

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 27 JULY 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

Lord how I love your law!

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

According to this weekend's First Reading, wisdom is the most precious gift a person can have. It is a real treasure. Without it all other things can be useless because we won't know how to use them. On being told that he could have anything he wanted from God, Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom. God was pleased with his request and granted it to him.

There is a story of a teacher who wanted to make progress in his career and climb the social ladder. He worked very hard. In fact, his work WAS his life. He put his best hours and his best efforts into it. He had little time to appreciate his family, and even less for the enjoyment of life. It was clear to everyone where his real treasure was. But then he became very ill. He was taken to hospital where he lay for days, drifting in and out of consciousness, and not knowing whether he would live or die. There were moments when he noticed shadowy figures at his bedside. One day these figures came into focus and he immediately recognized them. They were his wife and children who visited him faithfully every day and spent hours at his bedside. In that moment he saw where his real treasure lay – it was his family, his home, in the gift of life itself, and, of course, in God. He saw how foolish he had been up to now. And he prayed with all his heart: "Lord, give me back my life and I'll be happy." And he resolved that, if he became well again, he would turn his priorities upside down.

All of us are searchers and treasure-hunters in the sense that we are looking for happiness. The goal is legitimate, but it may be that, like the teacher in the story, we are looking in the wrong place. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be too." So, if we want to know what our treasure is, we need to ask ourselves where our heart is. What is it that we love? What is truly in our hearts? There may be many things, and many different people, but so long as God is there and the happiness of others, then we can't be going too far wrong. The wisdom of God, that Solomon received in the First Reading and alluded to in the Gospel parable, is not the same as worldly wisdom. It is something deeper and much more precious. It means knowing what is truly important in life. It means being able to see our lives from God's point of view, and being able to live the way God wants us to live.

Through the gift of wisdom God communicates to us the true meaning of life, and the richness of belonging to him. It is a gift which is worth more than any earthly treasure and, once we have received it, no one can take it from us.

## PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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**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

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,240.80

Today, 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 :  
Jackson Scholes, Ollie David William Maxwell, Niall Alan Jai Lloyd. Lana Niamh Ganley, Jack Mark Farnworth, Lucas Peter, Karl Kirkman, Ruby Elizabeth Pilkington.

### WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Philip Jepson & Sally Louise Holt who married at St Joseph's on 18 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.

### ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

James Atkinson, John Topping, Charles Appel, Special Intention, Successful operation, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Betty Caine.

### 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

Sorry, no Wednesday bingo until 6<sup>th</sup> August.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Next Sunday there will be a coffee morning after Mass. Proceeds from the last one went to the Women's World Day of Prayer.

### Philippines Village Relocation

Charity Evening for Columban project for recovery after typhoons, Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Centre, Leigh. See previous weeks for details. Cheques payable to "Columban Fathers".

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> August** - World War One Memorial Service at Atherton Parish church at 2.30pm.

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

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014

At SAINT AMBROSE BARLOW church, ASTLEY

We trust that all goes well and the forecast high temperatures are bearable (this edition will be printed on 25 July). Thanks to all who worked in preparation and on the day. Thank you

to those who could attend and made it all worthwhile. Please remember to continue praying for our Archdiocesan pilgrims until their return from Lourdes on Friday, 1 August.

### 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 July

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

#### Mon 28 July

**Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 17, Year 2)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Special intention (T.C.)

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Keith Turner

#### Tue 29 July

**Memorial: St Martha**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS

#### Wed 30 July

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

SH 7.00pm MASS

#### Thu 31 July

**Memorial: St. Ignatius Loyola SJ, P. (15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am MASS John Fisher

SH 12.00noon MASS Mr&Mrs J Hall ♦ wedding

#### Fri 1 August

**Memorial: St. Alphonsus Ligouri, CSSR, B.D. (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> c.)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL MASS

StJ 12.00noon MASS

#### Sat 2 August

**Weekday in Ordinary Time**

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher

12A 5.30pm MASS Mary Langan & decd family

#### Sun 3 August

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**StJ NO 8.30am MASS DURING AUGUST**

SH 9.30am MASS Special intention (E.L.)

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Special intention (M.S.)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 18 July the numbers drawn were 2, 23, 24. No winner of £448. Last week's estimated jackpot was £500.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10, 045, Mrs B Woods, £5, 383, Miss E Nuttall, £3, 105, Mrs T Jones, £2, 312, Mrs B Ellis.

**Bonus Ball** 40, Mrs B Woods.

### PARISH FEAST DAYS.

Please make a date in your diary for Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> when we gather together to celebrate the Parish Feast Days of St Edmund Arrowsmith and St Margaret Clitherow. The Mass takes place at 7.00pm in St Gabriel's church in Higher Folds. It is a really good way of bringing the Pastoral Area together after the Summer to celebrate the lives of these remarkable saints and to celebrate the faith we share together.