

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

15 MARCH 2015



Responsorial Psalm

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel scene a Pharisee talks to Jesus about God. Nicodemus has arrived under cover of darkness, and he misunderstands what the Lord is saying to him. This gives Jesus the opportunity to clarify what he means, so he declares those famous words, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." God's supreme gift was given out of love, not out of a desire to humiliate or condemn the world. If God's basic attitude to the world was one of divine contempt or icy detachment than his gifts would not be much use. If God is greedy for anything it is for people's acceptance of his love. So there is a divine hunger for human love, which is why God sent his only Son. There is also a human hunger for divine love. In the person of Jesus two hungers meet and two hungers are satisfied. The Gospel expresses the hope that if we really believed God loved us we would surely emerge from our chosen darkness. In the dark it is difficult to see God. That's why we need him to help us out into the light. Perhaps we would come out into the light more readily if we believed that the light we are entering is not the light of condemnation. We are sometimes afraid of being exposed and defenceless. But this is a dark image of God. God wants to see us in the light, in his light. After all, as today's Second Reading tells us, "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it."

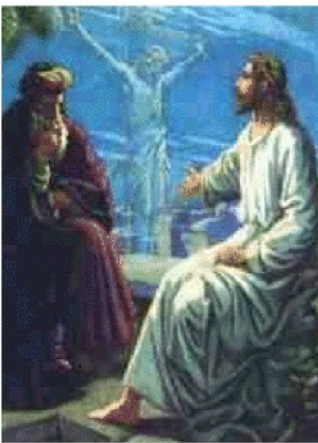
Most of us would have difficulty in imagining ourselves as God's work of art. Many of us find it easier to see ourselves as some kind of mistake. This may be the image we have of ourselves but it isn't the image that God has of us. This is why Jesus reminds us about the greatest of God's love for us – so great that he sent his only Son. The Gospel reminds us that we are created in God's love, that we ARE his work of art. We have to begin imagining ourselves as God sees us. Works of art should not be left to rot away in the dark, neglected and unseen. If they have been abandoned for a long time they will need sensitive restoration to be saved and brought to life again.

Lent gives us the opportunity to think again about the task of restoration and allow God to bring out the best in us. Like all good restorers, God needs light to do his work. Let us walk in his light during Lent and Easter, and throughout the rest of our lives for that matter, so that God can restore us and make us into the people he wants us to be. If this happens, who knows, we might see more of God's art in other people too.

**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). Wednesday is the 200 club draw. Please support the groups who regularly use your club. The Church Repair Fund Easter egg raffle tickets are on sale after Mass 50p a strip.

WALSINGHAM TRIP

This year is our 40th year of running the Walsingham Pilgrimage. We leave on Easter Monday, 6th of April, returning on 9th April. The cost of the trip will be £165. Can all those who are going please pay the balance ASAP. Contact Therese Thompson (01942 253507).

ST JOSEPH'S

MASS INTENTIONS

Adrian Brinn, Larry Bourke, Elizabeth Cleworth, Terence Donohue, Bill Fairclough, Francis Gallagher, Ken Hughes, Mary Leyden, Collette Leake, Anne Marsh, Anne Monaghan, Josephine Cora Oddie, Eifith Smith, Bill Wild, Golden Wedding, Private Intention, Special intention, Speedy Recovery,

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

On Thursday 19th March we will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph with Mass at 9.15am. The school children will be celebrating with us, please come along to honour our patron saint.

CHANGE OF MASS TIME

Please note that Mass on Friday 20th March will be at 9.00am and not 12.00 noon. This is because Fr Colin is celebrating Mass with newly qualified teachers at St Mary's school.

CHOIR

The next choir practice for St Joseph's Choir will be on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Green Room. If you enjoy singing or can play a musical instrument, please come and join us. You will be very welcome.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

We will be cleaning our church on Tuesday 17th March at 10.30 Many hands make light work, come if only for an hour. Thank you

EASTER RAFFLE

We will be doing our Easter Raffle again this year and would appreciate any donations of Easter Eggs, chocolates or fancy goods. Thank you.

Raffle Tickets will be on sale today.

CLOSURE OF ST GABRIEL'S, HIGHER FOLDS

The schedule for the closure of the church is shaping up as follows:

Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm

Night Prayer and rite of leave-taking of the church

A reflective service for parishioners with the opportunity to share thoughts, reflections and prayers, followed by refreshments.

Thursday 26th March at 7.00pm

Mass of Thanksgiving with the Archbishop

People from across the Pastoral Area are warmly invited to come to this special celebration.

Saturday 4th April at 7.30pm

The Easter Vigil & Rite of Closure

Once the church has closed, the Saturday 6.00pm Mass will continue for a temporary period at the nearest church in the parish which is St Ambrose Barlow. Transport to this Mass will be provided for those who live in Higher Folds. The Friday 10.00am Mass will continue during term time in St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School. Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals will be celebrated in the other churches in the parish of St Margaret Clitherow.

This Lent, we invite you to stand shoulder to shoulder with suffering Christians around the world – especially in Pakistan, Nigeria, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, across the Middle East.

Prayer: Your Faith... their Future

The persecuted faithful around the world need our help and our prayers. This Lent, please remember all those who face danger for holding fast to their belief in Jesus Christ.

Over the next six weeks, as we spiritually walk the Way of the Cross with Our Lord, you might like to use our prayer suggestions and resources.

- Week 4: Please pray for the Christian community of Sudan and South Sudan, who after 30 years of civil war now continue to be beset by political instability and grinding poverty.
- Week 5: Please pray for Christians and their communities in Syria who are refugees amidst the rubble of a bitter civil war and who are specifically targeted by anti-Christian kidnappers.
- Week 6: Please pray for Christians in Iraq who face the profoundly troubling decision of whether to stay in the land they love or to leave the country that 'doesn't love them', and see the effective wipe-out of their 2,000 year Christian tradition.



SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 31st March at 7.30pm

Holy Family, Boothstown

THE GENERAL ELECTION

The Bishops of England and Wales have written to Catholics encouraging us to vote in the election and offering some key questions for reflection on where candidates stand. Copies of the letter are available from the back of church, please take one home.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Many thanks to all who made this celebration so prayerful and uplifting. Special thanks to staff and pupils of Sacred Heart School for their inspiring contributions. May we all try anew to follow daily the example of Jesus' radical love.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,870.36

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially Carolyn Burke, Patricia Grundy, Albert Hollingshead, Elizabeth Landers,

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patricia Ellen Grundy, Easter Mary Adams, Emma Hargreaves, James Kenneth Hughes, Frank Marshall, Brian Richard Wilding,

Eternal rest grant unto them....



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 - 9.00pm
Everyone very welcome

Ecumenical Lenten Talks

Every Thursday during Lent at 7.30pm
Salvation Army Chapel, Atherton

The Rosary

Each Wednesday in Lent the Rosary will be prayed before
12 noon Mass at St Joseph's :- the intention - Vocations.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Mar 12
Beware of getting too comfortable! When we are comfortable,
it's easy to forget other people.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Mar 10
In the roughest moments, remember: God is our Father; God
does not abandon his children.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Mar 9
Humility saves man: pride makes him lose his way.
Pope Francis @Pontifex · Mar 7
Let us build our lives of faith on the rock who is Christ.

CHRISM MASS

We are hoping to take a coach to the Cathedral for the Chrism
Mass on Wednesday 1st April. The Mass begins at 7.30 pm,
so the coach will probably leave at 5.45/6.00 pm. If you would
be interested in going to the Mass and would like a place on
the coach, please sign the list at the back of church. Thanks.

HOLY LAND EASTER CARDS

As described in last week's newsletter, Easter cards made
by the Carmelites are available at church this weekend.
Please buy one on your way out to encourage our long-
suffering fellow Christians still in the Holy Land,

WINE TASTING EVENING "Fête du vin"

Saturday 21st March at 7.45pm
St Ambrose Church Hall

This event has been run for a number years by the Catenian
Association and they offer this event to anyone in our Pas-
toral Area to come along and enjoy.

The price of £10.00 will include cheese and french ba-
quettes! Funds raised will go to Cornerstone in Manchester,
which is a day centre providing services to people facing a
wide range of social issues including homelessness, pover-
ty, social isolation, poor mental health, drug and alcohol
addiction. Please contact Des (876050) or Maurice (518895)

MOUNT ST JOSEPH'S REUNION

Mount St. Joseph's Year of 1956 (start): It is hoped to have
a reunion sometime this year. If interested please contact
Margaret Caton by Sunday March 29th on 01204 695363 or
email catons1@btinternet.com. Spread the word.

BODY SHOP PARTY Twelve Apostles Club

Friday 20th March at 7.30pm
Make-overs, raffles, Bar

To raise funds for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and
Senior Section. Everyone welcome.

Friday 20th March at 7.30pm
Make-overs, Raffles, Bar

Due to Popular Demand

St Joseph's Players
Present

BRASSED OFF

By Paul Allen
(Contains some strong language)
Curtain up 7.30pm

St Joseph's Hall Chapel St, Leigh
Tuesday 21st April to Saturday 25th April

Tickets Adults £8 under 16 yrs £4
Available from Ratcliffes Bike Shop,
Bradshawgate, Leigh



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 14 March

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Fildes LD

Sun 15 March **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Golborne Colliery Disaster (Anniv)

SH 9.30am MASS Lillie Bradbury LD

StJ 10.30am MASS Sylvia Withington (Anniv)

OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 16 March **Weekday of Lent (Fourth Week of Lent)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Eveline Donough RIP

12A 10.15am FUNERAL MASS Brian Richard Wilding

SH **12.30pm** MASS Nora Glynn LD

Tue 17 March **FEAST OF ST PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS A sick person (G.L.)

Wed 18 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Emma Hargreaves

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross & Evening Prayer

SH NO MASS

Thu 19 March **SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.15am MASS Josephine Cora Oddie RIP

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Frank Marshall

SH 12.30pm Stations of the Cross

SH **6.30pm** MASS Pauline Reynolds

Fri 20 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Sadie McGillion RIP

OL **9.45am** MASS Elizabeth Hardman (LD)

SH 11.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Easter Mary Adams

Sat 21 March **Weekday of Lent**

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS John Thompson

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY David Baugh

Sun 22 March **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)**

StJ 8.30am MASS John & Agnes Coan (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am MASS Mary Joan Goulden

StJ 10.30am MASS Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints

OL 11.00am MASS Betty Gill and Edward Keegan

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 6th March, the numbers drawn were 8, 10, 19. NO WINNER of £540. This week's estimated jackpot is £610.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 359 M Moore, £5 No. 334 Michael, £3 No. 006 Lydia, £2 No. 481 K Jones

Bonus Ball No. 31

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
Tel: 0161 790 2390
Email: frdave@virginmedia.com

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280
Email: stjosephs@live.com
Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk