

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 1 FEBRUARY 2015



Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

When the name of Charles Dickens is mentioned, many people immediately think of musicals like *Oliver* and *Scrooge*. Yet Dickens' writing very often focused on the plight of the poor and the downtrodden of his time. He would often walk the streets of London at night, noticing the disturbing reality of life for the poor, especially the children who were often forced to work like slaves in awful conditions. With his own money he even opened orphanages and other houses where the poor might find solitude and relative safety from the streets of nineteenth century London. So when Dickens went on tour, taking his writings over the whole of the British Isles and, on two occasions, over to the United States, people flocked to see him. No one could read his novels like him. No one had the same authority because he was the writer and he was the one who knew the characters inside out. No one understood the meaning of the novels in the way that he did. Words are important in any society. But we like to hear them best when they are shared from someone who is really interesting, or from someone who really knows what they are talking about, from someone who speaks with authority.

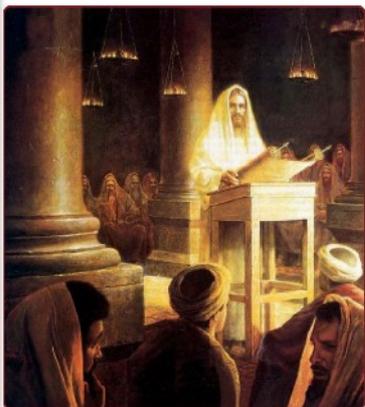
Throughout the Gospels Jesus is followed by lots of people. Crowds gather everywhere to listen to him speak because, unlike the other religious leaders and the prophets and story-tellers on the street corners, he spoke with authority. In today's Gospel Jesus goes to teach in the synagogue. People are astounded at his authority because he shows in action as well as in word how he can overcome the kingdom of Satan. He immediately clashes with an unclean spirit that possesses one of the crowd. The devil recognizes Jesus not as a healer but as a destroyer. Jesus casts out the unclean spirit, who violently shakes his victim and screams out in defeat. The kingdom of Satan is pushed back as Jesus' Kingdom becomes more and more powerful. In our modern, scientific society we may find it hard to understand the idea of evil spirits. Modern medicine can, perhaps, explain a great deal of the sickness and disease that we sometimes see in the Gospels. But a glance at the news today will remind us that evil behaviour is still very much a part of our world and it's not always easy to explain why.

The Good News of the Gospel is that Christ won the victory over evil and we can share in his risen power. Evil will never have the final word. Jesus calls us to stand firm in faith against evil and injustice in the world. We do not need to be afraid since we know he is with us and journeys with us in faith, love and hope.

**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 call on 07921 816501. Please consider us for your special occasion. Bingo resumes on Wednesday at 8.30pm. We are looking for a few volunteers to shout the Bingo on a rota basis, if you can help please contact Therese Thompson (01942 253507). Please support the groups who regularly use your club. Please check your numbers for the Selection Box Raffle.

WALSINGHAM TRIP

This year is our 40th year of running the Walsingham Pilgrimage. We leave on 6th of April, returning 9th April. The cost of the trip will be £165 and a deposit of £20 is required to secure a place. Please contact Mr & Mrs Hawkins, on 01942 675368 or Therese Thompson on 253507.

ST JOSEPH'S

MASS INTENTIONS

Phillip John Aldred, Alf Case, Eveline Donohue, Margaret Gildart, Kathleen Greensmith, William O'Hara, Mary Tyrer, Special Intention & Thanksgiving Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints Special Intention & Thanksgiving Louis Manfredi & Family

FLOWERS

Anyone willing to attend to the flowers in church, please contact the Parish Office.

CHOIR

If you enjoy singing or can play a musical instrument, you will be very welcome in the choir. We are having a choir practice on Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm in the Green Room. Please come along or, if you prefer, speak to a member of the choir beforehand.

CAFOD FUN RUN

Chris Hallinan has received a letter of thanks from CAFOD for raising £1,000.00 by completing the Boxing Day Fun Run. Thank you to everyone who sponsored Chris. The money raised from this Fun Run is earmarked for the Ebola crisis.

