

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

21 DECEMBER 2014



Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we celebrate the extravagant love of God who freely chose Mary to be the mother of his beloved Son. God's choice of Mary made her "full of grace". If grace is God's gift, Mary was full of God's gifts. She didn't do anything to deserve it. Nobody deserves gifts. Nobody is entitled to favours. Gifts and favours reflect the generosity of the giver, not the worthiness of the receiver. The Gospel does not begin with what Mary does. Rather it begins with what God does through Mary, when Mary is chosen to be the mother of God's Son, God's choice of her is not a reward for dedicated work or an answer to her prayers. God's choice is the result of God's freedom to choose Mary from amongst all women. When God chooses Mary, his choice makes her worthy, as his love has made her full of grace. This is reflected in the Magnificat:

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, because he has looked on the lowliness of his handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.

The difference between ourselves and Mary is not that Mary was chosen while we are not; rather, it is that she fully responded to be chosen for her role while we sometimes remain hesitant and half-hearted in responding to what God calls us to do. God has chosen ALL of us. Saint Paul himself wrote, "God chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence." Like Mary, we face God's choice of us and we are challenged to say yes, just as Mary did. If we could see ourselves as the result of God's choice we might be more likely to say yes to God every time. God has chosen every single person here today. He has a role for each one of us. He waits for our choice that puts our freedom at his service. God's word to Mary in today's Gospel is a word of supreme value: "Rejoice, highly favoured". Perhaps we don't really believe that God favours us. Maybe we have reached the stage where we don't think we are worth anything anyway. So today, as we make our final preparations for Christmas, let these words to Mary be our message too:

"Rejoice, highly favoured, for I have chosen you to be holy and to live through life in my presence."

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
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 9th January £20 (6.30pm for 6.45pm Meal). Selection box raffle tickets on sale after Mass 50p a strip all donations gratefully appreciated. The Selection Box raffle will take place after 5.30 Mass you last chance to get a ticket 50p a strip.

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.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S RED MISSION BOXES

The total collected from the Red Mission Boxes this year is £5,360.00. Thank you to all who organise the collections, the collectors and those who keep a mission box. If you would like a Red Mission Box or you are able to help with emptying them, please contact the parish office.

CAFOD FUN RUN

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

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The results of the Christmas Raffle are on the notice board at the back of church

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.



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!)

FR SILVIU

Fr Silviu has sent his very best wishes for a happy Christmas to everyone in St Edmund Arrowsmith's Parish.

ATHERTON & LEIGH FOOD BANK

We have had a letter from Josie Carter the Lead-Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Foodbank. She writes: "I am writing to you on behalf of Atherton and Leigh Foodbank to thank you for your extremely generous donation of food which you gave us. It is good to know that there are people out there who care about the welfare of others. Your donation will help us meet the needs of so many vulnerable groups. Please accept all our good wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas time.

The hope of Christmas

God, our dayspring and our dawn,
We turn to you when we fear the dark
And all around us weep.

We pray you greet us with your shining light
That we may spread your warm embrace
And kindle the hope of Christmas
In all whose lives remain in shadow.
Come and be our strength
O Lord, our hope and our salvation.
Amen

Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD

God of joy

God of joy
Remind me to rejoice
Wrapped up in my Christmas gifts
Tied down in my debts
I have forgotten
God of peace,
Remind me of your calm
In my anxiety
And in my haste
I have forgotten
God of all
Remind me
Of the true light of Christmas
Of your gift shared
In my own wants
And in my own needs
I have forgotten
Wrapped up
in my little world
Remind me of your world
God of joy, remind me
To rejoice

Linda Jones/CAFOD



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,950.71
S.V.P. £ 460.92

Members of the S.V.P. would like to say thank you for your generosity.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Edna Vincent, Margaret Manfredi, Terence Keavney, Eric Harrison, Keith Donnelly

Eternal rest grant unto them ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 18

The Lord put it clearly: you cannot serve two masters. You have to choose between God and money.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 16

It is so important to listen! Husbands and wives need to communicate to bring happiness and serenity to family life.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 13

Today is my anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Please pray for me and all priests.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

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.



THANK YOU

Fr Kieran & Fr Colin would like to say thank you to all who work so hard all year round to help the parish run smoothly. There are many volunteers who give their time for the service of the parish and we thank you all.

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received from all the parishioners since I arrived in September, you have made me feel at home.

Fr Colin

May the Lord bless you this Christmas with his peace, joy and love and throughout 2015

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Back by popular demand

Fantastic 50's & 60's Sensation

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

21st to 25th & 28th to 31st January

Matinées 24th, 25th & 31st January

Tickets: Adult £8 evening performances,

£10 matinées, under 16yrs £4

Concessions: 21st & 22nd 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 20 December

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

Mon 22 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Joan Ganley

Tue 23 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Harry Elliot

SH 12.00noon MASS Ellen Morris Anniv.

12A 1.30pm FUNERAL MASS Edna Vincent

Wed 24 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.30am FUNERAL MASS Terence Keavney

12A 5.30pm CAROL SERVICE

StJ 5.30pm CAROL SERVICE

StJ 6.00pm FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS Philip John Aldred (RIP)

12A 6.00pm FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS Mary Langan & family members

Thu 25 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

StJ 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS Steven Naylor (RIP)

SH 9.30am CHRISTMAS MASS Doris Gaskell, Doris Stout & families

StJ 10.00am CHRISTMAS MASS Alf Case (RIP)

OL 11.15am CHRISTMAS MASS Thanksgiving (EW)

Fri 26 December **FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Higgins Family

Sat 27 December **(FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST)**

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Fildes (LD)

Sun 28 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

StJ 8.30am MASS John Smith, Roy Parr, Audrey Ashurst (Anni)

SH 9.30am MASS Patrick & Margaret O'Sullivan & family

StJ 10.30am MASS Mark Prescott (Anni)

OL 11.00am MASS

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 12th December, the numbers drawn were 3, 5, 8. NO WINNER of £828. This week's estimated jackpot is £900.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 435 B Woods, £5 161 F Hilton, £3 421 M Moore, £2 008 Scott

Bonus Ball No. 36 E Nuttall

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £100 no 54 N Skitt, £50 no 60 J Jones, £25 no 121 Mrs Atkinson, £25 no 182 K Gallagher, £5 winners: no 44 M Seddon, no 30 P Fisher, no 56 S Gredecki, no 57 A Turnock, no 71 L Barmer, no 135 T Thompson, no 3 L Ashley, no 172 T Thompson, no 48 B Parry, no 12 J Lovett

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
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