

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

11 MAY 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my own sheep and my own know me.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In Jesus' day a shepherd would sometimes risk his life for his flock, lying down at night across the entrance to the sheepfold and making himself into a human shield that would protect the sheep from any harm. In this Easter season our Risen Shepherd carries on his body the marks of the sufferings he endured to protect us, his flock. The wounds in his hands and feet and side tell us that he has walked through "the valley of darkness" before us, and has done so on our behalf. "He was wearing our faults in his own body on the cross", says St. Peter in today's Second Reading, "Through his wounds we have been healed." No single image can possibly convey all that Jesus means to us. As the First Reading makes clear, this Good Shepherd of ours who was crucified is Lord and Christ: he is the long-awaited Messiah. He is God in our midst. He is not only our shepherd, says the Gospel, but the gateway that leads to life in all its fullness.

"Listening" is a popular word in John's Gospel. It appears more than fifty times. Today's Gospel Reading very appropriately draws our attention to the way in which sheep listen for the voice of the shepherd. When they hear it, they are ready to respond. Arriving at a pen where several flocks were gathered for the night, a shepherd would call his own sheep and, recognizing his voice, they would follow him.

We live in a world of many voices, where it's so easy to hear and be led astray by what the Gospel calls "the voice of strangers" – the powerful voices of the media, newspapers, politicians, celebrities, peer groups, even when they promote ideas and aspirations that are very contrary to those of the Good Shepherd.

Today we are invited once again to listen carefully for the voice of OUR Good Shepherd: on the one hand, not allowing it to be drowned out by other voices; on the other, recognizing that it is to be heard in many, and even in some unlikely, situations. Clearly it is heard here in Church, but it's also heard when we read the Bible prayerfully on our own; it's heard in the secret sanctuary of our own conscience, directing us towards what is good and away from what is evil; it's heard when we are alert to it speaking to us through the events of our daily lives. It's a voice that always speaks truth, a voice that always speaks with love, a voice that is always concerned with our best interests. It is the voice of the Good Shepherd whose supreme desire for us is that we should "have life and have it to the full."

**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

Alf Case, Brian Crawley, Thomas Farrington, Brian Vincent, Mary Bernadette Walsh.

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to : Tommy Christopher Whitworth, Kaytlin Ann Greenhalgh, Molly Isabella Ellis, Jack Matthew Floyd.

### WOMEN'S SODALITY

The next meeting for the Women's Sodality will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

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

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

The theme is Mary the Disciple.

### OUR LADY'S RAFFLE

There are still unclaimed prizes from the Easter Raffle: 519, 960, 29, 266, 761.

### TWELVE APOSTLES CLUB

There are still a few unclaimed Easter Egg raffle prizes, check your tickets, last chance prizes can be claimed. Tickets are on sale after Mass for ours 'Retronotes' charity concert for HCPT next Friday 16<sup>th</sup> £5 or pay on the door, please support this fabulous charity who take special children to Lourdes every Easter. Tickets are also available from John and Therese Thompson Tel 01942253507



Pope Francis<sup>1</sup>@Pontifex

May 8

In our families we learn to love and to recognise the dignity of all, especially of the elderly.

May 6

A society which abandons children and the elderly severs its roots and darkens its future.

May 5

What does "evangelise" mean? To give witness with joy and simplicity to what we are and what we believe in.

May 3

Do not be afraid! Open the doors to Christ!

May 2

No one is more patient than God the Father; no one understands and knows how to wait as much as he does.

May 1

I ask everyone with political responsibility to remember two things: human dignity and the common good.

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

At Sacred Heart church, at Christmas 2011 we offered the eight day sanctuary lamps candles for sale and they were labelled with the family intentions of the donors and burned during the Christmas week. In 2012 we tried to do the same but it was not possible to safely supervise them nor to relight and extinguish them between all services. Almost everyone consented to having the part-used candles burnt in the safety of the sanctuary lamps and the names on the dedicated candles were published each week. We have now almost exhausted the supply and it is proposed to offer the candles for sale again, but limited to fifty only. If you would like to

dedicate a candle to deceased loved ones, please write their name on an envelope and enclose the payment of £5. A list will be displayed of names and the date the candle is scheduled to be lit (in order of receipt).

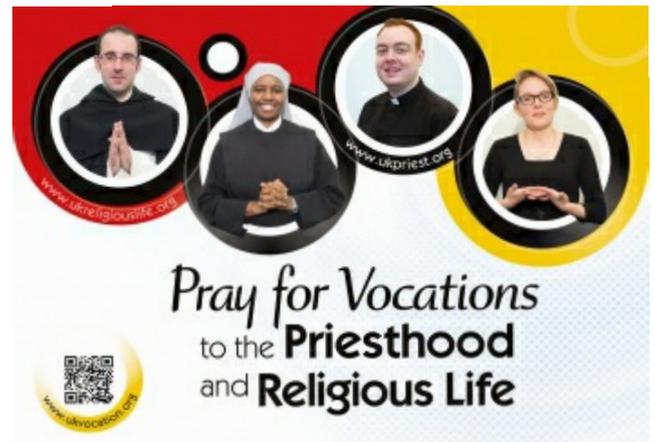
### RCIA REUNION

On Wednesday evening this week, 7.30pm at Sacred Heart church the RCIA group will be reconvening to share their experiences as new Catholics since Easter Day. We would very much welcome any group members from past years who are able to come. Please bring your problems and we will all look for solutions together.

### LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE ASSOCIATION

The Pilgrimage takes place from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August. While it may not be possible for you to join us, you can join us in spirit by becoming an Associate member of the Pilgrimage. All that is asked is that you recite the prayers on the leaflet (to be found in church porches) during the Pilgrimage. If you are able, we would also be very grateful for any contribution you can make to the Sick Fund, which goes to provide the many things necessary to make our sick pilgrims' journey and stay in Lourdes as comfortable as possible. Without your help and prayers, many of our sick pilgrims would not be able to travel to Lourdes.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Who are the happiest people in Britain? Millionaires? Rock stars? Artists? A government survey published in March asked people in a wide range of jobs and with very different salaries how happy they were. Second in the list on an average salary of over £120,000 were chief executives; but top of the list, earning just 17% of the executives' salary, were clergy. Our clergy are the happiest group in the country.

Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday and all the faithful are invited to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In his message for today, Pope Francis says 'vocation flows from the heart of God.' To respond to the voice of the Good Shepherd is to come close to the heart of God. There is nothing more fulfilling than a life lived close to the heart of God. Filled with the Holy Spirit may we follow Christ in our own lives and pray for those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

The National Office for Vocation have prepared resources to enable each of us to engage with God's call and pray that more will consider a life of prayer and service in the priesthood or religious life. For inspiration visit:

[www.ukvocation.org/vocations-sunday-2014](http://www.ukvocation.org/vocations-sunday-2014)

Liverpool Archdiocese Vocations Director

Fr Stephen Maloney

Email: [frstevemaloney@btinternet.com](mailto:frstevemaloney@btinternet.com)

Telephone: 0151 287 8787

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,758.30

The retiring collection in all churches this weekend is on behalf of the Priests' Training Fund.

### 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.

### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

To Jamie Michael Shepherd & Andrea Maria Sims, who were married at St Joseph's church on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

### 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.

### LATELY DEAD

William McDonough, James Hainey.  
Eternal rest give unto them ...

### LIVERPOOL METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL CHOIR



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 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 programme of music will include: **Worthy is the Lamb** (Handel), **Jesu joy of man's desiring** (Bach), two solos by Jack Topping, **The Lord is my shepherd** (Rutter), **Panis Angelicus** and the **Hallelujah Chorus**. The concert will include a break for cheese and wine and will conclude by 9.15pm.

**Tickets (Adults £5, Family £10) are available from Holy Family (0161 790 2390)**

### "CELEBRATE THE CHILD" MASS

This year's Mass will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's, Lowe House, St Helens at 1.30pm. The Principal Celebrant will be Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. It is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of children and those who nurture them practically and spiritually. So children, parents, catechists and clergy are invited to attend and make this a vibrant celebration in a large beautiful church. Posters with more details will soon be in our church porches or call the Safeguarding Department on 0151-522-1043.

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.

## The Retronotes

At Twelve Apostles  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 7.30

In aid of HCPT  
tickets £5

Tel 01942 253507



**A Northern Music Band with an old fashioned sound, playing their unique selection of music played on Ukulele, Bass Guitar, Mandolin and Six String.**

### Resurrection Light

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us  
**may your dawn beckon.**

When fear paralyses us  
**may your touch release us.**

When grief torments us  
**may your peace enfold us.**

When memories haunt us  
**may your presence heal us.**

When justice fails us  
**may your anger ignite us.**

When apathy stagnates us  
**may your challenge renew us.**

When courage leaves us  
**may your spirit inspire us.**

When despair grips us  
**may your hope restore us.**

And when death threatens us  
**may your resurrection light lead us. Amen.**

*Annabel Shilson-Thomas/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 10 May

12A 5.30pm MASS John Fisher

### Sun 11 May

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

*(World Day of Prayer for Vocations)*

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS John Heneghan

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Mary Moore

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

### Mon 12 May

#### **Weekday of Easter (Week 4)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ **NO MASS**

### Tue 13 May

#### **FEAST: DEDICATION OF LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Mary Green

### Wed 14 May

#### **FEAST: ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE (1<sup>st</sup> c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH NO MASS

### Thu 15 May

#### **Weekday of Easter (Week 4)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A NO MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS Philomena Gaughan

### Fri 16 May

#### **Weekday of Easter (Week 4)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Maureen Beirne

StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Sat 17 May

#### **Weekday of Easter (Week 4)**

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm MASS Irma MaGuire LD

### Sun 18 May

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS McDaid Family

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 2 May the numbers drawn were 19, 24, 27. No winner of £120. Last week's estimated jackpot was £200.

**Our Lady's 200 Club** £10 no. 466 A Wilkinson, £5 No. 190 m Smith, £3 No. 217 m Collins, £2 No. 373 A Green

**Bonus Ball** No. 28 M Smith

### 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)

