

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR B 28th DECEMBER 2014



## Responsorial Psalm

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways!**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;  
Let the message of Christ find a home with you.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

This weekend we celebrate the great feast of the Holy Family. When Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph gave him the name that God had chosen, a name that means "Saviour". A few weeks later, they took him to the Temple, in accordance with the Jewish Law, to present him to the Lord. Simeon and Anna were holy people who had dedicated their lives to the service of God and God's chosen people. They knew the promise of the Messiah but did not know his identity or when he would come. Simeon had long prayed that he would not die before he saw the messiah for himself. Although the Gospel does not say so, Anna probably did likewise. Nothing particularly distinguished the Holy Family from any other young couple and their baby. Yet God touched the hearts of Simeon and Anna so that they recognized Jesus as more than "just" another infant. Jesus would be "the light of the Gentiles". For Simeon, this was a prophetic moment. He perceived something of the suffering that would come to Mary simply because she was the faithful mother of Jesus. A "Sword" of sorrow would pierce her heart. Mary, the new mother, found her joy turned to pain. Joseph, so faithful and loving towards Mary and Jesus, also found his world turned upside down. Yet Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna all shared the joy of knowing that this tiny baby was also the Messiah, the hope of the world, the one for whom generations of faithful people had waited.

No one who saw Jesus, Mary and Joseph would have known that they were witnessing the dawn of a new age. Simeon and Anna only recognized the Holy Family because God was active in the situation. It took faith to see beyond a newborn baby to the crucifixion and the resurrection. Simeon needed courage to warn Mary that her joy also involved pain. Joseph would be presented with a responsibility he had never anticipated. According to tradition, Joseph died before Jesus began his adult ministry. Although we do not know this definitely, it would seem that he was no longer around to support Mary when she was most in need of his quiet strength and fidelity. There is certainly no mention of him in the Gospel during Jesus' public ministry and the accounts of his death and resurrection. Family life is not always a bed of roses, as most families can testify. Every family will have problems to face. This is simply part of life itself. Every family will know troubles and sorrows. Sometimes families break up because the problems become too many, or the challenges of living together become too great. At such times they may be in special need of our concern and support. But there can be an unbreakable bond, a unique friendship and an unflinching strength that carries a family through good times and bad. Every family has moments of great joy as well as times that are difficult, when it is only the love between them that gives them the courage they need as they face things they had never expected and would never have wanted. Mary and Joseph gave Jesus the foundation that prepared him for Calvary – and also for Easter Sunday. May their example and their prayers bring our families courage in the bad times, and joy in the good times.

**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**



# 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 December

12A 5.30pm MASS

## Sun 28 December FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

StJ 8.30am MASS John Smith, Roy Parr, Audrey Ashurst

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

StJ 10.30am MASS Mark Prescott

OL 11.00am MASS Eileen Massey and Danny O'Brien

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

## Mon 29 December FEAST: Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury, (Becket) Bishop & Martyr

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 11.00am FUNERAL MASS Keith Donnelly

## Tue 30 December Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Moira Baird LD

## Wed 31 December Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Mary Aindow Anni

## Thu 1 January Solemnity Mary Mother of God

OL 12.00noon MASS Lee Jones

Fr Colin will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary today. This is the Church in our parish dedicated to Mary as the Church throughout the world celebrates her motherhood. It would be a great start to the New Year if we had a full church.

## Fri 2 January Memorial of St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen Bishop and Doctors

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Mary Connor

## Sat 3 January Weekday of Christmas Time

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Stanley Woods

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Smith L.D.

## Sun 4 January Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

StJ 8.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

SH 9.30am MASS Antony Ellison L.D.

StJ 10.30am MASS Adam Pickup

OL 11.00am MASS January Kevin Kilduff (LD)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 19<sup>th</sup> December, the numbers drawn were 5, 12, 15. ONE LUCKY WINNER of £936! NO LOTTERY ON BOXING DAY. The next lottery will be drawn on 2 January: the estimated jackpot is £60.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 149 J Evans, £5 No. 017 E Dawber, £3 No. 425 N Flynn, £2 No. 377 P Leonard  
**Bonus Ball** No. 28 Mr T Jones

There are a number of unclaimed prizes. Numbers are as follows: Pink- 128, 866, 963, 410, 650, 672, 670, 442, 674  
Grey - 161, 815, 971, 698, 974, 675, 706, 205, 966

## 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  
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Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood  
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

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## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

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

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