

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 20 JULY 2014



Responsorial Psalm

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The farmer, in today's Gospel story, planted good seed in his field and expected a bumper harvest. Soon a host of sturdy green shoots sprang up, covering the field from end to end. It looked as though his expectations would be fulfilled. But then, one morning, he discovered weeds growing among the young shoots of wheat - not just an odd weed here and there, but weeds everywhere. He got a terrible shock. He was bitterly disappointed. When he looked at the field now, all he could see were the weeds - the wheat seemed to have disappeared. He later calmed down and thought it through. This enabled him to see things in a different perspective. True, there were some weeds in his precious field, but there was wheat too, wheat that was just as green and vibrant as ever. He would have to be humble and patient. He would have to work hard on the wheat, coaxing and encouraging it in the hope that it would outgrow the weeds. So the farmer set to work. It wasn't easy, but he tried to concentrate on the wheat. He eventually noticed that by reaching and straining upwards the wheat grew stronger. He took heart from this because it meant that by making the wheat struggle harder, the weeds were actually having a beneficial effect on his crop.

Sooner or later the weeds can appear in our field – friends betrays us or let us down, a partner disappoints us or proves unfaithful, or we get hurt by someone else. We are shocked and hurt by many things in life, especially when we are hurt by those closest to us. The badness of bad people we expect - we can arm ourselves against them. But the badness that sometimes prevails in good people can take us by surprise and hurt us even more. For a while, at least, we tend to see everything as bad and we can become very negative.

The world is a mixture of light and darkness, of good and evil. Wheat and weeds grow side by side in the same person. This even happens to us, if we are honest about it. But all is not lost. There is good in us too and we must hold onto this fact. No one understood this more than Jesus. Even in the apostles, the weeds persisted, yet he didn't write them off.

As we think about the meaning of God's Word in our lives this weekend let us remember that, even though God makes the Last Judgement, he loves us for we are - his children. Therefore, let us never give up hope that God will count us among the wheat rather than the weeds, and welcome us into the harvest of his eternal Kingdom.

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. Colin Fealey

arriving in September

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

**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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,393.62

Apostleship of the Sea £ 404.41

Next Sunday, Day for Life, the retiring collections will fund the Church to safeguard the value and dignity of human life in all its states and stages. This year young people are particularly encouraged to protect and cherish life from conception to natural death.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to :
Mason Jax Lewis.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Daniel John Cooke & Dawn Dorothy Marie Boyle who married at St Joseph's on 12 July.

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

Keith Turner. Eternal rest grant unto him ...

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Denise Allen, Brian Ashton, Mary Atkinson, James W. Wilkinson, Catherine Concannan.

ST JOSEPH'S RED MISSION BOXES

Box collectors are badly needed - only every three months for ten boxes each max. If you feel able to volunteer, contact Paul (679368), Peter (602105) or parish office.

TWELVE APOSTLES PARISH CENTRE

Those who have booked for the 'Full Monty' at the Opera House £30 needs to be paid by 20th July - still a few places left - contact Therese Thompson. Sorry, no Wednesday bingo until 6th August.

Philippines Village Relocation

Charity Evening for Columban project for recovery after typhoons, Friday, 1st August, 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Centre, Leigh. See previous weeks for more details. If anyone is coming to Leigh via Birmingham on 1st August, please could you offer transport to Fr Pat O'Donoghue to arrive in Leigh before 7.00pm? Please ring 01942 676962 ASAP.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Our sacramental preparation programme will be starting again in September. If your child will be in Y4 in September, and does not attend XII Apostles, Sacred Heart or St Joseph's schools, has been baptised (proof needed) and wishes to be confirmed, make their first confession and Holy Communion, please contact the parish office with the child's name address and contact details as soon as possible.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Friday 29th August - Twelve Apostles school 1950's, 1960's reunion at the Bowling Club in Leigh. Contact John Thompson (07724 185215).

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. At this Mass, we will have the opportunity to welcome Fr Colin Fealey who will be joining the Pastoral Area Team from September and to say goodbye to Fr Sylviu.

Friday 5th September - Dancing to Swing Time, St Richard's church hall, Atherton. Tickets £10, buffet included from Ratcliffe's or Maurice McCarthy (518895)

"LOURDES AT HOME" DAY

FRIDAY 25th JULY 2014

8.00am	Early Morning Mass
8.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (until 11.00 am)
12.00noon	Mass of Anointing of the Sick (followed by lunch)
7.30pm	Holy Hour & Procession

At SAINT AMBROSE BARLOW church, ASTLEY

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 19 July

12A 5.30pm MASS John Fisher

Sun 20 July

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

StJ	8.30am	MASS
SH	9.30am	MASS James & Ann Marsh
StJ	10.30am	MASS
OL	11.00am	MASS John O'Grady
StR	6.30pm	SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 21 July

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 16, Year 2)

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
StJ	12.00noon	MASS

Tue 22 July

Memorial: St Mary Magdalen

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
SH	12.00noon	MASS G. & M. Arrowsmith

Wed 23 July

FEAST: ST. BRIDGET, Religious (14th c.)

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
StJ	12.00noon	MASS
SH		NO MASS

Thu 24 July

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
12A	9.30am	MASS Mary Marsh (80 th birthday)
SH	12.00noon	MASS James Mannion

Fri 25 July

FEAST: ST JAMES, APOSTLE

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
OL		NO MASS
StJ		NO MASS

Sat 26 July

Memorial: Saints Joachim and Anne

OL	11.00am	Exposition & Reconciliation
OL	12.00noon	MASS Special intention
12A	5.30pm	MASS People of the pastoral area

Sun 27 July

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) (Day for Life)

StJ	8.30am	MASS
SH	9.30am	MASS Agnes Yates
StJ	10.30am	MASS
OL	11.00am	MASS Bride Greenhalgh
StR	6.30pm	SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Sacred Heart Lottery On 11 July the numbers drawn were 12, 19, 24. No winner of £372. Last week's estimated jackpot was £420.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10, 425, Mrs N Flynn, £5, 226, Mrs A Simpson, £3, 189, A Sharkie, £2, 378, M Sweeney.

Bonus Ball 34, J Evans.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40,109, M Seddon; £15, 23, S Crawley; £5,113, Rachel Thompson; £5, 97, P Sharrock.