

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR B) 11 JANUARY 2015



## Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:  
"This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Mahatma Gandhi was a Hindu, yet in many ways he was a most Christ-like person. Albert Einstein once said of him, "Generations to come will find it hard to believe that such a man as he ever walked upon this earth." Gandhi was a staunch opponent of India's caste system. He referred to it as "a blot on the soul of India." He especially disliked the treatment given to the so-called "untouchables" – those who belong to no caste who were therefore treated as the lowest of the low. They were barred from entering temples. In towns and cities they were confined to live in the slums. They were allowed only the most menial jobs. In the countryside they were even forbidden to use the wells for collecting water. On his journeys through India, Gandhi was warmly welcomed everywhere he went. When he entered a village, the head of the village would invite him to stay in his house, where he could be assured of a bath, good food, and a good night's rest. But Gandhi would politely refuse the offer. Then he would ask, "Where are your untouchables?" These people lived in hovels on the outskirts of the village. Gandhi went and stayed with them even though his actions shocked the village leaders. Gandhi did not belong among the untouchables. Yet he sought them out in the hope of lifting them out of their pitiful condition.

Jesus did not belong among sinners. Yet he joined the queue of sinners waiting to be baptized by John. In doing so he was identifying with the kind of people he came to save. Far from disapproving of what he was doing, the heavenly Father approved of it. This is conveyed in the words, "You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you." And by sending the Holy Spirit down on him, the Father set his seal on his mission to save those who were sinners. What Jesus did that day at the Jordan was to serve as a model for his public ministry. He would not reject people, whether they were sinners or not. He would seek them out and befriend them. Though completely sinless, Jesus placed himself beside us as an older brother. He wants to lead us out from our wretched condition of sin and death. He wants us to live in the glorious freedom of the children of God. Baptism was a crucial moment for Jesus. It meant the inauguration of his mission to sinners. From that moment on he committed himself to the work God had sent him to do.

What happened at Jesus' Baptism happened at our baptism too. God said to each of us, "You are my beloved daughter" or "You are my beloved son." And the Holy Spirit was given to us to enable us to live out our faith in him to the full. There are many vocations in the Church. Of all these vocations the most important one is the one we received at baptism – the vocation to be a disciple of Jesus.

**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 call on 07921 816501. Please consider us for your special occasion. Bingo on Wednesday: please support the groups who regularly use your club. Please check your numbers for the Selection Box Raffle. Due to illness there will be no Wednesday Bingo until further notice. The next 200 Club Draw will be after Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> January, payments can be given to Therese or Jane Thompson, you can also put the money and your details in an envelope and either put it with the offertory collection, through the church or club letterboxes.

### CAFOD FUN RUN

On 27<sup>th</sup> December, snow closed Liverpool airport, but in Wavertree Park, intrepid Chris Hallinan ran for the 30<sup>th</sup> year at this annual CAFOD event to raise funds for the ebola crisis. Inspired by veteran Chris Hallinan, 2 from Leigh Sacred Heart and an asylum seeker family (Mum, Dad and daughters 5 and 10 years) from Bangladesh completed the CAFOD walk.

Pope Francis has pleaded for the international community to be generous in responding to the ebola crisis. Gift Aided, if possible, cash or cheques (payable to CAFOD) most gratefully received.

### SACRED HEART WEEKLY LOTTERY

From the accumulated surplus of the lottery and according to its rules two cheques have been presented, one to Sacred Heart school and the other to St Edmund Arrowsmith parish, each in the amount of £1,000. This distribution takes place every six to seven months and, also by the rules, £2,000 in prizes has been shared during the same period. Thanks to those who buy tickets every week, those who take tickets to sell to others as well as school staff and the team who count the cash and search the tickets for winning entries. If you can spare an hour or two from noon on a Friday please consider joining the team. If no one else volunteers we will have to close down sometimes for holidays.

### ST JOSEPH'S

#### THANK YOU

A very big thank you to Moss Bank Nurseries for the beautiful tree they donated to St Joseph's and for all the plants they supply throughout the year.

#### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Flower Appeal in memory of their loved ones. The money raised decorated the church over Christmas and the money that is left will provide flowers throughout the year. Thank you also to our small team of 'Flower Ladies' who do a wonderful job. The church looked beautiful!

#### RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you.

#### THANK YOU

Joan Ganley would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, Mass cards, prayers, presents and cards received on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. May God bless you all.

#### WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

#### CRIB OFFERINGS

This Sunday is the last chance to donate to the Crib Offering. The money raised will be sent to

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to all who attended Mass over the Christmas period. It was great to see so many of you. Thank you also to everyone involved in the preparations for Christmas, and those involved in the Services, Deacons, Sacristans, Cleaners, Flower arrangers, Altar Servers, Readers, Musicians, Eucharistic Ministers, Catechists, Crib Erectors and Tree Decorators, Collectors and Counters.

### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at St. Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers very welcome.

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The next meeting for the children who are being Confirmed and making their First Communion this year will be:-

St Joseph's Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 3.45pm in the Mather Room.

