

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

6 APRIL 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

## Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
who ever believes in me will never die.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Everybody needs friends, even Jesus. In the village of Bethany, Jesus had three very close friends – the sisters, Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus. Their house remained open to him when many other houses were being closed in his face. When Lazarus became very ill, it was only natural that the first person the sisters turned to for help was Jesus. They sent an urgent message to him, couched in language calculated to appeal to his heart. It said simply, “Lord, the man you love is ill.” Their hope was that he would drop everything and go to Bethany to cure him. But surprisingly, Jesus did not set off for Bethany straight away to see his dying friend. Instead, he stayed where he was for a few more days. We don’t know why. His delay in arriving must have been heart-breaking for the two sisters. Right in front of their eyes, their brother’s life was ebbing away - and the one they believed could do something to help wasn’t there. As we know from the story, Lazarus died. The Gospel shows the desolation his death caused to Martha and Mary. Of the two, Mary seems to have been the worst affected - she wouldn’t even leave the house. While they had sympathetic people around them, the one they most wanted to be with them was not there. Jesus, their friend and the friend of Lazarus, was absent. And when he finally arrived, they suggested that he could have prevented Lazarus’ death: “Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died.”

The desolation experienced by Martha and Mary is one many of us have experienced. And when something bad happens to us or to a loved one, we can’t help thinking that if God really cared about us, if he really loved us, then he wouldn’t allow these things to happen. We feel a sense of abandonment by God. We feel he has left us alone. So what can we do? We can ask ourselves who are we most like in today’s Gospel story - Mary or Martha? We must try to imitate Martha. In her moment of grief, she ran to the Lord and poured out her sorrow to him. And when he challenged her to believe, she made a wonderful profession of faith: “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world.” What we have to do is turn to God, just like Martha did. We have to persevere in prayer and go on believing. A good life and a close relationship with God will not necessarily protect us from tragedy. In the face of our pain and suffering, all we can do is commend ourselves to God and abandon ourselves to his loving care. When we suffer, it can feel as though God has abandoned us. But God is present in our suffering. He is our hope in the face of adversity, and our strength in weakness. The story of Lazarus shows Jesus as a faithful friend. It shows that, even in death, we are not beyond the reach of his help. He didn’t leave Martha and Mary to grieve alone. He came to them at the height of their grief, he shared their sorrow, and gave them hope by announcing eternal life to those who believe in him. Jesus understood the anguish and pain caused by death and suffering. He experienced it himself. He overcame death, not by avoiding it, but by undergoing it and overcoming it. As we approach Easter, let us allow the Lazarus story to bring us hope, restore our faith and walk in the light of the resurrection.

**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**  
[www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk](http://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

Raymond Buck, Sarah Byrne, Vernon Byrne, Robert Farrimond, Lily Farrimond, Geoff Prescott, Margaret Tye.

**Easter Cards** are available from the card rack in St Joseph's church.

### CUSHION CONCERT

Thank you to the wonderful musicians who came to play at St Joseph's last Sunday. They gave their services free of charge and raised £164.70 towards the parish funds. Thank you also to those who came and supported them.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The last Sacramental Preparation Meeting for parent and children from St Joseph's School will be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, either in school 2.30 - 3.30 or in the presbytery 6.00 - 7.00.

### ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. The meeting is open to all parishioners and if you are unable to attend but have any queries or suggestions regarding the church community, you could contact the Parish Office and these would be discussed at the meeting.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers Prayers will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm St. Josephs. All mothers and grandmothers very welcome.

### COFFEE MORNING

Tea and Coffee will be served after Mass today (6<sup>th</sup> April) at Our Lady of the Rosary. Everyone welcome.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Many thanks to those who came to clean Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Tuesday.

### 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 Thursday at Sacred Heart church.

### EARLY MORNING MASS

For the last time, this Friday during Lent, at 7.30am there will be Mass at Sacred Heart church.

### SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at Holy Family, Boothstown

The **Sanctuary Lamp** candle that burns this week in Sacred Heart church was gifted in memory of the Maguire family. 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.

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> April until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>.

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. The draw will take place on Wednesday in the Lounge. A date for you diary HCPT fundraising concert Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May featuring the 'retronotes' an old fashioned Ukulele and Banjo Band. Tickets on Sale shortly. Twelve Apostles Morris dancers are holding a Family bingo and quiz night on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April At 7pm everyone welcome. Spring Craft Fair on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May a fundraiser for the Guides.



Pope Francis@pontifex

Apr 3

May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act.

Apr 1

Dear parents, teach your children to pray. Pray with them.

Mar 31

Lent is a time to change direction, to respond to the reality of evil and poverty.

