

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) 22 FEBRUARY 2015



## Responsorial Psalm

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep your covenant.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Ancient legends are full of stories of great heroes who overcame tremendous tests and obstacles. Filmgoers will no doubt be able to recall characters like Achilles, Hercules, Jason (with or without the Argonauts!), Perseus and many others. There is a recurring theme in these tales: single-minded heroes face great trials and succeed where many before them have failed. The same basic plot is found in many operas – the hero, usually the tenor, overcomes all hurdles and wins the hand and the heart of the soprano. It often ends in tears. In Puccini's Turandot, Prince Calaf – the one who sings “Nessun Dorma” – solves three impossible riddles posed by a cruel princess. All who tried before him failed and were executed, but of course our hero succeeds and melts the heart of the princess. It may come as a surprise to learn that the triumphant hero overcoming ordeals and tests is also prevalent in the Gospels. Indeed, this is precisely the underlying plot in today's Gospel, commonly referred to as “the temptations of Jesus” but more accurately described as Jesus' testing. Matthew and Luke list three examples of these tests, yet Mark, whose Gospel we listen to today, does not. Yet there is something in Mark's brief account of the episode that reminds us of the ancient legends.

In the story of the ancient legends, the hero was recognized as such from an early age. Mark's Gospel, however, gives no information on Jesus' early years. However in Mark's Gospel Jesus is singled out by the highest possible authority: the voice of God the father says, “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.” Throughout the rest of his time on earth Jesus will live out that role as the “Beloved Son”. First, however, he is put to the test. We are told that Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he was tempted or “tested” by Satan. In Mark's Gospel the issue is whether Jesus, the beloved Son of God, will trust in his Father completely. Mark does not tell us the outcome, but we are told that Jesus emerged triumphantly from the “test” and, after John's arrest, proclaimed, “The Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.” Only someone who has successfully passed the test could make this proclamation and back it up with actions that prove that the Kingdom of God is indeed at hand. This is Good News for all who hear it. Perhaps our own test, especially during Lent, is to ask ourselves if we really believe that the Kingdom of God is close at hand and that it really is Good News for us. The goal of our Lenten repentance is to change our own mindset to accepting God's Good News, rather than the good news we would prefer, and allowing this to make a difference to our lives. After all, the English word “repentance” comes from a Greek word that literally means “a change of mind”. We are called first to change the way we think about God's Kingdom and Jesus' Good News before we try to change our ways. This change of mind is what Lent is really all about.

**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 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 40<sup>th</sup> year of running the Walsingham Pilgrimage. We leave on 6<sup>th</sup> of April, returning 9<sup>th</sup> 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

Ashton & Moylan Families, Les Battersby, Canon Cowell, Francis Gallagher, Annie & Wilfred Hampson, Vincent Higgins, Raymond Jarvis, May Malley, Louis Manfredi & Family, Ellen Mullahy, Vincent McKiernan, Stephen Stradins, Sick Person, Special Intention & Thanksgiving Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints

#### WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting for the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All Ladies welcome.

#### WALK WITH ME

Walk with Me booklets for Lent are now available from the card rack at the back of church, price £1

#### FLOWERS

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

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### EASTER LILIES

If you wish to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, there will be a box at the back of church with envelopes, the cost of a lily is £1.50

#### COFFEE MORNING

Tea & Coffee Morning next week, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March after Mass. Everyone welcome.

### PARISH VOLUNTEERS' MASS & SOCIAL

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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

Composed by Christians of the Bahamas on the theme: *Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"* Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 7.30-8.30pm, at the same church. Car parking opposite at B&Q and in Byron St.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### Session 5

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Twelve Apostles School at 4.30pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
St Joseph's Mather Rome 3.45pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
Sacred Heart Hall at 4.30pm

Next weekend (28<sup>th</sup>/1<sup>st</sup>) we welcome our Year 4 children and their families to the 5.30pm Mass at Twelve Apostles and the 9.30am Mass at Sacred Heart.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> July and Stephen Lee on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> until March 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### A PRAYER FOR LENT

Father,  
Your Love never fails.  
Keep me from danger and provide for all my needs.  
Teach me to be thankful for Your Gifts.  
Confident in Your Love,  
may I be holy by sharing Your Life,  
and grant me forgiveness of my sins.  
May Your unfailing Love turn me from sin and keep me on the way that leads to you.  
Help me to grow in Christian love.  
Amen.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL

£1,508.74

The retiring collection today is on behalf of the White Flower Appeal.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support. The retiring collection next weekend will be for the CAFOD Family Fast Day.



Storms droughts and floods are having a devastating impact on our poorest brothers and sisters around the world right now. CAFOD works with local expert organisations to ensure affected people are not only able to survive, but to thrive. Fast Days are our opportunity to support vital work. Fast Day envelopes are available for collection from church this week.

There is good news: the UK Government has promised to match every pound and penny you give this Lent up to the value of £3.5 million

Please give as much as you can in next week's collection, so that long term, deep rooted devastation from extreme weather doesn't become a fact of life.

## LENT FAST DAY: Friday 27th February

### Lent 2015 Fast Day prayer

Creator God, who made our beautiful world,  
appointed us as its guardians  
and gifted us with everything we need,  
forgive us  
for the times we cause it harm;  
for the times our way of life  
affects our neighbours.  
Inspire us  
to care for the environment;  
to help rebuild lives and communities;  
to share in the griefs and anxieties,  
joys and hopes of all your people,  
so that all your creation may flourish.  
Amen.

*Stephen Davies/CAFOD*



will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, profamily issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals.

To find out more about SPUC's work you can visit their web site. [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)

## SICK

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



## Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays St Joseph's 7.00pm

Thursdays after 12 noon Mass Sacred Heart

## A Time for Change and Renewal

Evenings of Prayer and Reflection led by the Irenaeus Team

**Tuesdays during Lent at St Ambrose Barlow**

(24th February, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th March)

7.30 - 9.00 pm

Everyone very welcome

## Ecumenical Lenten Talks

Every Thursday during Lent at 7.30 pm

Salvation Army Chapel, Atherton

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> February, due to holidays, there will be two Fridays without a draw. The next draw will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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 "Much Ado About Nothing" (renamed "Love's Labours Won") - Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.
- ENO's "La Traviata" - Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

## New Fitness Class - Adults of all ages

WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> 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 21 February

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Fildes

### Sun 22 February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am MASS Richard Fletcher

SH 9.30am MASS Kitty Gallagher Anniv.

StJ 10.30am MASS Mary Tyrer

OL 11.00am MASS Stephen Duffy

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

### Mon 23 February Weekday of Lent (First Week of Lent)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Fred Unsworth RIP

### Tue 24 February Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Annie Connolly Anniv.

### Wed 25 February Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Boon & Campbell Families

SH 7.00pm MASS Bill McLoughlin L.D.

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction

### Thu 26 February Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Dr Patrick Fullton RIP

12A 9.15am Lenten MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS St Jude

SH 12.30pm Stations of the Cross

### Fri 27 February Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am MASS Special Intention

StJ 12.00noon MASS Andrea Jane Southern Anni

### Sat 28 February Weekday of Lent

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Tony Broster

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

### Sun 1 March SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am MASS Marie Buckley

SH 9.30am MASS Tom, Terence & Bernard Ward Anniv.

StJ 10.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

OL 11.00am MASS Lee Jones

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** This week's estimated jackpot is £460.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 234 S Gardner, £5 322 A Sharkie, £3 429 P Purcell, £2 No. 479 K Jones

**Bonus Ball** No. 22 K Jones

**Twelve Apostles 200 Club** £40 No 158 A Clews, £15 No 40 D Atherton, £5 No 59 A Bailey, £5 No 215 A Newton

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

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: [frdave@virginmedia.com](mailto:frdave@virginmedia.com)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

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