

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

8 FEBRUARY 2015



Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel shows Jesus doing a good deed, as he heals Simon's mother-in-law. Quickly a crowd gathers as word spreads of Jesus' healing powers. Jesus is presented with the suffering of the whole town. And he helps out as much as he can, curing those who are sick and freeing those caught up by evil spirits. But Jesus faces a dilemma. Is this why he came? In the silence of the night, away from the crowds, he is able to look beyond the immediate need and hear his Father's voice speak to him of his real purpose, his real mission. Yes, Jesus is a healer, but his mission is not simply to cure sickness and he has been sent to more than just one town, in this case Capernaum. Jesus sees that there is a bigger issue at stake, a more urgent and important task he has to accomplish. So although "everybody is looking for" Jesus – no doubt there were many people who were in need of healing – Jesus does not return to the town but instead heads off for other places. And his intention is not simply to heal, since healing is only one aspect of his mission. He has come to preach – to proclaim the Good News of the nearness of God's Kingdom, of which the healings and the exorcisms are merely signs.

It's easy for us to be so wrapped up in our lives – the daily routine, the demands that our daily lives place upon us – that we lose sight of our true purpose and calling. Like Job, in today's First Reading, we can be left struggling with our existence, failing to find a meaning in our lives. Sickness, illness, stress and anxiety in particular can consume us so much that we sometimes feel overwhelmed. But the symbolic good deed of Jesus in today's Gospel points a way forward for all of us. Simon's mother-in-law, totally incapacitated by her illness, is restored by Jesus' touch in such a way that she is able to serve them at table. She is "helped up" by Jesus and she begins to "wait on them". In other words, her encounter with Jesus transforms her suffering into the freedom to serve.

This Gospel truth is a lesson the disciples struggle to learn. True greatness lies in service, for Jesus himself came not to be served but to serve. Jesus' mission was indeed to bring healing, but such healing was accomplished on the Cross on Good Friday. It was a healing of the whole of humanity, indeed the whole of creation. Those of us who, like Simon's mother-in-law, are touched by Jesus are raised to serve like him, to continue his mission of bringing healing and wholeness to others. So many people are weighed down by burdens of suffering, trapped by external forces of oppression and poverty, or enslaved by internal compulsions and addictions. The response of Christ – indeed of every Christian – is to do more than simply ask "Why?" We are called to engage actively, by proclaiming the nearness of God's Kingdom, through lives of loving service.

**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 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.

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

Gerry Andrews, Mary Green, Marion Jackson, Hilda Naylor, Joan Taylor.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Rotas are now available from the Sacristy.

WOMEN'S SODALITY

Tuesday 10th February 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

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.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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

PARISH VOLUNTEERS' MASS & SOCIAL

Friday 27th February at the Twelve Apostles church and Parish Centre. Mass will be at 7.00pm followed by a social evening. There will be hot pot, bingo and music and a chance for us all to catch up and have a chat. The past couple of years this event has been very popular. Please sign up on the list at the back of church if you wish to go, so we have an idea of how many people we are catering for.

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.

PAPYRUS: Prevention of Young Suicide

This year Marriage & Family Life Ministry are holding a series of four events across England and Wales, each providing an introduction to the work of the national charity POPYRUS.

Suicide is a leading cause of death among our young people. POPYRUS seeks to work with communities across the UK to tackle the stigma that surrounds suicide and to promote mental health and well-being among young people and those who care for and work with young people.

All are welcome at this event The day starts at 10.00am until 3.30pm: a light lunch will be provided.

Please see the poster in the church porch for more details.

**6th March 2015 at LACE, Croxteth Dr, Sefton Park,
Liverpool L178 1AA**

DIVORCED OR SEPARATED?

The Church does offer support.

A series of six weekly meetings Recovering and Moving On After Divorce, starts on Monday 23rd February 2015, 7.30pm - 9.00pm. A one day meeting will be held on Saturday 21st February for people who are not able to attend the evening meetings. Individual support is also available. Meetings are free and confidential. For further information or to make a booking (essential) please contact Frances Trotman on 0151-727-2195

Pope Francis describes the Church as

"The house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems".

VOCATIONS

Responding to the Call: Monthly Discernment Meeting for those considering Priesthood

A series of meetings is being held at St Charles Borromeo church, Liverpool for anyone considering the priesthood. There is a poster at the back of church with all the dates and times. For more details please contact Fr James Preston, Vocations director, on 0151 727 2493.

Prayer cards are also available in each of the porches with the names of the nine men currently in formation for our diocese. Please take one and keep them in your prayers. This summer two men will be ordained to the Priesthood: Matthew Jolly on 4th July and Stephen Lee on 18th July. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to be ordained.

"How does one become a priest? This is an initiative which the Lord takes. The Lord calls. He calls each of those whom He wills to become priests.

