

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

14 DECEMBER 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel begins with the absence of light. John the Baptist is a witness to speak for the light, but he is not the light in person. John is the rugged figure whose task is described by the evangelists as laying low mountains and hills, shaping a path through the wasteland. He is God's sculptor, giving shape and form to the masses of people who come to see him, enabling them to see God's light. When he faces critical opposition, he points away from himself to his work in preparing for the one who is to come. John keeps declaring "I am not" in order to point to the one who can say "I am". The identity of the one coming after John is unknown at this time, but John is clear in his own mind that he is not the light. He must make way for the light and create a space for the light to shine through. And when people see the light, his own task is finished.

John the Baptist's rôle can be appreciated fully only when the light does arrive in the person of Jesus. Only then can people realize the true measure of John's worth and the unique place the man has in Christian tradition. It is interesting to recall that John's stature among his own people was so great that many of them came to believe that he was the Messiah. Indeed when Jesus asks his own followers who people think he is, the first answer is "John the Baptist come back to life". Even in the early Church, sometime after the completion of Jesus' ministry, a sectarian Baptist group still holds on to the belief that John, NOT Jesus, is the Christ. And that is why the fourth Gospel is so clear about John's role. It stresses that John is a "witness to the light", but NOT the light himself.

Like John, we are asked to make way for the light. None of us is the light: our rôle is to allow the light of God to shine through us. This can appear like a mountainous task, especially when we think about how our own abilities and commitment can seem very small. Advent calls us to make whatever contribution we can. To look first at ourselves and work quietly on the darkness that hides within us – the selfishness, the lack of forgiveness and love that keep the light of the Good News from so many people. On larger social issues, such as Justice and Peace, which require the witness of a caring community, we are challenged by the Gospel to work together. Like a talented sculptor carving through stone until they can see the light at the other side, we have to keep working our way towards the light that is Christ. Our work may appear fruitless or just odd to those who look from the outside, but the space we create for Christ is important. Holiness is not just about avoiding sin, it is the constant struggle of letting Christ be the light that shines through everything we do.

**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 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. Next Wednesday is the 200 Club draw and it is a 'Big one' please see John Thompson (tel 253507) to make sure you're up to date. Next Saturday (20<sup>th</sup>), the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Little Church Children are helping to get the Church ready for Christmas from 1.30pm.

### OUR LADY'S CHRISTMAS DRAW

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

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The recent fundraising event hosted by the Fir Tree Inn for the Macmillan Day raised more than £500. The organisers wish to express their thanks and appreciation to all who supported this worthy cause.

### 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 CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Our Christmas tree is due to be delivered on Friday. If you are physically fit and can spare any time over the weekend to erect and decorate the tree as well as arranging the crib, please contact Deacon Tony (606329) and we will set a convenient time to decorate the church.

### 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.

### JESUIT MISSIONS

The Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and good wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas Season to the many parishioners who have saved and donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of income for the mission causes overseas.

### ST JOSEPH'S AUTUMN FAYRE

A big thank you to all who helped run and those who attended our recent Autumn Fayre. Also thanks to the children of St Joseph's School for their beautiful singing. A final figure has not been established yet as to the amount raised, but should be in the region of £2,300.

### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Winning numbers for the Draw are as follows:

|          |      |               |
|----------|------|---------------|
| 1st £200 | 0313 | M Grogan      |
| 2nd £150 | 0270 | D. Charles    |
| 3rd £100 | 0528 | D & L Dutson  |
| 4th £ 50 | 2496 | D O'Rourke    |
| 5th £ 50 | 0823 | D O' Halloran |
| 6th £ 50 | 0687 | Dr. N Sheerin |

### 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.



### SERVICES OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm

St Richard's, Atherton

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

Holy Family, Boothstown

Unburdening ourselves, pouring out our sins, disappointments, weaknesses and fragility not only makes us feel better, but makes room for God to come closer to us.

### THE CATHOLIC PICTORIAL



Our Archdiocesan official monthly magazine is now available as a free publication. If there haven't been any left when you wanted one please ask and we will try and get more copies. Or, for the web-connected, it is available to read on-line by clicking here <http://www.catholicpic.co.uk/> (Sorry, this doesn't yet work in our paper edition!)



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,600.37

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

James Worden, Thomas Eric Philbin, Bertha Twig, Francis Crossley.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 11

Ecology is essential for the survival of mankind; it is a moral issue which affects all of us.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 9

The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 8

Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 6

My video message for Iraqi Christians

<http://snpy.tv/1vmYaFp>

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 6

Advent begins a new journey. May Mary, our Mother, be our guide.

### 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.



### 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.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND AND TO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Thank you for your donations of £73. 64 cards were sent to the Holy Land (£9.50) and 67 to individual Prisoners of Conscience (£72.56). Please pray for them as they suffer for what is right.

## 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

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN LEIGH PASTORAL AREA

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm St Joseph's\* & XII Apostles\*

St Gabriel's, St Richard's

8.00pm St Ambrose Barlow

11.30pm Holy Family

12.00am MIDNIGHT St Joseph's

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am Holy Family

9.30am Sacred Heart & St Richard's

10.00am St Joseph's

11.00am St Ambrose Barlow & Holy Family

11.15am Our Lady of the Rosary

\* preceded by Carol Services at 5.30pm

### 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

# 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 13 December

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

## Mon 15 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

## Tue 16 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Special Intention

SH 12.00noon MASS A lately dead person (MC)

SH 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE James Worden

## Wed 17 December Weekday of Advent II

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.15am FUNERAL SERVICE Francis Crossley

StJ 12.00noon MASS Special Intention

SH 10.30am MASS for School End of Term (in church) Fairhurst family

SH 7.00pm MASS in the Chapel of Joy & Hope Kevin Mulhearn LD

## Thu 18 December Weekday of Advent II

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Hilda Henderson

12A 9.15am MASS for School End of Term (in church) James Derbyshire LD

SH 12.00noon MASS Ruth, Walter & Dorothy Elmer

## Fri 19 December Weekday of Advent II

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Special Intention

12A 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Bertha Twig

StJ 12.00noon MASS Teresa Grogan

## Sat 20 December Weekday of Advent II

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon MASS Mary Smith LD

12A 5.30pm MASS People of the Pastoral Area

## Sun 21 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am MASS George & Agnes Hayes RIP

SH 9.30am MASS William Landers Anniv.

StJ 10.30am MASS Keith Turner RIP

OL 11.00am MASS Special Intention

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 5<sup>th</sup> December, the numbers drawn were 2, 11, 18. NO WINNER of £748. This week's estimated jackpot is £830.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 166 D Vint, £5 340 D Flannery, £3 449 C Ellis, £2 198 M Moore

**Bonus Ball** No. 8 A Simpson

The draw will take place after Mass today. The winning numbers will be on the notice board at the back of church.

## 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

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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

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Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson