

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 21 SEPTEMBER 2014



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Many people think that Jesus' story about the workers in the vineyard is unfair. It seems to favour those who do little work. Remember the story? All the workers get paid the same, no matter how long they have worked in the fields. Jesus would not make a very good employer. Workers would be out on strike all the time. Yet we can look at the story from a different point of view. The men waiting in the market square felt totally useless. They hadn't been hired by anyone for days. As the hours go by their chance of employment and therefore feeding their families must have looked like a distant dream. For most of them there will be no eleventh-hour reprieve. They will go home to their families empty-handed yet again. In this world the first shall be first and the last shall be last. The eleventh-hour people in Jesus' story were not necessarily lazy or idle - although it would be interesting to see what happened the next day! Everyone would turn up for work late, hoping the same vineyard owner came along! They wanted and needed to work. It was just that no one hired them. Imagine how they felt when the day drifted to a close. They felt rejected, useless, hopeless. The idea that any employer would take these people on at the eleventh hour, and pay them a full day's wage, was unthinkable. Yet this is exactly what the owner of the vineyard did. This is the main point of Jesus' parable.

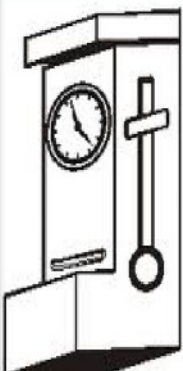
Jesus' audience knew exactly what he was getting at. The vineyard was the Kingdom of God: those who had been working all day long were the Pharisees and the Jews in general. The eleventh-hour people were sinners, Gentiles and the outcasts of society. Jesus was simply saying that God was offering his Kingdom to sinners and outcasts on equal terms with the scribes and Pharisees. The Jews objected vigorously. They didn't think it was fair. They thought they deserved preferential treatment. They assumed that God worked on a system of merit. According to this system, you must earn your grace through hard work. And here was Jesus saying that God does not work on a merit system at all. If we place lots of importance on worthiness, competition and rewards, then the Gospel won't make much sense. Jesus' parable makes little sense from the point of view of strict justice. But who would want to be treated by God in this way? We all stand in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. If we relied on justice not many of us would have much hope.

When we come into God's presence let us not parade our entitlements, our rights, our deserts. We can't put God in our debt. Everything comes to us as a gift from God, a gift motivated by his love for us. So let us rejoice that God is generous to a degree that far outstrips human generosity. Let us open ourselves to his understanding and love and allow it to serve as a model for the way we treat others.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

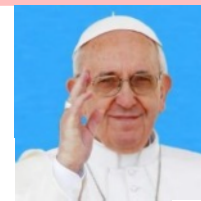
**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



**THESE
LAST
ONES
WORKED
ONLY
ONE
HOUR!
ARE YOU JEALOUS?**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS WELCOME

This weekend we welcome Fr David and Fr Patrick from the Holy Ghost Fathers, who are with us this weekend to make an appeal on behalf of their Missions. Please be as generous as you can.



TWELVE APOSTLES & PARISH CENTRE

Any enquiries for the club please use the new number 07921 816501. Please consider us for your special occasion, bingo every Wednesday at 8.30, please support the groups who regularly use your club. Craft Fair 26th October for more information ring the club

We are no longer having retiring collections for Twelve Apostles Church Repair Fund, however you can still make your donations in the wall box at the back of church.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Can the Eucharistic Ministers at St Joseph's church please send a list of the people they visit into the office. If you have only recently updated your list you do not need to send in another one. Thank you.

SACRED HEART FATHERS OF BETHARRAM

Chris Hallinan is once again doing the Clent Hills Sponsored Walk for the Sacred Heart Fathers of Betharram. He will be at the back of St Joseph's church today collecting sponsors. Please support him. Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The first meeting of our Sacramental Preparation Programme "Come to the Water" is on Wednesday 24th September in St Joseph's church at 3.45pm. The session will be repeated in Sacred Heart church on Thursday 25th September. You are able to attend either session, regardless of which school your child attends. The first session for Twelve Apostles children is on Wednesday 1st October at 4.30pm in Twelve Apostles church.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

On Wednesday 24th September there will be a Mass for present and deceased members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Sacred Heart church at 7.00pm. Pastoral area SVP members, past members and families are specially invited.

JUSTICE & PEACE

The next meeting of the Pastoral Area Justice & Peace Group will take place on Thursday 9th October at 7.30pm in Saint Ambrose Barlow Church Hall. Why not come along and get more involved? Everyone welcome.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 18

Mary, give us the grace of being joyful as we walk in the freedom of the children of God.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 16

The Lord is always there waiting to give us his love: it is an amazing thing, one which never ceases to surprise us!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 13

Despite our sins, we can say with Peter: Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you.

EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

We welcome inquiries from everyone. You may be someone who has never belonged to any faith community or you may have been baptised in another Christian tradition. You may simply feel a sense of curiosity to find out more or you may have already decided to seek membership of the Catholic Church. Whatever your starting point you are very welcome. You may be asking yourself:

What is R.C.I.A?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (or RCIA for short), is a sacramental process rather than a programme of study and is the normal way in which newcomers are welcomed into the life of the Church. Over the weeks and months that follow, you will be listened to and helped to grow spiritually as you deepen your knowledge and understanding of the Lord and the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is easiest to think of this process as a journey in faith that has four periods of preparation and three "Rites". The Rites are like doorways that you pass through marking the end of one period and the start of the next. These Rites are liturgical celebrations that may also be thought of as milestones or "Steps" along your journey.

How long does it take?

The rites take place during the six weeks of Lent, with the sacraments of Baptism (for the unbaptised), Confirmation and Eucharist all received during the Easter Vigil, which will be earlier next year on Saturday, 4 April 2015. But first comes a time of preparation.