Perhaps there are some of you here who have heard this call in their hearts ... If some of you have heard this call in your heart, it is Jesus who has placed it there.

Pay attention to this invitation and pray that It might grow and bear fruit for the whole Church".

Pope Francis



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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,564.95

Catholic Education Service £ 414.63

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

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 · Feb 3

We are all sinners. We are all called to a conversion of heart.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Jan 31

A credible witness to truth and to the values of the Gospel is urgently needed.

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.

SACRED HEART LOTTERY

After the Lottery draw on 6th February, due to holidays, there will be two Fridays without a draw. The next draw will take place on 27th February. Extra tickets will be made available so, if you like, you can keep buying tickets each week and they will all be entered into the one draw.

FEEDING BRITAIN

Continuing a series of excerpts from 'Feeding Britain' - a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger in the UK: <http://foodpovertyinquiry.org>

Page 29 of the report describes the practicalities of cooking, parenting and budgeting: ***"As well as lacking resources, a proportion of families also lack the resilience to cope with life on a low income. They may have difficulties budgeting for a week's worth of shopping, for example, as whatever income there might be is devoted to other, non-essential items of expenditure or to paying off debt. Some households may also find it difficult to prepare or cook decent meals from scratch, making them much more likely to rely on ready meals or takeaways."***

Page 30: ***"Some food banks expressed concerns to the inquiry that some of their clients do not, or cannot, cook the contents of their food parcels at home because they lack basic cooking equipment and facilities. We heard how some landlords may offer tenants only a microwave or one ring on a cooker while calling these facilities a kitchen for rent purposes."***



This Lent we are asking you together with the wider Catholic community to fast and give alms in support of our poorest sisters and brothers who have to live through extreme and unpredictable storms, droughts and floods.

Kuin Nu Myanmar lost everything in a high cyclone that devastated her small jungle village: her possessions, house and three of her beloved children.

She has managed to rebuild slowly by protecting her home from cyclones with trees, constructing a barrier around her farm to stop saltwater from other storms flooding it and making a small income from chickens. All of which she was able to do thanks to the compassion and generosity of CAFOD supporters in parishes throughout the country.

Together we can bring hope to people like Kyin Nu by:

- Using the Fast Day envelopes and Gift Aiding our donation
- Keeping the world's poorest women, men and children in our prayers
- Writing to your MP

For every £1 donated this Lent, up to the value of £3.5 million will be matched by the UK Government.

Please continue to hold the work of CAFOD in your prayers that through the grace of God we may continue to support people to improve their own lives and bring hope to those in greatest need.

LENT FAST DAY: Friday 27th February



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.

Barry Jackson and Jeriatric Jazz

An evening of music from the great American Songbook - including Jazz, Blues and Easy Listening - will be held in St Stephen's church, Manchester Road, Astley on Friday 27th February from 7.00pm. There will be a wine bar available. Tickets cost £10 (or £7.50 for concessions) and can be obtained from Anne Edwards 01942 892285, or you can pay on the door. Proceeds to go to St Stephen's Raise the Roof appeal.

New Fitness Class - Adults of all ages

WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY 8.00 – 8.45pm
Come along for a great workout, fun while exercising and a good social atmosphere.
St. Joseph's Church Hall, The Mather Suite, Mather Lane, Leigh. WN7 2PR. (Large free car park at front of hall)
Please contact Julie to book on the classes as soon as possible as numbers are limited.

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 7 February

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Karol Gredecki (Birthday Anniv.)

Sun 8 February

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Michael Monaghan

SH 9.30am

MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am

MASS Kathleen White

OL 11.00am

MASS Joan Burrows

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 9 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year 1, Week 5)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Louisa Farrington Anniv.

Tue 10 February

Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon

MASS Jim Fay LD

Wed 11 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Frederick & Alice Walmsley RIP

SH 7.30pm

MASS Theresa Neary (sick)

Thu 12 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Terry Fallon RIP

SH 12.00noon

MASS Paul Cunliffe LD

Fri 13 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am

MASS Betty Gill

StJ 12.00noon

MASS The Semple Family

Sat 14 February

FEAST OF SAINTS CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP PATRONS OF EUROPE

StJ 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Kathleen & Francis James Duffy RIP

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 15 February

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Eddie McGrath

SH 9.30am

MASS Cosgrave family

StJ 10.30am

MASS Daniel & Catherine Porter

OL 11.00am

MASS Edward Keegan

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 30th January, the numbers drawn were 10, 12, 18. NO WINNER of £300. This week's estimated jackpot is £370.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 076 J Evans, £5 243 N Flynn, £3 No. 179 A Sharkie, £2 335 N Jones

Bonus Ball No. 15 N Flynn

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

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

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