

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) 27 APRIL 2014



Responsorial Psalm

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Christy Brown, the famous Dublin writer, died in 1981. One day, long before he became famous, he saw a picture of the English novelist, Margaret Foster, on the dust cover of one of her books, and immediately fell in love with her. He wrote her a letter that brimmed with charm and wit. She replied, and thus began a warm friendship. Christy was very anxious to see her. However, when she learned that he was severely disabled, she declined, mainly because, from the kind of letters he wrote, she had formed a beautiful image of him in her mind and was simply afraid of her reaction when and if she did meet him. However, they did eventually meet. By this time Christy was a well-known writer himself. Of course, the romance that Christy hoped for never bloomed and the friendship gradually ended. Christy could only move the toe of his left foot. With this he somehow learned to type. It was with this toe that he wrote those charming letters and his books. His greatness lay in the fact that, despite his disability, he still managed to write and had a wonderful creative mind. But Margaret was unable to see this. All she could see, very sadly, was a twisted body.

The death of Jesus had a similar effect on the disciples. They had come to believe, or at least hope, that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. But they had an idealized picture of the Messiah in their minds. They pictured him as a triumphant conqueror and a great leader. The idea of a suffering and crucified Messiah was a million miles from their minds. So, when Jesus was killed, all their hopes were shattered. Thomas was perhaps the worst affected. But when Thomas touched the wounds of Jesus, the true greatness of Jesus dawned on him. His doubts vanished and his faith was re-born. He came to realize that this was how Jesus proved his love for them. He didn't just talk about love. He gave an example of it by dying on the cross and he had the wounds to prove it.

Many of us probably have an idealized picture of Jesus too. If we met the real Jesus, especially the Jesus of the Passion, we might not recognize him. We might not even want to know him. And yet, just as the greatness of Christy Brown lay in the fact that he overcame his very severe disabilities to become a great writer, so the greatness of Jesus lay in the fact that, despite being bruised, beaten, and broken in body, he still went on loving. It is here that his true greatness shines out. It was this that proved his great love for us. And it was in this way that he entered into glory with God the Father. In doing this, he shows us the way to real greatness.

**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

Raymond Buck, Bob Dowling, Margaret Fleming, Isabelle Phillips, John & Theresa Ryder, Albert Joseph Sankey, Eddie Trumble, Mary Tyrer, Private Intention

CHARITY EVENT

In August of this year one of our young parishioners will be going to Peru to take part in a community project. He will be going with Greater Manchester West Scouts and during the course of the three week visit he will be helping to construct water irrigation channels for a small village in the Andes. In order to take part in this expedition, Lewis needs to raise a £3,000 contribution towards the cost of the trip. In May he will be doing a sponsored climb of the national three peaks of Britain. If you would consider sponsoring him to complete this challenge he will be at the back of church with his sponsor form this Sunday. Also today, Sunday 27th he will be holding a cake sale to raise funds for the trip.

GARDENING DAY

Gardening Days have been arranged for Saturday 10th May and Saturday 7th June 2014. There is much tidying up to do in the grounds around St Joseph's followed later by planting of summer bedding. Do please try to come along at 10.00am and donate a couple of hours general help and if you can bring your own gardening tools so much the better. Many hands make light work!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The final session for the children who are making their First Communion and being Confirmed is :-

- Twelve Apostles Wednesday 14th May 4.30pm
- Sacred Heart/Our Lady's Thursday 15th May 4.30pm

The theme is Mary the Disciple.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY EASTER DRAW

Our Easter Draw made £200 and there are still unclaimed prizes: the list is in the porch at the back of church. (519, 960, 29, 266, 761) not claimed. There are also many cards on sale at the back of church, including First Communion cards.

TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

HCPT fundraising Concert on Friday 16th May featuring 'Retronotes' an old fashioned Banjo and Eukele Band from 7.30pm. Spring Craft Fair on Friday 9th May from 5pm a fundraiser for the Guides.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex

Apr 24

A simple lifestyle is good for us, helping us to better share with those in need.

Apr 21

Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy which only God can give.

Apr 20

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Apr 19

Please join me in praying for the victims of the ferry disaster in Korea and their families

Apr 18

It is not easy to follow Jesus closely, because the path he chooses is the way of the Cross.

Easter Message of Pope Francis 'Urbi et Orbi'

Dear Brothers and Sisters, a Happy and Holy Easter!

The Church throughout the world echoes the angel's message to the women: "Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised... Come, see the place where he lay" (Mt 28:5-6).

This is the culmination of the Gospel, it is the Good News *par excellence*: Jesus, who was crucified, is risen! This event is the basis of our faith and our hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning; the whole mission of the Church would lose its impulse, for this is the point from which it first set out and continues to set out ever anew. The message which Christians bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for our sins, but God the Father raised him and made him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

That is why we tell everyone: "Come and see!"

In every human situation, marked by frailty, sin and death, the Good News is no mere matter of words, but a testimony to unconditional and faithful love: it is about leaving ourselves behind and encountering others, being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast... "Come and see!": Love is more powerful, love gives life, love makes hope blossom in the wilderness.

With this joyful certainty in our hearts, today we turn to you, risen Lord!

Help us to seek you and to find you, to realize that we have a Father and are not orphans; that we can love and adore you.

Help us to overcome the scourge of hunger, aggravated by conflicts and by the immense wastefulness for which we are often responsible.

Enable us to protect the vulnerable, especially children, women and the elderly, who are at times exploited and abandoned.

