

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

18 MAY 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

There are times in the lives of all believers when things get very dark, and they have to believe what they cannot prove, and to accept everything even though they cannot understand or make sense of what is happening. It's at such times that we really need strong faith. It's easy to think that we have strong faith when everything is going well. But when a crisis arrives we discover what kind of faith we really do have, or even if we have any real faith at all. By faith we mean trust in God. Of course, there are thousands of people around the world who think that if God was with them all the time, and if he really loved them, then no storm or difficulty would ever hit them. Life would be plain sailing. So, when a storm does hit them in some way, they experience a deep crisis of faith and think that God has abandoned them.

During the Last Supper the apostles were thrown into crisis when Jesus started to talk about his death. On hearing this, their hearts were troubled and filled with fear. Knowing that their faith would be severely tested, Jesus tried to prepare them for the ordeal. He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, and believe also in me." Since the apostles already believed, in effect Jesus was saying, "You must go on believing."

At times of crisis many people feel that God has abandoned them. But Jesus assured the apostles that, even though he was leaving them, he was NOT abandoning them. Rather, he was going to prepare a home for them, and would return one day to take them to that home. Hence, no matter what happened to them, no matter how difficult life might be – and their lives would become very difficult – they must keep on believing, keep on trusting in Jesus and in God the Father. That's all that they would have to do. Go on believing, go on trusting. Easier said than done, perhaps. But at a time of crisis this is the one thing we can do – go on stubbornly trusting in God. Trust is one of the greatest things we can give to another person. What real faith does is assure us that God is with us in the midst of the crisis. It is that feeling, the conviction, that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, which enables us to get through the crisis.

Our faith is not here to protect us from difficulties or worries. They will come to us as they come into the lives of all people. This is simply part of world in which we live. Our faith can be a source of hope and comfort and inspiration, especially when trouble strikes. As Gandhi once said:

"A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope, because he or she believes in the ultimate triumph of truth."

So, when life feels really difficult, when things seem to be going bad, may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: "Trust in God still, and trust in me."

**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**

**I AM THE  
WAY  
AND THE  
TRUTH  
AND THE  
LIFE**  
NO ONE COMES TO  
THE FATHER EXCEPT  
THROUGH  
JOHN 14:6 *me*

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Brian Ashton, Tony Broster, Frances & James Clarke, Vincent Laithwaite, William McDonough, Joyce & Michael Tuttle, Elizabeth Wilcock, Betty Wild (nee Raines), St Jude, Thanksgiving

### 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.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for the children who will be receiving the Sacraments at St Joseph's church in June, will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm.

### TWELVE APOSTLES & CLUB

Wednesday is the 200 club draw. Today is the retiring collection for the Church Repair Fund.



Pope Francis'@Pontifex

May 15

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to live daily according to the mind of Jesus and his Gospel.

May 14

Let us pray for the miners who died in Turkey and for the latest victims of shipwreck in the Mediterranean.

May 13

Let us read the Gospel, a small section each day. This way we will learn what is most essential in our lives: love and mercy.

May 12

Our life has been saved by the blood of Christ. Let us always be renewed by this love.

May 10

Let us all join in prayer for the immediate release of the schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria.

#BringBackOurGirls

May 10

A family enlightened by the Gospel provides a school for Christian living! There one learns faithfulness, patience and sacrifice.

May 9

Holiness means giving ourselves in sacrifice every day. And so married life is a tremendous path to sanctity!

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

At Sacred Heart church there has been an encouraging take up of the sponsored eight day sanctuary lamp candles dedicated to deceased loved ones. After ten days there were only eighteen remaining of the issue of 50. If you would like to dedicate a candle, please write the person's or family name on an envelope and enclose payment of £5. A list will be displayed of names and the date the candle is scheduled to be lit.

### 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 Pilgrim-

age. 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.

### MAY PROCESSION



This year the May procession will be held at St Joseph's church on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm. We would like to invite the children from all four churches who are receiving the Sacraments this year, to lead the procession. Everyone is welcome to come along to honour Our Lady. Please bring a flower to place on the Lady Altar.

### ST MARY'S YOUTH SERVICE

St Mary's High School would like to invite pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and above to a unique service especially for young people as part of our celebration of Easter and our preparation for Pentecost. It will take place in St Ambrose Barlow church, Astley, on Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm. We would like to invite the young people to arrive at 6.30pm so they can socialise and spend time together before the service begins. Please look at the school website for more information. Parishioners and parents would be most welcome to come along and join us. Why not mention it to young people in your families and come along and celebrate together.

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE MERSEYSIDE REGION

On Thursday 22 May 2014, there will be elections to choose those who will represent us as Members of the European Parliament. We are part of the North West Region of England and will return a total of eight Members of the European Parliament. (The European Elections coincide with the 2014 local elections in England.)

Some of our media are dismissive about what happens in Europe but it is important in a democratic state that we make the effort to vote. It is ironic to watch people in countries like Afghanistan voting in huge numbers when people here in the United Kingdom can not be bothered to spare a small amount of time to go to the polling station.

We must remember that the practical impact of a low turnout is that a small number of votes had a big impact on the results. It is the committed who will turn out - often for minority views which we may find unacceptable to our vision of a just, inclusive and tolerant multicultural society. In 2009, which was the last time that we held European elections, the turnout was very low, with only 19% of eligible people registering a vote which resulted in the BNP gaining more seats despite polling fewer votes.

