

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

1 JUNE 2014



Responsorial Psalm

**God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

All over the world there are monuments and museums that help us remember the great people, nations and civilisations of the past. There are war memorials which commemorate those who gave their lives in the great wars of history and triumphal arches to celebrate important victories. There are mausoleums that are meant in some way to immortalize those who have died, like the Taj Mahal in India or the Pyramids of Egypt. Yet, no matter how hard we try, our memories of the past fade, our monuments crumble into dust and the dead remain dead. It is a great joy for parents to see their life continued in the life of their children and grandchildren. People recognize traits of each other that are passed down from one generation to the next. No matter how strong the resemblance, however, each person is unique. Still there is a deep-seated yearning in all of us, if it were possible, for immortality, to see our life continuing beyond death. Nevertheless, somewhere, somehow, every one of us is destined to die and our memory, for the most part, could be forgotten.

The Good News of Jesus Christ, however, is that ultimately we are destined NOT for death and dissolution, but for life and eternity. The story of the Gospel is the story of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary, who was born in Bethlehem and grew up as the supposed son of a carpenter, Joseph. At his baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, Jesus experienced a calling and anointing from God as his own "beloved Son", with a mission to be the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. After a public ministry of only three years, Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders of his day and was handed over to the civil authorities to be put to death. So far, Jesus of Nazareth follows the path of all human life from birth to death. However Jesus is raised from the dead and appears to his disciples. He gives them a new mission: to proclaim the Good News to all people. For those who believe, this is a completely new stage in human evolution. Our destiny is not in the fading memory of decaying gravestones, but in the life of the resurrection from the dead. Today's Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is a celebration of this faith. Jesus in his physical body ascended into glory at his Father's right hand so that, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of all those who believe, he might continue his mission on earth to bring eternal life and hope to all people.

In the days following the ascension of Jesus into Heaven, the disciples went back to Jerusalem and joined in continuous prayer with Mary the mother of Jesus as they awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit. Their experience of Jesus had changed their lives. They were about to become the Church, the gathering together of the friends of Jesus, who were to be sent out to be his presence in the world. This is still our mission today. Like Jesus at his baptism, like the apostles at Pentecost, we too have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We too have been born again to new life with Heaven as our destiny. We too have been sent out to be a continuing presence of Jesus in today's world, with the same assurance: "And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time." So then, during the coming days, as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost, let us spend time in prayer with Mary for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and into our lives. No matter what difficulties and disappointments life throws at us, we know that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. This is our destiny also, if we continue to believe and trust in God.

**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

Anne Greene, Michael Keavney, Elsie Kelleher, Philip Knowles, John Moylan jnr., Mary Sutton, James Unsworth, Elizabeth Wilcock, Special Intention,

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 10th June at 6.00pm.

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the support group will be on Monday 9th June 2014 at 7.30pm in the presbytery. The meeting is open to all parishioners and more volunteers would be very much welcomed. 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.

TWELVE APOSTLES & CLUB

Please support the parish centre for your special occasion. A function room is now available free of charge. Ring 01942 209192 for terms & conditions.



Pope Francis @Pontifex (<https://twitter.com/Pontifex>)

May 29

May we enter into true friendship with Jesus, so that following him closely, we may live with and for him.

May 24

Dear friends, please pray for me during my pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

May 23

To live by faith means to put our lives in the hands of God, especially in our most difficult moments.

SANCTUARY LAMPS

At Sacred Heart church we thank those who have sponsored eight-day sanctuary lamp candles dedicated to deceased loved ones. The list has been completed for the next 44 weeks and is now closed until next year. The candle that will burn from 1st June is dedicated to Tommy & Maggen Hunter. A list will soon be displayed in the porch of names and the date their candle will be lit.

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE ASSOCIATION

The Pilgrimage takes place from Friday 25th July to Friday 1st 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 COMMUNICATIONS DAY

World Communications Day takes place this year on Sunday 1 June 2014 - the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. This is the day when Catholics are asked to reflect on the necessity of fulfilling the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. A key to communicating with "the whole world" is the world of the media and its demands for news relating to every aspect of the life of the Church and its people. Here you will find Pope Francis' message:

The media can help us to feel closer to one another, creating a sense of the unity of the human family which can in turn inspire solidarity and serious efforts to ensure a more dignified life for all.

Pope Francis,

[World Communications Day Message 2014](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk)
(www.catholicnews.org.uk)

World Communications Day Prayer

**O God,
whose word is truth
and in whose light we see light,
guide those who tell the story
of our times through
word and image.
Make them seekers after truth
and advocates of human dignity.
Grant discernment to all
who rely on their labours,
and, as we confront the pain
and promise of this world,
awaken in us a sense of
wonder at your presence
and of longing for your peace,
Through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.**

Prayer to Live this Day with God

Dear Lord, I thank you for this day.

I thank you that I can see or hear your Word this morning.

Let me give thanks all day for what I have, especially your eternal love, and forgive me this day when I go astray, by my thoughts or actions; my only aim is to please you, to know and do your will.

Guide my every step.

Help me to live this day with wisdom and discretion so that I may not fall short of your glory.

Protect me from danger, both in the world and in my attitude.

Give me the gift of a clear mind, that I might hear the quiet voice of your Spirit.

Help to massage away resentments and blame for things gone by, that would eat my energy and poison my mind; but instead, help me to look to the moment, to what I can do, to work for the future.

