

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

30 NOVEMBER 2014



Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This weekend the Season of Advent starts when we begin to prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord. In today's First Reading we get a glimpse of the difficulty people face when their waiting for God seems to be in vain. The exiles have returned from their captivity in Babylon, spurred on by the fresh hope that God will adopt them again as his people. But Jerusalem is a heap of ruins. God seems to have become distant from them and the people see no signs to confirm their hope. They become exhausted with waiting and they grow tired of hearing nothing from God. The only thing the people can do to renew their hope is remember what God actually did for them in the past and hold onto their relationship with him. When they remember God as their Redeemer they bring the past into the present, and this sacred mystery acts like a light in the midst of their darkness. The memory of God's love is life. It gives the people a reason to wait. It builds up their hope. This is why their memories are so precious. They make the difference between despair and hope, between death and life. What they remember keeps them awake to what is still to come: God will live up to his ancient name and be the Redeemer of his people.

Their hope is not in vain, but so many people fail to recognize the Redeemer when he does come. As Christians we celebrate the name of the Redeemer, Jesus, the only name by which we are saved. He is the Chosen One, the beloved Son, God's answer to the cries of a waiting, struggling people. He is the ancient name of God who became human like us here on earth. In Jesus God pursues his people with a love that is tireless, a love that refuses to allow hate and indifference and stupidity to steal its power. The Redeemer walked the roads of Israel seeking out the lost, the broken and the wounded. His enduring love takes the shape of outstretched arms on a cross, and it is on the cross that the Redeemer proves what he must do: empty himself for the sake of others. In Jesus, God lives up to his ancient name.

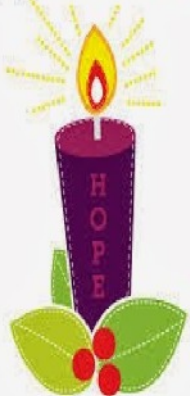
The story of Jesus, our Redeemer, has become our story too. We are between two times: between the first coming of Jesus and his second coming on the Last Day. We remember the first and we wait for the second. And today's Gospel tells us how to wait. We must wait together and stay awake to the times that we live in. We stay awake by living out the values of Jesus in our own place and time. The memory of Jesus becomes life for us not only in the Eucharist but when we share with others the truth and values that Jesus so readily shared with us. In the meantime we wait and pray that the Lord will grant us peace "as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA
www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish

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

Happy 1st week of Advent!



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 on Wednesday: please support the groups who regularly use your club. The Church Repair Fund annual selection box raffle will take place shortly all donations gratefully received. There are lists at the back of church for raffle prizes. The Christmas Fair was a great success and raised a record amount of £1,300. Many thanks to everyone who helped on any way. Tickets will be on sale shortly for the following events: New Years Eve Family Disco £5 adults, £3 children (family ticket 2 adults 2 children £15) Ladies Christmas Dinner Dance Friday 9th January £20 (6.30pm for 6.45pm Meal) Raffle tickets will be on sale next week for the Selection Box Raffle 50p a strip,

OUR LADY'S CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for the Draw will be on sale after Mass.

COFFEE MORNING

At Our lady of the Rosary, after Mass, next Sunday 7th December. Everyone welcome.

SACRED HEART LITTLE SHOP

A selection of seasonal cards, calendars and small gifts are now available from the shop next to the confessional inside Sacred Heart church.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Walk With Me and *My Day by Day* are available from the card rack in St Joseph's church, price £1. *My Day by Day children's edition* is also available, price 50p. *Walk with Me* is also available in our other churches, while supplies last. Take only one per family please.

ST JOSEPH'S RAFFLE 2014

The Raffle will be drawn at the Autumn Fayre today.

ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL

Our church will be decorated in memory of our deceased loved ones. Please complete a form, available in both porches, enclosing a donation and return to the presbytery in an envelope marked Christmas Memorial. Closing Date 19th December.

ST JOSEPH'S MAIN HALL

We always feel that the Main Hall appears to be a little drab at this time of year, so a big thank you to Celia Cooney, Jacqui Costello & Jim Heaton for giving up their time decorating the Hall.