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Admissions Policy for 2016/2017

Catholic schools across the Archdiocese are consulting on proposed changes to Admissions Policies to take effect for school admissions for September 2016. The consultation period will run until the 23 February 2015 and you are invited to submit comments in writing about the proposal to: The Archdiocese of Liverpool, Schools Department, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, L17 1AA. Alternatively you may wish to e-mail Mr C.Williams at: c.williams@rcaol.co.uk. Comments should also be sent to the Chair of Governing Body at the school address.

A copy of the proposed Admissions Policy can be found at: <http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/admissions2016> or on the school website at <http://www.saintjosephs.wigan.sch.uk>. A copy can also be obtained from the school office.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

At Christ the King Church, Childwall,
Wednesday, 11th February 2015 at 7.30pm.
Everyone welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Tea and Coffee will be served after Mass today. Please come along and support us.

SACRED HEART YEAR FOUR CHILDREN

At Twelve Apostles and Sacred Heart this weekend we welcome our Year 4 children and their families to our Sunday Mass.

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN YOUTH CONFERENCE

The annual SPUC Youth Conference has been very successful in recent years in educating and motivating the youth of today to engage in peaceful and effective pro-life work all over the UK. The youth conference is also open to attendees from other countries. Young people from Spain and Malta have been welcomed in recent years. The conference will run from Friday 6 March (late afternoon) until Sunday 8 March 2015 (after lunch), at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Southport (near Liverpool). The price is £100, including all meals and accommodation. The conference is open to those from the age of 16 to 35. Our speakers will include His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, who has been very outspoken in defence of human life and the family; and Obianuju (Uju) Ekeocha, founder of Culture of Life Africa. Uju travels all over the world promoting the defence of human life in Africa, which is under huge pressure to cede to the Western practices of abortion and contraception. Other speakers will include Ira Winter, a member of the Life Fertility Care team, which promotes an ethical alternative to IVF; and Dr. David Paton, a professor of Economics at Nottingham University and an expert on issues surrounding teenage pregnancy. Entertainment will include Friday evening quiz and film, Saturday evening ceilidh, and drinks in the bar (over 18s only) on Friday and Saturday evening.

To book, please: visit

www.spuc.org.uk/youth/conference2015 download the application form, complete it and post it with the conference fee enclosed to: Youth Conference, SPUC, 3 Whitacre Mews, Stannary Street, London, SE11 4AB.

If you have a query about the conference please contact Rhoslyn Thomas by email to conference@spuc.org.uk or by telephone to 020 7820 3140.

To subscribe to SPUC's email information services, please visit www.spuc.org.uk/em-signup.

WOMENS' WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, 6th March, 7.30pm at Kirkhall Lane Independent Methodist church, Leigh, WN7 1SA. Men, women, young people and children are all most welcome. All (male, female, any age) who enjoy singing are invited to the singers' practices on Mondays 23rd February and 2nd March, 7.30-8.30pm, at the same church. Car parking opposite at B&Q and in Byron St.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

Archbishop Malcolm will be the principal celebrant at the annual Mass to celebrate Marriage & Family Life which will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday February 8th at 11.00am, followed by refreshments in the Gibberd Room. Everyone welcome.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,641.64

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

Retiring collections this weekend are for the benefit of the Catholic Education Service

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2015

Education Sunday takes place today, Sunday, 1st February. It is a day of celebration for all those involved in the world of education. For over a century it has been part of an ecumenical celebration in which the Catholic Church participates. The Catholic Education Service's theme for Education Sunday 2015 is 'All Gifts and All People'. Education Sunday is an opportunity for schools and parishes to come together to celebrate and give thanks for all the students, staff and parents who work so hard in and for Catholic schools. It is also a chance for us to reflect upon the contribution that Catholic education makes to our communities.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to: Grace Ann Sutton.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

William McLaughlin.
Eternal rest grant unto him ...



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 29
True love does not pay attention to the evil it suffers. It rejoices in doing good.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 27
Auschwitz cries out with the pain of immense suffering and pleads for a future of respect, peace and encounter among peoples.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 24
Practicing charity is the best way to evangelize.

HELP NEEDED

Sr. Megan is asking for help for a young family she knows who are refugees and do not 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.

Let us Pray ...

*Lord God, you feel so strongly about the needy, the afflicted, the weak, and the imprisoned – and you love them so deeply.
Inspire the leaders among us to uphold the rights of the downtrodden
and to serve with fairness, justice and integrity.
Amen.*

Anil Netto, Malaysia



This Lent, the UK Government will match every pound you give up to the value of £3.5 million. Please give what you can this Lent Fast Day to transform the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world. You can ensure more of the world's poorest people are able to not only survive, but thrive after a disaster strikes.

