

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 17 AUGUST 2014



Responsorial Psalm

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,
says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Making contact with other faiths and cultural divides is very much the message at the heart of today's Gospel. The Canaanite woman crosses the boundaries that separate the Holy Land from the lands of the Gentiles. In addition, despite not being Jewish, she is one of only two people in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus commends for her faith. Jesus had just left Galilee and is walking through the pagan region around the townships of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman, who has a daughter with a life-threatening condition, recognizes him and calls to him. Jesus at first ignores her, saying that he has been sent to the Jews alone, but she persists. Then Jesus says something you might not expect from him: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house dogs." But the woman responds immediately that "even house dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table." In other words, she suggests that both Jews and pagans are fed by the same God. Jesus clearly approves of her speaking about the whole of humanity as one family of God and so he heals her daughter. It is significant that the Canaanite woman publicly acknowledges Jesus' identity even before the disciples. She appears to accept that Jesus' mission is to the people of Israel first, but believes that Jesus came for others too. Jesus responds to her great faith. This unnamed woman dismantles the dividing wall of intolerance between Jews and Gentiles, and Jesus rewards her for it.

The belief that God's blessings are limited to people of certain nationalities or cultures has been around for a long time. We only have to watch the news to realize that, in some parts of the world, it still exists today. Such belief was very prominent in the society in which Jesus grew up. It is not clear whether he believed in it himself or whether he wanted to expose it and correct its false claims. Every people and culture seems to have a handful of prejudices and myths. It is important that, if we are serious about our faith, we must give up such prejudices and expose the myth that God only loves certain people – he is the God of all people, in all of the world. The first thing the Canaanite woman teaches us, in our Christian vocation, is the courage to ask God for anything. Her audacity and her refusal to take no for an answer finally paid off and we may remember this in our care for others. We can have the courage not to be afraid to challenge prejudice and elitism, which we so often see in our society today. God can use us to bring justice and healing to all of God's people, especially those suffering for their faith and beliefs today. The woman also teaches us the power of persuasion and dialogue. When Jesus spoke to her in a language that demeaned her people, she did not retaliate in anger but kept her eyes on the goal of her mission, which was to show that even non-Jews are entitled to God's blessing. Her gentle response forced Jesus to rethink his response to her request. She is a model of non-violence. Jesus gave in to her, saying, "Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted." And it was.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey
arriving 5th September

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

**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 £1,594.03

GAZA APPEAL

CAFOD is working on the ground round the clock in Gaza with its partners - Caritas Jerusalem, Catholic Relief Services and Islamic Relief Palestine, to get emergency supplies to thousands of people. 'The Gaza Appeal' has been set up to support this work. If you would like to make a donation, the Second Collection this weekend and next has been set aside for this purpose. CAFOD also invites us to write to the Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, and urge our Government to show stronger support for a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a long term solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Please visit CAFOD's website (www.cafod.org.uk/Gaza), for details or write to: Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to :
Robson Alex Ogden, Sophie Anne Turnock, Ryder James Davies, Reuben Isacc Lewchenko Pugh

RECENTLY DECEASED

Harold Blackburn, Frank Tesmer, Albert Gornall.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

To: William Richard Bergin & Laura Ann Roberts who were married at St Joseph's on Saturday 9th August.

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Ashton Family, Vernon Byrne, Vera Calland, James & Frances Clarke, Nellie Doherty, Winifred Ellis, Robert Farrimond, Kathy Hallinan, Family & Friends of the Harrison Family, Moylan Family, Mary O'Keefe, Marlene O'Neill, Margaret Poyner, Anne Turner & James Unsworth, Alice Wilcock,

WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 19th August in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

TWELVE APOSTLES & PARISH CENTRE

The next 200 club draw will be on Wednesday 20th August. Any enquiries for the club please use the new number 07921 816501.

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

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

Friday 5th September - After a successful event in July 2012, Leigh Catenian Association again presents Dancing to Swing Time with live band, St Richard's church hall, Atherton. Raffle proceeds shared with local HCPT. Tickets £10, buffet included from Ratcliffe's cycle shop or Maurice McCarthy (518895).

PARISH FEAST CELEBRATION

This year's Parish Feast Days of St Margaret Clitherow and St Edmund Arrowsmith will be celebrated at St Gabriel's, Higher Folds, on **Tuesday 2nd September** at 7.00pm.

If anyone would like to help to organise and prepare the celebration, then please come along to a short meeting at St Gabriel's on Tuesday 19th August at 7.00pm.

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OL = Our Lady of the Rosary, StR = St Richard, HF = Holy Family, StG = Saint Gabriel, StAB = Saint Ambrose Barlow

Sat 16 August

12A	5.30pm	MASS Ann Mary Wilson
StG	6.00pm	MASS People of the pastoral area
StR	6.00pm	MASS L&P Welby, M Baxendale

Sun 17 August

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

StJ NO 8.30am MASS DURING AUGUST

HF	9.00am	MASS Margaret Langan
SH	9.30am	MASS Ida Traynor LD
StR	9.30am	MASS Marie Langin
StJ	10.30am	MASS
OL	11.00am	MASS Joe Moore
StAB	11.00am	MASS Lois O'Neill

HF NO 11.00am MASS DURING AUGUST

StR	6.30pm	MASS John Battersby
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Mon 18 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 20, Year 2)

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
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StJ	12.00noon	MASS
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Tue 19 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
SH	12.00noon	MASS Margaret O'Farrell

Wed 20 August

Memorial: St. Bernard, OSB Cist, Abbot D. (11th/12th c.)

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
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StJ	12.00noon	MASS
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12A	2.30pm	Funeral Service Harold Blackburn
SH		NO MASS

Thu 21 August

Memorial St. Pius X, Pope

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
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12A NO 9.30am MASS DURING AUGUST

SH	12.00noon	FUNERAL MASS Frank Tesmer
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Fri 22 August

Memorial The Queenship of Mary

StJ	8.30am	Morning Prayer
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OL		NO MASS
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12A	12.00noon	Funeral Service Albert Gornall
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StJ	12.00noon	MASS
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Sat 23 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

OL	11.00am	Exposition & Reconciliation
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OL	12.00noon	MASS Joe & John Nee
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12A	5.30pm	MASS Peter Benthom LD
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StG	6.00pm	MASS Special Intention (S)
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StR	6.00pm	MASS Winnifred Nolan
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Sun 24 August

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

StJ NO 8.30am MASS DURING AUGUST

HF	9.00am	MASS Brenda McDonald
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SH	9.30am	MASS Michael Hall LD
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StR	9.30am	MASS Albert Harding
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StJ	10.30am	MASS
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OL	11.00am	MASS People of the pastoral area
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StAB	11.00am	MASS Edward & Mary A. Ellison
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HF NO 11.00am MASS DURING AUGUST

StR	6.30pm	MASS Bert Webb
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Sacred Heart Lottery On 8 August the numbers drawn were 2, 10, 13. No winner of £642. Last week's estimated jackpot was £700.