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SVP

Next Sunday the 7th December the SVP will be having its annual Christmas collection at all churches in the parish. The monies received at this collection are used to provide food hampers to a number of young families in the parish who welcome the support at this time of year. It also allows members of the SVP to purchase small gifts for those we visit throughout the year, both in their homes and in residential care. I would like to thank you in anticipation of your generous contributions next week. *SVP Treasurer.*

ST JOSEPH'S LITTLE CHURCH

Little Church will be having its penny collection again this year throughout Advent. Money raised will buy world gifts from CAFOD for communities less fortunate than our own.

HELP NEEDED

Sr Megan is asking for help for a family who need a vacuum cleaner and a chest of drawers. Thank you.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for the children in the Sacramental Programme will take place at:

St Joseph's on Thursday 4th December at 6.30pm

Twelve Apostles on Wednesday 10th December 5.00pm

Sacred Heart on Thursday 11th December at 6.30pm

NUGENT CARE

Christmas Homeless Appeal

St Teresa's Catholic Social Club, College Rd, Upholland, Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm. Tickets £5, children free. This includes refreshments. All proceeds go to the Homeless Appeal. The concert will feature Liverpool Voice Choir and the Maghull Handbell Ringers. For more information about Nugent Care visit www.nugentcare.org

FOOD BANK

There will be a collection for the food bank at all our churches this weekend and next. The food bank would prefer to receive: instant mashed potatoes, instant noodles, tinned fish, tuna, etc., tinned fruit, long-life milk, long-life fruit juice, coffee, biscuits. Other items are welcome but they have sufficient baked beans.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Last opportunity for you to support churches in the Holy Land by sending a Christmas card. Cards are available today at Sacred Heart and Our Lady's churches.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

These people have done no wrong; they stand for justice against evil and merit our support. Information about each one is available at Sacred Heart church rear and cards available for you today (only, because of posting for Christmas) at Sacred Heart and Our Lady's churches. Your envelope will be posted for you to a prisoner of conscience.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

The J&P group will be selling Christmas cards for prisoners of conscience after the 10.30 Mass today at St Joseph's. Matthew's gospel reminds us that we are challenged to visit the imprisoned: Well, here's our chance. Moses Akatugba in Nigeria, aged 16, has been tortured repeatedly and is currently on death row; the only evidence against him is his 'confession' given under torture. Filep Karma in West Papua, has been held in prison and tortured since December 2004 for taking part in a peaceful protest and campaigning for justice. Please send them a pre-stamped Christmas card (with details inside) to let them know they are cared about and not forgotten. Minimum donation of £1 per card please.

WORLD GIFTS

Our World Gifts range of alternative presents make a huge difference to people in developing countries, because they do something no pair of socks can ever do – they help people break free from poverty!

Buy World Gifts for your friends and family, or fundraise towards World Gifts as a group to help make even more of an impact

World Gift catalogues available at the back of church.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,572.54
Animate Youth £408.69

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to: Alice Eve Grainey, Gracie May Brammer Goulden & Amelia Joyce Young.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to Martin McDonagh and Annie Stokes on the occasion of their wedding at Our Lady of the Rosary last Saturday.

SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially James Frampton, Paul Blackburn, Kathy Palmer, Samuel Heaton (Baby)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Sarah Ann Evans
Eternal rest grant unto them ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Nov 27
Love is the measure of faith.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Nov 22
When we meet a person truly in need, do we see the face of God?

LEGION OF MARY

A beautiful statue of Our Lady of Grace is taken to homes in the parish. The statue stays for one or two weeks and the Holy Rosary is prayed by the family. If you would like to have Our Lady's statue please telephone Lynn Burgess on 01942 607868 or the parish office on 01942 673517.



IMPACT ADVENT CELEBRATION

St. Mary's High School are organising an Advent Celebration on Wednesday December 10th at St Richard's. The celebration will begin with a social gathering in the Parish Centre at 6.00pm followed by a Service of Prayer in church at 7.00pm. The social is for young people only, but everyone is welcome to the service in church, which should last approximately thirty minutes.