We urge you to vote, and to watch, to listen and to read about the elections so that you may make an informed decision. In addition we ask you to encourage members of your church, your friends, your family, your neighbours and those you socialise with to vote.

Yours sincerely, **Rev Phil Jump**, *Regional Minister, North West Baptist Association*, **Rev Howard Sharp**, *Moderator, Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church*, **Rev Jim Booth**, *Chair, Liverpool District of the Methodist Church*, **Rt Rev Tom Williams**, *Apostolic Administrator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool*, **Rt Rev Richard Blackburn** *Bishop of Warrington, Liverpool Diocese of the Church of England* **Major Drew McCombe**, *Divisional Commander, North Western Division of The Salvation Army*

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,475.17

Priests' Training Fund £ 759.80

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to :  
Isabelle Taylor, Sophia Taylor

### 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 Michael McDonough, Angela Hailwood,  
Joseph Cassidy  
Eternal rest give unto them ...

### "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 are in our church porches or call the Safeguarding Department on 0151-522-1043.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sr. Catherine Darby, SND, is leading a Skills Workshop at St. Teresa's, College Road, Upholland on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, from 6.30 to 9.00pm. This workshop will help new and current Children's Liturgy leaders and supporters. Please book a place with Mrs. Veronica Murphy 0151 522 1048 or e-mail v.murphy@rcaol.co.uk

### World Day of Prayer

### St Joseph's Group Charity Effort

## A Coffee Morning

In St Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh

Saturday 31st May  
10.30am - 12.30pm

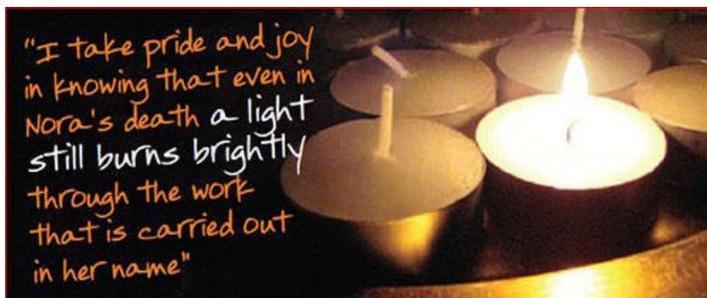
Admission 50p including coffee &  
biscuits

### Proceeds for the benefit of

### Columban Fathers Philippines Village Resettlement Project

Any donations would be most welcome and can be left at the presbytery any weekday between 8.30am and 4.00pm.

Stalls include: tombola, cakes, plants, books, cards, bric-a-brac



### Candlelight funds

**Just as we light a candle for a loved one who's passed away, creating a Candlelight Fund in their name is a special way to remember them.**

Celebrate your loved one's life and memory by helping poor and vulnerable families around the world.

#### How Candlelight Funds work

A fund can be a personal act of remembrance or you can invite others to join in. There are no fundraising targets, deadlines or minimum amounts involved: this is your fund and you can grow it in whatever way feels comfortable. Lots of our funds are now online so friends and family can donate easily and whenever suits them.

If there is a particular area of our work that meant a lot to your loved one, we will do our best to accommodate that. Just let us know.

#### Lily's Candlelight Fund: a family's special tribute

Faced with the upsetting death of their baby granddaughter, Frank and Christine wanted to do something positive in her memory; and to offer support to their daughter and son-in-law. Over the years, Baby Lily's fund has become a beacon of hope for boys and girls in developing countries.

#### Find out more

For more information or to set up a lasting tribute to a loved one, please email Beth Brook and Hannah Caldwell at [candlelight@cafod.org.uk](mailto:candlelight@cafod.org.uk) or call **020 7095 5348** for a chat. Many families tell us they gain comfort and hope from knowing their loved one's memory and values live on through their fund.



### CAFOD PRAYER FOR PEACE

#### Building for the future

May the memory of wars strengthen our efforts for peace;  
May the memory of those who died inspire our service to the living;  
May the memory of past destruction move us to build for the future;

O God of Peace, O Companion of our souls,  
O Builder of Love and Justice in this world.

Lord, we commit our time, our energy, our talents, our gifts, even our limitations, failures and very selves to the cause of justice, peace and human development.

We join our lives with those who support the struggle for life.  
Amen

Linda Jones/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 17 May

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

### Mon 19 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OLR 10.00am MASS Mr Ritchie  
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS William Michael McDonough

### Tue 20 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 9.30am MASS Mary Langan & members of the Langan Family  
SH 12.00noon MASS James Mannion

### Wed 21 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS  
SH NO MASS  
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Angela Hailwood

### Thu 22 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Philomena Gaughan

### Fri 23 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Sat 24 May

#### Weekday of Easter (Week 5)

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
OL 12.00noon MASS Janet Pollard  
12A 5.30pm MASS Timothy Stott

### Sun 25 May

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS  
SH 9.30am MASS The O'Reilly family  
StJ 10.30am MASS  
OL 11.00am MASS Michael Newill (Ann)  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 9 May the numbers drawn were 6, 23, 27. No winner of £184. Last week's estimated jackpot was £240.

**Our Lady's 200 Club** £10 422 M Moore, £5 407 Mr N Jones, £3 310 B Ellis, £2 229 Mr J Evans

**Bonus Ball** No.

### 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  
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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon  
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Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

