

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

7 DECEMBER 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

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

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

From the very start of Mark's Gospel, we are left in no doubt about the mission of Jesus and his disciples. Mark paints a vivid picture of an imperfect world into which a prophet, eating locusts and honey and dressed in animal skins, suddenly emerges to announce a coming change. The people flock to see John the Baptist because they know that the world needs to change. John clearly understands this struggle, but he acknowledges that the change is not one that he can accomplish himself. John is the messenger who announces the coming of one much greater than himself, one who is strong enough to tackle the world for ever.

Not only is Jesus stronger than John, but he also brings with him a more powerful baptism. Jesus will baptize his disciples with the Holy Spirit, so that they will be equipped to bring about the peace and justice for which humanity has waited so long. It is fascinating that none of the traditional elements of the Christmas story has their origin in Mark's Gospel. There are no angels, shepherds or kings. There is no mention of a star, of Mary and Joseph, or even the baby Jesus. For Mark, the real issue is the radical breakthrough to the new world of the Good News, which Jesus would later describe as the Kingdom of God. Mark makes it clear that Jesus is the Messiah AND the Son of God. People are drawn to John the Baptist from far and wide to hear this wonderful news.

John lived what he preached. By his lifestyle, his dress and his eating habits, he showed that the meaning of life is not to be found in an abundance of material possessions but in a relationship with God. Simplicity of life and detachment from unnecessary cares and worries about social life free the heart for a personal relationship with God. In this season of Advent the Church offers us the chance to repent and confess our sins in preparation for the one who is to come, just as John the Baptist did 2,000 years ago on the banks of the River Jordan. It is an opportunity to rediscover our hope and trust in God and to let go of false hopes and securities. It is a time for revisiting our life plans, relationships and priorities. Everything that follows from the opening of today's Gospel marks a new beginning, the beginning of the Good News. So as we continue to journey through Advent, let us reflect upon some new beginnings for ourselves. How can we get involved with charities or other agencies and help those less fortunate than ourselves? Do we try to follow the *Live Simply* campaign and associate ourselves with the poor and needy? Do we get involved with CAFOD and try to raise funds for projects overseas? There are many ways in which we can look at our lives and use what we have to try to help others.

As today's Gospel shows, the historical coming of Jesus enjoined a time of preparation. We too are given this time of preparation in the lead-up to Christmas. Celebrating Advent fully can help us to use this time well for repentance and renewal.

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

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a special feast for us as Our Lady Immaculate is the principal patron of our Archdiocese. There will be two Masses celebrated in the Pastoral Area:- 9.00am at St Joseph's and 12.00noon at Our Lady of the Rosary.

### 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. 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 9<sup>th</sup> January £20 (6.30pm for 6.45pm Meal). Selection box raffle tickets on sale after Mass 50p a strip all donations gratefully appreciated.

### OUR LADY'S CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets for the Draw will be on sale after Mass. The draw will take place after Mass next Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to all who donated in any way.

### COFFEE MORNING

At Our Lady of the Rosary, after Mass today, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Everyone welcome.

### SACRED HEART LITTLE SHOP

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

### SACRED HEART AUTUMN FAIR

All prizes have been claimed. £1,151.74 was raised for parish funds. Thank you to all who donated gifts and bottles, bought raffle tickets etc. and who attended. Thank you to Mrs Ahmed for use of the school hall.

### 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 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 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### 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.

### PLANTS FOR SALE

There are a few plants left over from the Autumn Fayre: they will be on sale after Mass today.

### ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SVP

At Masses this weekend 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.  
SVP Treasurer.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

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

**Twelve Apostles on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 5.00pm**  
**Sacred Heart on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm**

### WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial at St Joseph's church has been refurbished and the school has contributed towards the expense. On Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December there will be a short memorial service at the war memorial with the children from St Joseph's school.

### PASTORAL AREA JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

The next meeting will be held at Holy Family presbytery on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.45pm. This is an open meeting - all are welcome.

### FOOD BANK

There will be a collection for the food bank at all our churches this weekend.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Thank you for supporting the churches in the Holy Land. Two bundles of cards have been posted (airmail £9.50) to Jerusalem, to be distributed to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church, Aboud; The Annunciation, Beit Jala; Our Lady of Fatima, Beit Sahour; Saint Catherine, Bethlehem; The First Miracle Church, Cana; Holy Family Church, Gaza; Good Shepherd Convent, Jericho; Saint Saviour Church, Jerusalem; Terra Sancta College and Convent, Jerusalem; The Saviour, Jacob's Well, Nablus; The Annunciation Church, Nazareth; Holy Family, Ramallah; Holy Redeemer, Taybeh; Saint Peter, Tiberius.

### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Thank you to all who wrote cards. Envelopes have been posted (airmail £38.96) for you to Shaker Aamer, Saifullah Paracha at Guantanamo Bay; Johan Teterissa, Filep Karma, Indonesia; Ali Arrass, Morocco; Kya Hal Aung, Dr Tom Aung, Aung Ko Latt, Myanmar (Burma); Juanito Iotas, Philippines; Ahmed Mansour, Peter Greste & Mahamed Fahmy, Egypt; Eskinder Nega, Ethiopia; Azimjan Askarov, Kyrgyzstan; Rolando and Elizabeth Bode, Cuba; Augustine Masih, Asiya Nasi, Pakistan; Farshid Fathi, Behnam Irani, Pastor Saeed, Iran; Father Jose Contrado, Cuba; Anglican Bishop of Jos & family & Moses Akatugba, Nigeria; Alimjan Yimit, China. Please pray for them as they continue to suffer for what is right.

### CAFOD FUN RUN

Once again this year Chris Hallinan will be doing the CAFOD Fun Run which is being held on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> December at Wavertree Park, Liverpool. Chris will be at the back of St Joseph's church collecting sponsors for the next few weeks.

### 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.

**CAFOD**  
just one world

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,424.84

The retiring collection this weekend is for distribution by the St Edmund Arrowsmith parish SVP as Christmas support for those they visit throughout the year.

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Pat Whalley née Walsh ex-parishioner of Sacred Heart, Clifford John Murphy, Josephine Margaret Dobie, John Burke. Eternal rest grant unto them ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 4  
Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 2  
Slaves no more. We are all brothers and sisters. #EndSlavery

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 2  
The Church is called to draw near to every person, beginning with the poorest and those who suffer.

### THANK YOU

Sr Megan would like to say a big thank you to the S.V.P. and all those who have responded to her appeals for help during the past year. Currently she is asking for help for a family who need a vacuum cleaner and a chest of drawers.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 next Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> 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

St Joseph's Players Present

## The Voyages of

## Sinbad

## the Sailor

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January

Matinées 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January

Tickets: Adult £8 evening performances,

£10 matinées, under 16yrs £4

Concessions: 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> January

all tickets £4

Ticket office: Ratcliffe's, Bradshawgate, Leigh

### MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS IN ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH

The Masses for Christmas are as follows:

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

MASS at 6.00pm, 12 Apostles

(Carol Service at 5.30pm)

MASS at 6.00pm, St Joseph's

(Carol Service at 5.30pm)

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 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

### CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S

Would Eucharistic Ministers and Readers please let the parish office know if they will be available to go on the rota for the Christmas Masses. Thank you

### "CONFESSATHON"

The priests of the Pastoral Area will be available for Individual Confession at St Joseph's church next **Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 6 December

12A 5.30pm MASS Josie Wilkins LD

### Sun 7 December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)**

*(Bible Sunday)*

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

### Mon 8 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Peter Lythgoe (anniversary)

OL 12.00noon MASS Lee Jones

### Tue 9 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 3.45pm MASS Winnie Carney

### Wed 10 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Successful Operation

StJ 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE Clifford John Murphy

SH 7.00pm MASS in the Chapel of Joy & Hope Tighe Family

### Thu 11 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS John Burke

### Fri 12 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Special Intention (MB)

StJ 12.00noon MASS Betty Cain (anniversary)

### Sat 13 December **Memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

StJ 10.00am Exposition & Reconciliation ("CONFESSATHON" until 2.30pm)

StJ 12.00noon MASS Margaret Featherstone RIP

12A 5.30pm MASS Mary Fildes LD

### Sun 14 December **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)**

*(Gaudete Sunday)*

StJ 8.30am MASS Special Intention

SH 9.30am MASS Nora & Jack Pearson and all departed loved ones

StJ 10.30am MASS Terry Malley (anniversary)

OL 11.00am MASS Tom Sales

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 28<sup>th</sup> November, the numbers drawn were 3, 7, 15. NO WINNER of £668. This week's estimated jackpot is £730.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 102 C Ackers, £5 No. 487 Jessica Flannery, £3 No. 379 M Sweeney, £2 No. 236 D Quinn  
**Bonus Ball** No. 17 B Woods

### 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: [kjmogrady@hotmail.com](mailto:kjmogrady@hotmail.com)

[shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk) (newsletter items)

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

Tel: 01942 673517

Email: [stjosephs@live.com](mailto:stjosephs@live.com)

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