ST MARY'S SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

St Mary's Sixth Form would like to invite our Senior Citizens to their annual Christmas Party. If you would like to go please put your name and phone number on the list at the back of church. Please also stipulate if you need a parking space. The party is on Tuesday 16th December between 12.00 noon and 2.00pm.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Back by popular demand

EDDIE ROBBINS

And the
JETSONS

WELCOME DRINK, HOT POT SUPPER,
FREE RAFFLE

Tickets £15

Available from Des Cooney 01942 674868

Parish Office 01942 673517

Doors open at 7.00pm

MUSIC AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL

'Two Cathedrals "Messiah" – The choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Liverpool Anglican Cathedral join together under the baton of Christopher McElroy to sing Handel's Messiah on Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm: Tickets £10. "A Dickensian Christmas" – the choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral with special guests lead an evening of Christmas carols and songs for all the family on Saturday 20th December at 7.00pm: Tickets £5 or £10 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children). Tickets for both concerts available from lpoolmetmusic.ticketsource.co.uk or via the Cathedral Gift shop 0151 707 3525. For further details, email music@metcathedral.org.uk or phone 0151 708 7283.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS IN ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH

The Masses for Christmas are as follows:

Wednesday 24th December

MASS at 6.00pm, 12 Apostles
(Carol Service at 5.30pm)

MASS at 6.00pm, St Joseph's

Thursday 25th December

MIDNIGHT MASS at St Joseph's

MASS at 9.30am, Sacred Heart

MASS at 10.00am, St Joseph's

MASS at 11.15am, Our Lady of the Rosary

"CONFESSATHON"

The priests of the Pastoral Area will be available for Individual Confession at St Joseph's church on **Saturday 13th December** from 10.00am 'til 2.30pm (except during Mass at 12.00 noon).

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 29 November

12A 5.30pm MASS Sheila Monaghan LD

Sun 30 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am MASS Pious List Mass
SH 9.30am MASS Doris Stout, Doris Gaskell & families
StJ 10.30am MASS Brian Ashton RIP
OL 11.00am MASS Thanksgiving (OO)
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 1 December *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS John Vaughan (sick)
OL 11.15am FUNERAL SERVICE Sarah Ann Evans

Tue 2 December *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Thomas McLoughlin (sick)

Wed 3 December *Memorial: St Francis Xavier*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS John Topping (birthday memorial)
SH 7.00pm MASS in the Chapel of Joy & Hope B & S Fletcher

Thu 4 December *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS James W Atkinson
12A 9.15am IN SCHOOL but all are welcome Advent MASS
SH 12.00noon MASS David Rabbit LD

Fri 5 December *Memorial: St John Almond P.M.*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00am MASS at Moss Bank Court Nelly Flynn
StJ 12.00noon MASS Catherine Concannon

Sat 6 December *Weekday of Advent*

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
SH 12.00noon MASS Margaret Mary McCarthy LD
12A 5.30pm MASS Josie Wilkins LD

Sun 7 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am MASS Charles Appel RIP
SH 9.30am MASS John Heneghan
StJ 10.30am MASS Special Intention
OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral area
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 20th November, the numbers drawn were 1, 20, 21. NO WINNER of £598. This week's estimated jackpot is £660.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 429 P Purcell, £5 No. 018 K Wilkinson, £3 No. 3545 Mr & Mrs Ellis, £2 No. 173 B Ryan
Bonus Ball No. 26 B Ryan

Twelve Apostles Xmas Fayre draw Xmas Hampers 1st E Duffy 02145, 2nd Mrs K Norris 02058, 3rd Kath Ogden 00274.
Chocolates & Biscuits 4th A Clews 01187. **Raffle Winners** 1st Bottle of Whisky M Southern 251-255, 2nd Chocolates Joshua 241-245.

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: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk (newsletter items)

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

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel: 01942 673517
Email: stjosephs@live.com

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