

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 28 SEPTEMBER 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

Remember your mercy, Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Jesus confronts the chief priests and the elders of the people. He confronts them with a story, a parable which criticizes them for being "yes men" whose easy promises are not matched by the way they act or live. Fiction is used to face this problem of religious deception.

Jesus tells the story of a man who has two sons and asks them both to work in his vineyard. The first son refuses bluntly but later regrets his decision and changes his mind. The second son agrees to the request immediately but his instant consent is not matched by his behaviour. He doesn't turn up. Jesus' question, "Which of them did the father's will?" only allows for one answer. Only ONE son did anything. Jesus' own reply identifies the two sons. The son who refused but repented represents the tax collectors and prostitutes who complied with God's requests set down in the teaching of John the Baptist. The other son represents the priests and scribes who maintain the outward appearance of piety but show no real devotion to the will of God. They did not trust John the Baptist, even when they saw and heard the testimony of the changed lives of the tax collectors and prostitutes. Their outward piety, unsupported by obedience to God, is criticized earlier in the Gospel, when Jesus says, "It is not those who say to me "Lord, Lord", who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven."

The son whose word was "No" but whose action became "Yes" is held out to us as the one who did his father's will. The story doesn't tell us why he changed his mind or what the change cost him, only that his generosity of spirit had the last word. In time he caught up with the nest that was in him. He was late in doing his father's will, but not too late. This son had a real counterpart in Saint Augustine, whose early life was a blunt refusal to follow the Gospel his mother had held out to him. In his book "Confessions" he admits his past failings. He had many mistresses, for example, and had exploited many people throughout his life. It was only at the age of 32 that he became a believing Christian. He repented and came back to God. Many of the saints had lives of sin, followed by a life of repentance and dedication to God. Their lives remind us that there is always a way back with God, but only if we truly repent. The second son in the Gospel story is both our rôle-model and our hope today as he reminds us that actions speak louder than words and that, even if we sometimes make the wrong choice, it is never too late to turn back to God.

**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

### 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 26<sup>th</sup> October for more information ring the club.

Many thanks to those who came to the 'Full Monty' it was a great night. Many thanks to those who have helped with cleaning the church and the gardening, it is much appreciated.

### OUR LADY'S

There are spare numbers on the 500 Club, it's only 10p per number chance to win £10, £5, £3, £2. Plus every 13 weeks a jackpot of £50. See Margaret or Brenda at the back of church. There is one spare number on the Bonus Ball, anyone wishing to join, please see Roy Ellis.

### 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.

### ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the Green Room. Arrangements for the 2014 Autumn Fayre and Grand Draw will be discussed and more helpers would be much appreciated.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> October at 4.30pm in Twelve Apostles church.

### PARISH TRIP TO BLACKPOOL

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October the coach will leave St Joseph's at 11.40am and pick up at Our Lady of the Rosary at 12.00noon. It will get back to Leigh about 9.00 - 9.30pm, going through the lights on the way back. The price is £7.50 per head. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to go.

### JUSTICE & PEACE

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

### BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral are inviting girls in Year 6 to come and meet the choristers and have the opportunity to sing in the largest Catholic church in the UK!

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 10.30am - 4.00pm**

For more details and to register your place please contact the Cathedral Music Office 0151 708 7283.  
Music@metcathedral.org.uk



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 25

Jesus understands our weaknesses and sins; and he forgives us if we allow ourselves to be forgiven.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 23

When a society lacks God, even prosperity is joined by a terrible spiritual poverty.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Sep 20

Dear young people, listen within: Christ is knocking at the door of your heart.

### 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](mailto: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      £1,318.21  
Spiritans            £1,153.77

## BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to: Max Thomas Briggs, Rohan Thomas Briggs.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Kevin John Arthur Mulhearn, Brian Diggle, Gerald Riley  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

## MACMILLAN NURSES

Cancer Support Day  
At The Fir Tree Inn  
170 Firs Lane Leigh  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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

## 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 (8th / 9th November) and will remain on display throughout that week. The exhibition will not only commemorate those who died in WW1 but also WW2 and other 20th and 21st Century conflicts. There are very few people still alive from the first world war days, 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 stories. You can contact me on (01942) 876487. Many thanks. Steve Cooper.



