice Wilkinson, Special intention & Thanksgiving Our Lord & Our Lady, Special Intention Thanksgiving Louis, Angiola, Carlo & Annitta Manfredi, Special Intention.

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 (not this week).

EARLY MORNING MASS

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

CONFESSATHON

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

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm at Holy Family, Boothstown

MISSION BOXES St Joseph's Red Mission Boxes

Will Collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday 14th April.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** candle that burns this week in Sacred Heart church was gifted in memory of Ronald Cain. 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.

CHURCH CLEANING - OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Next Tuesday, 1st April, we will be cleaning our church. Please come along if you wish to help at 10.00am. Tea and biscuits will be served. Many hands make light work!

EASTER LILIES

If you wish to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, paper and envelopes are at the back of church. It is £1.50 per lily and they will be placed on the altar for Easter.

SACRED HEART LITTLE SHOP

Easter cards are now available in the shop. We also have a selection of cards and small gifts for First Communion and confirmation. The shop is open before and after Sunday Mass and can be found on the right aisle, next to the confessional.



Twelve Apostles Walsingham Pilgrimage from Easter Monday 21st April until Thursday 24th.

The cost is £165 for adults can you please pay the balance to Laurence Hawkins, Therese Thompson or Jane Lovett as soon as possible

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

Tickets are on sale (50p/strip) for our Annual Easter Egg Raffle. All donations gratefully receive. HCPT quiz raised the fantastic amount of £350 many thanks A date for you diary HCPT fundraising concert Friday 16th May.



Pope Francis@pontifex

Mar 27

Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully.

Mar 25

We cannot be tepid disciples. The Church needs our courage in order to give witness to truth.

Mar 24

Jesus is never far from us sinners. He wants to pour out on us, without limit, all of his mercy.

Mar 22

Jesus is our hope. Nothing – not even evil or death – is able to separate us from the saving power of his love.

Mar 21

Sickness and death are not taboo subjects. They are realities that we must face in Jesus' presence.

REFLECTIONS ON MOTHERHOOD

"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness." - Honoré de Balzac

"Before becoming a mother I had a hundred theories on how to bring up children. Now I have seven children and only one theory: love them, especially when they least deserves to be loved." - Kate Samperi

"Making a decision to have a child -- it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body." - Elizabeth Stone

"Motherhood brings as much joy as ever, but it still brings boredom, exhaustion, and sorrow too. Nothing else ever will make you as happy or as sad, as proud or as tired, for nothing is quite as hard as helping a person develop his own individuality especially while you struggle to keep your own."- Marguerite Kelly and Elia Parsons

"A mother understands what a child does not say." - Jewish Proverb

"The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother, and to become fully independent." - Erich Fromm

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take." - Cardinal Mermillod

"Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother." - Lin Yü-tang

"Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see." - Pope Paul VI

"Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers, and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world." -

Kate Douglas Wiggin



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,442.59
Total for CAFOD £1,060.92

The Retiring Collection this week is for the Lenten Alms collection, which will be open all through Lent.

FOOD BANK

This weekend 29/30th March and next 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 Saturday 29th March and Sunday 30th March.

The Gift Aid envelopes have names and addresses on the boxes.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Scott Andrew Riley & Stephanie Veronica Yates, who were married at St Joseph's Church last Saturday.

SICK

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

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community though Baptism to:
Charlie Miles Perry & Arthur George McGee

RECENTLY DECEASED

Irma McGuire
Eternal rest grant unto her...

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



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.

Cushion Concert!

(Bring your own cushion)

Sunday 30th March, 7.30pm

St Joseph's Church

Mather Lane, Leigh

Band Concert

The event is a brass band concert with a difference inasmuch as the group is comprised largely of professional brass musicians playing with orchestras. There are also some local brass band players involved and all reside in the Leigh area. The group only get together occasionally.

This is a free concert, the instrumentalists are playing purely for pleasure.

The group last played together in December when they were joined for the evening by John Suchet, the Classic FM presenter, who played trombone with the group.

The Concert will consist of a traditional brass band programme and will be featuring a number of solos by stellar players from the brass band and orchestral world.

The concert will end at 9.30.

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.thethreetowns.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 29 March

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

Mon 31 March

Monday of Week 4 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS

Tue 1 April

Tuesday of Week 4 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Joseph & Patricia McCaul

Wed 2 April

Wednesday of Week 4 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS
12A 1.30pm FUNERAL MASS Irma McGuire
SH 7.00pm MASS Alf Case

Thu 3 April

Thursday of Week 4 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH **NO MASSES TODAY**
NO Stations of the Cross this week

Fri 4 April

Friday of Week 4 Lent

SH 7.30am MASS Special Intention
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00am MASS Successful Operation
StJ 12.00noon MASS
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Sat 5 April

Saturday of Week 4 Lent

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
SH 12.00noon MASS Manfredi family decd. members
12A 5.30pm MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 6 April

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS
SH 9.30am MASS Teresa Cooney
StJ 10.30am MASS
OL 11.00am MASS Edward Keegan
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 21 March the numbers drawn were 9, 10, 20. No winner of £758. Last week's estimated jackpot was £850.

Our Lady's 200 Club £50 174 B Edwards, £10 319 K Grimshaw, £5 400 A Sharkie, 33 120 J Riley, £2 020 J Evans
Bonus Ball No. 40 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. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