And let me never become frustrated where I lack control of events, for you are in charge, not me; and I put my entire faith in your power, your knowledge, your plan for humanity.

You are my leader and my coach, Lord. I am on your team. Help me to keep this in mind for just today, in Christ's name I pray,

Amen.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,647.71

The second collection at all our churches this weekend will be on behalf of Catholic Communications Network.

THANK YOU

To the late Aileen Leigh for remembering St Joseph's in her will and leaving the church £100.

May she rest in peace.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to :
Kylan Craig Hall, Ethan Jay Hall, Fynn Josef Lewis & Joshua Thomas Hardman.

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.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

To Paul Thomas Fallon & Nicola Louise Farrington and Alan Eric Davis & Helen Gayle Foster who were married at St Joseph's Church last Saturday.

LATELY DEAD

Joseph Brian Jolly, Susan Jones,
Eternal rest give unto them ...

"CELEBRATE THE CHILD" MASS

This year's Mass will take place on Sunday 6th 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.

HELP NEEDED

Sr Megan is asking for help for a homeless person who has just been given a flat. He has nothing at all so, if you can spare anything (carpets, curtains, furniture, bedding, cutlery, cooker, fridge etc), it will be most gratefully received. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sr. Catherine Darby, SND, is leading a Skills Workshop at St. Teresa's, College Road, Upholland on Tuesday, 3rd 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

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP MEETING

There has been some discussion, at recent parish meetings, as to how we should commemorate the centenary of the commencement of World War One. The Pastoral Area Justice and Peace group invite you to an evening at St Ambrose Parish Hall on Monday 9th June, commencing 7.00pm, to reflect on this question. There will be a short film, "Days that shook the world - the Christmas Truce", followed by structured discussion, a chance to share family memories and suggestions for how we might respond. All are welcome.

TWELVE APOSTLES SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

XII Apostles RCPS are looking for a Foundation Governor to start in September. This is a voluntary role and you don't need any qualifications or expertise just a commitment to making a difference to our young children's future. If anyone is interested or would like to find out more about the role please contact Father Kieran or Mrs Newton the Headteacher on 01942 674312 for an informal chat.

CAKE SALE & NEARLY NEW SALE



On 15th June Our Lady of the Rosary are having a cake and nearly new sale after Mass.

Please come along and support us. Also we need help on the day and offers to make cakes.

Would anyone donating cakes or nearly new clothes (no jumble) please bring them in early so that we can set up the stalls.

"Dance Night"

5th September

St Richards Hall, Atherton

After a very successful Dance Night in July 2012, the Catenian Association of Leigh are delighted to sponsor and promote another live band "Dancing to Swing".

Ticket price of £10 will include live dance band and a buffet

Tickets are available now

as there was a strong demand last time

Please contact Des 876050 or Eamonn 892967

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 25th July - "Lourdes at home" day at St Ambrose Barlow, Astley.

Monday 4th August - World War One Memorial Service at Atherton Parish church at 2.30pm.

Tuesday 2nd September - Combined celebration of the Pastoral area Parish Feasts of St Edmund Arrowsmith and St Margaret Clitherow at 7.00pm. Venue to be announced.

VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM

Our new Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Malcolm Patrick McMahon OP, will be visiting us in Leigh Pastoral Area later this month. He will have a meeting with the priests and deacons and then celebrate Mass, probably in St Richard's, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 25th June. We would like to encourage as many people as possible from the Pastoral Area to come along and join in the Mass. It will be a good opportunity to meet the new Archbishop and welcome him to the Archdiocese.

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 31 May

12A 5.30pm MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 1 June

SOLEMNITY: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

World Communications Day

StJ 8.30am

MASS

SH 9.30am

MASS Paul & Mary Caren

StJ 10.30am

MASS

OL 11.00am

MASS Josephine & Roman Grosvenor

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 2 June

Weekday of Easter (Week 7)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon

MASS

Tue 3 June

Memorial: Saints Charles Lwanga and Companions (19th c.)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon

MASS B & S Fletcher

Wed 4 June

Weekday of Easter (Week 7)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon

MASS

SH 7.00pm

MASS Ms Mary Hall

Thu 5 June

Memorial: St. Boniface, OSB, B.M. (7th/8th c.)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am

Annie & Wilfred Hampson

SH 12.00noon

MASS Derek Standish

StJ 1.30pm

FUNERAL SERVICE Joseph Brian Jolly

Fri 6 June

Weekday of Easter (Week 7)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at Moss Bank Court Teresa Heavey

StJ 12.00noon

MASS

Sat 7 June

Weekday of Easter (Week 7)

SH 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS

12A 5.30pm

VIGIL MASS Margaret Hurley (get well)

Sun 8 June

SOLEMNITY: PENTECOST SUNDAY

StJ 8.30am

MASS

SH 9.30am

MASS Alojzy & Anna Tesmer

StJ 10.30am

MASS

OL 11.00am

MASS Ann Devlin

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 23 May the numbers drawn were 3, 23, 26. No winner of £318. Last week's estimated jackpot was £360.

Our Lady's 200 Club £10 No. 183 Mrs A Sharkie, £5 No. 445 T Jones, £3 No. 310 Mrs B Ellis, £2 No. 352 Mr & Mrs T Ellis

Bonus Ball No. 46 Mrs B Jones

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