## HARVEST FAST DAY

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

### Will you make a place at your table?

There is enough food in the world to feed us all.  
Yet one in eight of our poorest sisters and  
Brothers still don't have enough to eat.  
Give what you can this Harvest Fast Day and  
welcome them to your table.

**Lord,**

*You who reign over all creation and nature*

*We ask you to help us this year*

*With a good rainy season.*

*We ask you, Lord to bless our seeds*

*Make them fertile with the sky's dew*

*And protect them from any harm*

*So that they may grow to fruition*

*For the benefit of our families.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord,*

**Amen**



Craft Fair Sunday 26th Oct 11 till 3 for bookings ring 01942 253507 or e mail x11apostlesparishcentre@hotmail.co.uk.  
£10 booked in advance £15 on the day

## AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

Day trip to Ampleforth Abbey, West Yorkshire

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October Cost £33 per head

Includes executive coach travel

Collection points St Richard's, St Ambrose Barlow

Lunch of soup, sandwiches, cake, tea & coffee

(special dietary requirements will be catered for)

Tour of the Abbey orchards and distillery with

FREE tasting of the products,

Mid-day service in the Abbey with time to explore

the grounds and visitor centre

Disabled access to all parts of the abbey

To book and obtain full details contact Barbara on

01942 879416 (After 6.00pm)

**Hurry! Only 7-8 seats left**

## LEIGH MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION 2014

27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am to 5.00pm

St Joseph's Hall

Adults £4 Child/OAP £3

**Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September is set aside as a Day of Prayer for the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, scheduled to take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October to treat the topic: The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization.**

*Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod composed by Pope Francis*

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. 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 27 September

12A 5.30pm MASS Julie Fisher (SI)

## Sun 28 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN 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

## Mon 29 September FEAST: SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

## Tue 30 September Memorial: St Jerome, P.D. (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Special Thanks Fr Silviu  
SH 12.00noon MASS Neil O'Rourke  
12A 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Brian Diggle

## Wed 1 October Memorial: St Teresa of the Child Jesus, ODC, D.V. (19<sup>th</sup> c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Sheila Smith  
SH 7.00pm MASS B & S Fletcher

## Thu 2 October Memorial: The Guardian Angels

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS James Hurst  
SH 11.00am FUNERAL MASS Kevin John Arthur Mulhearn

## Fri 3 October Weekday in Ordinary Time (Week 26, Year 2) (Harvest Fast Day)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
(OL) 10.00am MASS at Moss Bank Court Gordon Battersby (LD)  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Peter McCarthy

## Sat 4 October Memorial: St Francis of Assisi OFM (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> c.)

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
SH 12.00noon MASS Kevin Mulhearn (LD)  
12A 5.30pm MASS Allen & Agnes Newton

## Sun 5 October TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Rosary Sunday) (Special Prayer for Nugent Care Society)

StJ 8.30am MASS Sarah Ann Jones  
SH 9.30am MASS Francis Tesmer LD  
StJ 10.30am MASS St Jude  
OL 11.00am MASS Anne Devlin  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 19 September, the numbers drawn were 3, 7, 18. NO WINNER of £60. This week's estimated jackpot is £120.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £50 No.446 B Ryan, £10 No. 028 J Atherton, £5 No. 267 M Smith, £3 No. 234 S Gardner, £2 No. 352 Mr & Mrs Ellis

**Bonus Ball** No. 43 F Rasburn

**Twelve Apostles' 200 Club** £40 no 42 B Whalley, £15 no 41 M Stott, £5 no 164 S Harvey, £5 no 66 J Sanderson.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk)

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood  
Tel: 0161 790 2390  
Email: [frdave@virginmedia.com](mailto:frdave@virginmedia.com)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey  
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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon  
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