Mar 29

We live in a society that leaves no room for God; day by day this numbs our hearts.

Mar 28

We all need to improve, to change for the better. Lent helps us fight against our faults.

### HOLY LAND EASTER CARDS

To encourage our suffering Christian sisters and brothers, you are invited to bring a small Easter card to church next weekend. You may write a greeting in your own small, religious, Easter card. There is no need to address the envelope or to buy the right stamp. Small cash contributions towards Air Mail postage are most welcome (20 grams costs £1.28).

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS FROM CAFOD

**Today's reading:** John 7:40-52

*"Some of the crowd who had been listening said, 'He is indeed the prophet,' and some said, 'He is the Christ,' but others said, 'Would the Christ come from Galilee?'"*

**Reflection:** Some people in the crowd write Jesus off, just because of where he was from. But as it turned out the Christ could and did come from Galilee.

No matter where we come from we can make a difference. The stories that we hear from around the world bear this out: from communities standing up for their right to decent housing in Brazil and families in Sierra Leone transforming diamond mines into farmland, to parishioners in Poole who have organised weekly hunger lunches for over thirty years.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £2,740.03

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

The Retiring Collection next week is on behalf of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

### FOOD BANK

This weekend 5/6<sup>th</sup> 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

### HOLY WEEK

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Mass of the Lord's Supper St Joseph's Church 7.30pm

#### **Good Friday**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper St Joseph's Church 3.00pm

#### **Holy Saturday**

Easter Vigil Twelve Apostles Church 7.30pm

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Harold Worthington, Thomas Wilfred Pilkington, Francis Geoffrey Prescott.

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hugh@p2030onmicrosoft.com) or Sarah on [sarahheaton@uwclub.net](mailto:sarahheaton@uwclub.net)



**Pope Francis has appointed the Right Reverend Malcolm McMahon, Bishop of Nottingham, to be the ninth Archbishop of Liverpool.**

Archbishop-Elect McMahon's Mass of Installation as Archbishop of Liverpool will be celebrated at 12.00 noon on Thursday 1 May 2014, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool.

Speaking at a press conference in the Metropolitan Cathedral Archbishop-Elect McMahon said:

'I am honoured and humbled to have been appointed by our Holy Father Pope Francis as Archbishop of Liverpool. I promise to do my best to repay the trust that he has placed in me, and which the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Liverpool are being asked to put in me from today.

'I would like to thank Archbishop Patrick Kelly for his many years of service in this Archdiocese, and Bishop Tom Wil-

liams, who has been Apostolic Administrator since Archbishop Kelly's retirement last year.

## St Joseph's Players Present "SAILOR BEWARE"

A Comedy

By Philip King and Falkland Cary

Produced by June Lee

**From Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present

## The Merry Widow

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
7.30pm

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

Tickets: £11 & £13 Concessions available

Contact 01942 883722

[www.thethreetowns.net](http://www.thethreetowns.net)



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



### OVER 60's TEA PARTY

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

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014

1.30pm – 3.00pm

Phone 01942 674226 to reserve a place.

### The Choir of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

I am delighted to announce that the Choir of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral will be coming to perform a concert for Leigh Pastoral Area.

**The concert will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.00pm in Holy Family, Boothstown.**

The choir is among the best in the country and has an international reputation, so it is a real treat that they are able to come and perform for us. Tickets and programme details will be available shortly. The concert will include a break for cheese and wine and will conclude by 9.15pm. Meanwhile, please put the date in your diary! *Fr Dave*

## 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 5 April

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

### Mon 7 April

#### Monday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Tue 8 April

#### Tuesday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Thomas Wilfred Pilkington

### Wed 9 April

#### Wednesday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Thanksgiving OL & OL

### Thu 10 April

#### Thursday of Week 5 Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am Special intention (CC)

SH 12.00noon MASS Mary Eckersley/Sheila Leigh

SH 12.30pm Stations of the Cross

### Fri 11 April

#### Friday of Week 5 Lent

SH 7.30am MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am NO MASS TODAY

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

### Sat 12 April

#### Saturday of Week 5 Lent

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS Special intention (CR)

12A 5.30pm MASS Irma McGuire (LD)

### Sun 13 April

#### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Mrs Kitty Gallagher

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Terry Jones

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 28 March the numbers drawn were 3, 6, 8. No winner of £852. Last week's estimated jackpot was £940.

**Our Lady's 200 Club** £10 No. 089 Jessica Flannery, £5 No. 345 Mrs M Moore, £3 No. 293 Kate Grimshaw, £2 No 304 Jessica Flannery

**Bonus Ball** No. 29 S Holt

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk)

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: [frdave@virginmedia.com](mailto:frdave@virginmedia.com)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

