

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4th JANUARY 2015



GOSPEL REFLECTION

At this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere, we long for light. Often the days are dark and grey. The sun seems to have lost its strength and the light is weak. We had the shortest days just over two weeks ago now, so the days will start to get lighter and warmer. The sun will return. The heat and warmth will once again stir the cold earth. But it feels like a long wait. 5,000 years ago, ancient peoples built burial chambers that would be illuminated by the sun on the shortest day, such as Newgrange in the Boyne Valley in Ireland. The sun shone along a carefully fashioned stone passage and illuminated the entire chamber where human remains had been placed. These stone monuments still evoke a sense of wonder and mystery as they are illuminated on the shortest day. Looking towards the eastern sky in the morning, it is a great sign of hope when the sky begins to brighten. The modern hymn, "Christ Be Our Light", opens with the words, "Longing for light, we wait in darkness."

As we wait for the light to return, so the people of Israel waited for the light of a Messiah who would proclaim a new Kingdom and give people a new promise. Today's celebration of the Epiphany proclaims that Christ is the Messiah, the glory of God, who is like light breaking into the night and brings hope and rebirth to the people that walked in darkness. We come to the crib and look into the manger to see the Christ Child lying in the feeding place for animals. He is our food for life. With childlike wonder we look into the crib and see the kings gathering to worship this child and bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are gifts of great extravagance fit for a king and a God. The magi – the three kings – worship and adore the Christ Child in all his fragility, vulnerability and innocence.

After the hectic celebration of Christmas, today's feast of the Epiphany helps us to grasp more deeply the gift that has been given to us and the revelation of the Christ Child who will save us and bring us a message of great hope. Pope Francis challenges us to share the joy of the Gospel with people we meet. Maybe we can help a friend to find new meaning because of the celebration of Christmas. Perhaps we may have a new desire to speak of the birth of Christ. Maybe we are more ready to love others in a difficult situation. The Epiphany invites us to find a new path and a new route to live out our faith to the full as we begin a New Year together. The Gospel message calls us to be more open to people who are fragile and vulnerable, weak and poor, and in this way share our hopes and joys with them.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	21/12/14	£1,764.79
	Christmas	£2,827.71
	28/12/14	£1,556.41

SICK

Pat Hourey

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eric Harrison, Catherine Crook, Peter O'Connell, James O'Dwyer, Gerald Oddie, Michael Monaghan
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts. We hope that each one of you has had a very happy and holy Christmas and wish you a very happy and blessed New Year!

Fr Colin & Fr Kieran



**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
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 3 January

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Smith LD

Sun 4 January SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Year B)

StJ 8.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

SH 9.30am MASS Antony Ellison LD

StJ 10.30am MASS Sylvia Withington, Jack & Kathleen Withington

OL 11.00am MASS Kevin Kilduff LD

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 5 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Gerald Oddie

Tue 6 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

Wed 7 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 10.30am FUNERAL MASS Eric Harrison

Thu 8 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am FUNERAL MASS Catherine Crook

Fri 9 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Mark Grren

Sat 10 January Weekday of Christmas Time

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OL 12.00noon MASS Thomas Hynes

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Rita Sheridan LD

Sun 11 January FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS Ernest Clarke

SH 9.30am MASS Martin Downes 80th birthday

StJ 10.30am MASS Joe & Tony Shovelton

OL 11.00am MASS Ann Devlin

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery No draw took place on Boxing Day. 2nd January results are in the porch.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 193 Mrs C ackers, £5 443 C Ellis, £3 377 P Leonard, £2 236 D Quinn

Bonus Ball 49 M Roach

Twelve Apostles unclaimed prizes: At the back of church is a list of thirty-two raffle tickets winning selection boxes. So far, only eight have been claimed!

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Tuesday 6th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

BURNS NIGHT

Friday 16th January at St Ambrose Barlow at 7.45pm. Including supper and a "wee" dram - £6.50.

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: shleigh@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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