How long does preparation take?

Preparation takes as long as you, in your circumstances, want it to take. Meetings will begin at Sacred Heart church in the first week of October this year. If you are still attending meetings, haven't changed your mind, and feel ready by February 18 (Ash Wednesday) next year, you can then commit to the completing stages. Some people aren't ready and need to defer until the following year. It's up to you. We do not ask for any earlier commitment to the process. You can drop out at any time.

Who do I contact?

If you are already attending church then please leave your details with the local priest. If not, or if you prefer, please leave your name, number and address with Deacon Tony on 01942 606329 or e-mail deacon@sacredheartleigh.org.uk. And don't forget to bring a friend!

Can I refer someone?

Of course you can! If you are a practising Catholic and you know someone sympathetic to our Faith - first of all: Carry on giving a good example. Secondly: show them this newsletter and try and persuade them to get in touch. They might even be a Catholic who needs a fresh start as a Church member or a refresher course to update what they learnt at school.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS
PARISH TOTAL £1,439.46

This week there will be an appeal from the Holy Ghost Fathers

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to: Michelle Oghale Ogburogho, Thomas Anthony Metcalf and Evie Mai-Jennifer Rose Hamer.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Rachel Elizabeth Duddle & Peter Francis Manchester who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kathleen Ryder, Philip Smith, Brian Diggle.
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

MACMILLAN NURSES

Cancer Support Day
At The Fir Tree Inn
170 Firs Lane Leigh

Sunday 28th September 11.30am - 3.30pm

Tea Coffee Cakes Biscuits & Raffle etc

All funds go to Macmillan Nurses

Home made cakes & biscuits donations most welcome

Phone Judith on 07507 738098



We have had a letter from CAFOD thanking our parish for the donation to their Gaza Appeal. CAFOD writes:-

During the seven weeks of fighting in Gaza, more than 2,200 people were killed and hundreds were forced from their homes. Your support has enabled our partners to deliver aid to those who need it most. During the fighting, this aid included distributing 8,000 emergency kits to displaced families and ensured that families forced from their homes have clean water and a means to stay healthy in crowded shelters. Disabled and older people have been provided with food parcels. Our partners are working in schools distributing food, powdered milk, hygiene kits, blankets - and running health centres and mobile clinics, providing essential medical equipment and fuel for generators.

On behalf of CAFOD's family worldwide, thank you for making a difference. Please continue to pray for all whose lives are touched by crisis around the world. For more information about our emergency work, visit cafod.org.uk/emergencies.

Yours sincerely,

Tom O'Conner

Director - Communities and Supporters

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Coffee Morning

In

St Richard's Parish Centre

Tuesday 23rd September 10.00am - 12 noon

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY WW1 EXHIBITION

The exhibition to be held in St Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall will take place over the weekend of Remembrance Sunday and will remain on display throughout that week. The exhibition will not only commemorate those who died in WW1 but also WW2 and other conflicts. There are very few people still living who were around in the first war but I have spoken to a number of parishioners and others living in the Astley/Tyldesley area about their memories of the second world war. It would be good to hear memories and stories from members of the other church communities across the Deanery. Also, if you have any memorabilia relating to any of the wars that you would be willing to loan for the exhibition this would be gratefully received. Looking forward to hearing your story. You can contact me on (01942) 876487. Many thanks. Steve Cooper.

**HOME MISSION DAY PRAYER
FOR LAPSED CATHOLICS**

*Loving and merciful Father,
we know and believe that you are near
and are attentive to our every need.
We bring before you now
all those we hold dear,
who are distant from the family of faith,
the Body of Christ.*

Silently bring to mind the people that you know to whom this applies

*We ask in the name of Jesus, your Son,
that you bless them abundantly.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
use us to reach out to them in a way
that they feel free to respond.
May we all seek and discover afresh
the joy of faith and life in Christ,
and always remember
that your ways are not our ways,
that the last will be first, and the first last.
Amen*

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 20 September

12A 5.30pm MASS John Fisher

Sun 21 September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) (Home Mission Day)

StJ 8.30am MASS Helen Hudson

SH 9.30am MASS Doris Gaskell & Doris Stout

StJ 10.30am MASS Mary Marsh

OL 11.00am MASS Chris Herlihy

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 22 September Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 25, Year 2)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 10.00am MASS

StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Kathleen Ryder

Tue 23 September Memorial: St Pius of Pietrelcina, OFM Cap, P (19th/20th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Eileen Appleton

SH 12.00noon NO MASS

Wed 24 September Memorial: Our Lady of Walsingham

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Anthony Meager

StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Philip Smith

SH 7.00pm MASS SVP present & past members

Thu 25 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Joe Shovelton

12A NO MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS Mary & Paul Caren

Fri 26 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am Teresa Reid

StJ 12.00noon MASS John Lucas

Sat 27 September Memorial: St Vincent de Paul, CM, P. (16th/17th c.)

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 5.30pm MASS Julie Fisher (SI)

OL 12.00noon MASS Mae O'Boyle

Sun 28 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

(Day of Special Prayer for Thanksgiving for Harvest and/or fruits of Human Work)

StJ 8.30am MASS Manfredi Family

SH 9.30am MASS Francis Tesmer

StJ 10.30am MASS Special Intention Our Lord Our Lady & All Saints

OL 11.00am MASS Andrew Moir

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 12 September, the numbers drawn were 3, 8, 10. Two lucky winners shared a jackpot of £1,030. This week's estimated jackpot is £75.

Our Lady's 500 Club 14th Sep: £10 No. 479 K Jones, £5 No. 040 D. Vint, £3 No. 108 M Sanderson £2 296 M Roach

Bonus Ball 7th Sep. No. 14 Celia Ellis 14th Sep. No. 44 N. 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

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