FRIDAY SUPPERS

Looking for inspiration for simple Friday abstinence meals? Make sure you get your hands on a copy of CAFOD'S new Friday Suppers recipe book. Written by Delia Smith's recipe-tester, it's packed with delicious meat-free, fish, and vegetable recipes. All funds raised are donated to CAFOD's work. £6.99 available from shop.cafod.org.uk



LENTEN TALKS – FR CHRIS THOMAS

A series of Lenten Talks entitled "Lent – A Time of Change & Renewal", will place in the Pastoral Area during Lent this year. Many of you may remember that Archbishop Patrick gave a series of talks a few years ago. A number of people have asked for this to take place again. This year Fr Chris Thomas, who leads the Irenaus Group in the Archdiocese, will lead the talks every Tuesday evening in St Ambrose Barlow church in Astley. The five talks will begin on February 24th until March 24th. Fr Chris has written a number of books on prayer and spirituality. He is a fabulous speaker. Please come along and join us for these very special evenings.

CINeworld IN LEIGH

There are a number of good looking productions that are being screened live at Cineworld, Leigh. It has been good meeting up with fellow parishioners to watch them together. If you would like to join us please book your ticket(s) and just turn up and meet up together in the foyer.

- RSC's "Love's Labours Lost" - Wednesday February 11th at 7.00pm.
- RSC's "Much Ado About Nothing" (renamed "Love's Labours Won") - Wednesday March 4th at 7.00pm.
- ENO's "La Traviata" - Wednesday March 11th at 7.30pm.

FEEDING BRITAIN

'Feeding Britain' is a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the UK. The inquiry was set up in April 2014 and the report was published towards the end of last year. Over the next few weeks, we will include excerpts from the report in the newsletter. Although any excerpt is out of context, the situations described do represent the kind of poverty and need clergy and other caring professions encounter in our local community on a regular basis. You can read the whole report here: <http://foodpovertyinquiry.org>
Page 31 of the report describes hunger in schools:

"Some schools report that up to a quarter of their pupils arrive hungry each morning. Evidence from most of these schools suggests that whilst low parental income is an important factor, children often go hungry because of a lack of routine and organisation at home."

"According to the House of Commons Library, 1.5 million poor children are automatically disqualified from receiving free school meals because their parents are in work. Therefore, whilst we welcome the introduction in September 2014 of free school meals for all 1.5 million pupils in the infant years, the Inquiry believes that, in future, provision should be better targeted at those children most in need."

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 31 January

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Fildes LD

Sun 1 February **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Education Sunday

StJ 8.30am MASS Eddie Unsworth RIP
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StJ 10.30am MASS Brian Ashton Birthday Memorial
OL 11.00am MASS Lee Jones
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 2 February **FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Bob Smith RIP

Tue 3 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 4)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Gerard Oddie LD

Wed 4 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS Mary Fildes
SH NO MASS

Thu 5 February **Memorial of St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 7.00pm MASS Fred Shortis Anniv.

Fri 6 February **Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
(OL) NO MASS
StJ 12.00noon MASS Phillip John Aldred Anniv.

Sat 7 February *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
OL 12.00noon MASS Andrew Moir (LD)
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Karol Gredecki (Birthday Anniv.)

Sun 8 February **FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

StJ 8.30am MASS Michael Monaghan
SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan
StJ 10.30am MASS Kathleen White
OL 11.00am MASS
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 23rd January, the numbers drawn were 4, 11, 17. NO WINNER of £236. This week's estimated jackpot is £300.

Our Lady's 500 Club 18/01/15 £10 No. 435 B Woods, £5 No. 250 M Flannery, £3 No. 441 B E. Woods, £2 No 391 A Sharkie. **Bonus Ball** No. 4 M Collins

25/01/15 £10 No. 353 Mr & Mrs T Ellis, £5 No. 305 N Jones, £3 No. 152 N Flynn, £2 No. 190 M Smith

Bonus Ball No. 17 B Woods.

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40 No 98 M Watt, £15 No 92 C & F Fort, £5 No 56 S Gredecki, £ 5 No 25 M Gredecki.

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



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