Enable us to care for our brothers and sisters struck by the Ebola epidemic in Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and to care for those suffering from so many other diseases which are also spread through neglect and dire poverty.

Comfort all those who cannot celebrate this Easter with their loved ones because they have been unjustly torn from their affections, like the many persons, priests and laity, who in various parts of the world have been kidnapped.

Comfort those who have left their own lands to migrate to places offering hope for a better future and the possibility of living their lives in dignity and, not infrequently, of freely professing their faith.

We ask you, Lord Jesus, to put an end to all war and every conflict, whether great or small, ancient or recent.

We pray in a particular way for Syria, beloved Syria, that all those suffering the effects of the conflict can receive needed humanitarian aid and that neither side will again use deadly force, especially against the defenceless civil population, but instead boldly negotiate the peace long awaited and long overdue!

Jesus, Lord of glory, we ask you to comfort the victims of fratricidal acts of violence in Iraq and to sustain the hopes raised by the resumption of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians.

We beg for an end to the conflicts in the Central African Republic and a halt to the brutal terrorist attacks in parts of Nigeria and the acts of violence in South Sudan.

We ask that hearts be turned to reconciliation and fraternal concord in Venezuela.

By your resurrection, which this year we celebrate together with the Churches that follow the Julian calendar, we ask you to enlighten and inspire the initiatives that promote peace in Ukraine so that all those involved, with the support of the international community, will make every effort to prevent violence and, in a spirit of unity and dialogue, chart a path for the country's future. On this day, may they be able to proclaim, as brothers and sisters, that Christ is risen, *Khrystos voskres!*

Lord, we pray to you for all the peoples of the earth: you who have conquered death, grant us your life, grant us your peace!

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,520.33
Holy Places £ 517.30

HELP

A wardrobe and a chest of drawers are needed for a family in need.

Please ring Sr Megan if you can help on 01942 683554.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Pat Wood, Brian Vincent Wroe
Eternal rest give unto them

SICK

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

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 17th 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. The concert will include a break for cheese and wine and will conclude by 9.15pm. Tickets (Adults £5, Family £10) will be available after all Masses next weekend, or from Holy Family (0161 790 2390) and St Joseph's (01942 673517) from Wednesday this week.

Fr Dave

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.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the Triduum and Easter celebration.

There is a lot of hard work goes into preparing the churches and the services so thank you to cleaners, flower ladies, sacristans, readers, musicians, altar servers, deacons and yourselves for taking part and for your support throughout the year.

God bless & Happy Easter

Fr Kieran



At Cineworld LEIGH 9.00am - 11.00am

The historic canonisation of two beloved Popes, broadcast live in 3D from St. Peter's Square. Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27 sees an unprecedented event in the history of the Catholic Church. In a ceremony that is expected to attract five million pilgrims to Rome, Pope Francis will canonise two of his predecessors as Saints. This extraordinary occasion will see four Popes - John XXIII, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis - symbolically united in St. Peter's Square. Thanks to the Vatican Television Centre in collaboration with Sky, many millions more are now able to take part in this momentous liturgical celebration. Thirteen carefully positioned HD cameras will be utilised to give unique vantage points around the Square. To bring cinema goers even closer to the event, it is being broadcast live in fully immersive 3D. As a result, Pope Francis will become the first pontiff ever to be seen globally in 3D.

Also at home on Sky Arts 2 (SD/HD) & Sky 3D channels from 8.30am - 12.15pm for those with subscriptions.

NEW PARISH MEMBERS

Congratulations and a warm welcome to our parish and the Catholic Church are offered to Janine Wright and her children Courtney Ann and Leon James who were baptized at the Easter Vigil. At the same time Ryan Fowler was baptized and Carrie Lois Little, whose brother George and father Matthew were both received into the Catholic Church as was Linda Hodson. The four adults were also confirmed and received first Holy Communion. Please pray for them and make them welcome in any of our churches. The RCIA programme begins afresh in September: Easter will be two weeks earlier in 2015. If you or anyone you know have an interest in joining the Church or just finding out more about Christianity and Catholicism please leave names and contact details with any of the clergy or at the parish office.

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 26 April

12A 5.30pm MASS May Fairclough (Get well)

Sun 27 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Special intention

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Ester Hough

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 28 April

SOLEMNITY (transferred): ST. GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND, M. (3rd/4th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Pat Wood

Tue 29 April

FEAST: ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Tert OP., V.D. (14th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Kitty Gallagher LD

Wed 30 April

Weekday of Easter (Week 2)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS Joe Curran

Thu 1 May

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

NO MASSES. The new Archbishop of Liverpool is to be installed today. Some of our allocated (free) tickets are still available but they will be returned to Liverpool on Monday unless claimed (from any of our priests) no later than Sunday 27th April..

Fri 2 May

Memorial: ST. ATHANASIUS, B.D. (3rd/4th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

(OL) 10.00am MASS at Moss Bank Court Special Intention

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 3 May

FEAST: ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher

12A 5.30pm MASS Irma McGuire LD

Sun 4 May

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 19 April the numbers drawn were 3, 5, 9. **One Lucky Winner of £1,244!** Last week's estimated jackpot was £70.

Our Lady's 200 Club £10 058 Mrs J Newill, £5 125 Mr J Evans, £3 468 Mrs E West, £2 495 Mrs B Ryan

Bonus Ball No. 11 B Hancock

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40, 18, Margaret Frain; £15, 197, A Parry; £5, 51, M Gredecki; £5, 46, B McDermott.

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

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