Sacred Heart

XII Apostles

### CHEQUES

Just a little reminder that if you are making a donation or paying for a Mass by cheque, please make it payable to St Edmund Arrowsmith Parish. The individual churches no longer have bank accounts in their names and the bank will not accept any more cheques made out to individual churches. Thank you.

### JUSTICE & PEACE

The next meeting of the Justice & Peace Group will take place in the Parish House at St. Richard's, Atherton, on Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. Please come along and get more involved in Justice & Peace issues.

### EBOLA CRISIS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Pauline Cafferkey and her family, and all those international and local health teams who are working around the clock to halt the spread of the Ebola virus in communities across Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea.

The Ebola virus remains a major emergency and still requires a concerted national and international effort to stop its spread. Our first line of defence is educating people about the virus and how to avoid catching it. We are working with our trusted Church and non-Church partners, on education awareness campaigns in communities, training priests, catechists and Church volunteers who, with bravery, compassion, and selflessness, are on the ground, spreading the message of prevention, dedicated to reducing the number of new infections in their communities.

We are also supporting the work of safe and dignified burials in Sierra Leone by training and managing burial teams in Kambia.

To date the Catholic community of England and Wales has donated over one million pounds in support of CAFOD and its partners on the ground working to prevent this deadly disease spreading further.

Please continue to keep the people affected by the Ebola virus, and those working towards its containment in your prayers.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,900.67

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

### SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially John Thompson, Pat Haury

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Joseph Doyle, Gerard Oddie, Beverly Brookes, Michael Monaghan, Margaret Moorehouse, Glynn Elmer, Margaret Matthias, Kathleen White.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 8

#PrayersForParis

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 6

Jesus came to save us: let us not reject this marvellous gift!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 5

Lord, help us to recognize you in the sick, poor and suffering.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 3

Christianity spreads through the joy of disciples who know that they are loved and saved.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 1

How many innocent people and children suffer in the world!

Lord, grant us your peace!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 31

Lord, thank you!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 30

Today people are suffering from poverty, but also from lack of love.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 28

The Christian family is missionary: it announces the love of God to the world.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 26

Let us pray today for all those who are persecuted for their Christian faith.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 25

With Jesus there is true joy.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 24

May we try to listen and be silent in order to make space for the beauty of God.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 23

At times we are slaves of sin. Lord, come to free us!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Dec 20

If Jesus is to become the centre of our life, we need to spend time in his presence, before the Tabernacle.

### HELP NEEDED

Sr. Megan is asking for help for a young family she knows who are refugees and do have anything. They need all items of furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils, white goods etc. If you can help please ring Sr Megan on 01942 683554. Thank you.

### 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/>

St Joseph's Players Present

# The Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

*A Panto full of comedy, dance, and song, by the multi-talented cast. Plus Live Band.*

*St Joseph's Players Pantomimes have been bringing the best of entertainment to generations of families and this year is definitely no exception.*

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**  
**Last year's winners of the BATS**  
**Best Pantomime**



## BURNS NIGHT SUPPER

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at St Ambrose Barlow Hall.

We will celebrate this Great Bard a few days in advance of his official birthday.

The Haggis will be piped in at 8.00pm.

Supper - £6.50 per person, which includes Haggis, neeps and tatties, a wee dram or soft drink and a sweet.

As usual, we welcome people from across our Pastoral Area to a great evening of food, entertainment and an odd "highland fling" or two! Please contact Des, 876050 or 07973 114365 to guarantee your place.

## 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 10 January

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Rita Sheridan LD

### Sun 11 January

**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR B)**

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

### Mon 12 January *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.45am FUNERAL MASS Gerard Oddie

SH 11.00am FUNERAL MASS Joe Doyle

### Tue 13 January *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS John Morris (anniv.)

### Wed 14 January *Memorial of St. Kentigern, Bishop*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 11.15am FUNERAL SERVICE Beverly Brooks

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Michael Monaghan

SH 7.00pm MASS In thanks to Our Lord, Our Lady & all the saints.

### Thu 15 January *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Margaret Moorehouse

SH 12.00noon MASS Theresa Neary (sick)

12A 2.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE Glynn Elmer

### Fri 16 January *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am FUNERAL MASS Margaret Matthias

StJ 12.00noon MASS

### Sat 17 January *Memorial of St. Anthony, Abbot*

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS James & Ann Marsh

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Fildes LD

### Sun 18 January **SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

*Day of Prayer for Peace; Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today*

StJ 8.30am MASS Mark Kelleher

SH 9.30am MASS Anna, Alojzy & Frank Tesmer

StJ 10.30am MASS Maurice & Isabella Phillips

OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the numbers drawn were 19, 22, 25. NO WINNER of £52. This week's estimated jackpot is £120.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 470 B & H Edwards, £5 No. 264 M Smith, £3 No. 010 A Unsworth, £2 No. 482 Dominic Lee  
**Bonus Ball** No. 24 N Jones

Our Lady's Raffle - Unclaimed prizes: 128 Pink, 974 Grey, 161 Grey, 674 Pink

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

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

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