

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

22 MARCH 2015



Responsorial Psalm

A pure heart create for me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

From the perspective of a grain of wheat ... I'm about as small as you can get! I'm only a grain of wheat. But I have a story to tell. Please listen, because it can be your story too.

All during the dark cold winter I lay in a barn, where I was warm, dry and safe. Yet I felt unfulfilled. I felt I wasn't really living. I was merely existing. I felt I was born for some great purpose. What that purpose was I had no idea. But I felt sure there would be suffering involved in it. Little did I know how much. Then one bright spring day the farmer took me and a sack full of others out of the barn, and scattered us on the soil which had been freshly ploughed. Then he harrowed us into the ground. Suddenly I found myself buried in the cold, damp soil. I had gone from a barn to a tomb. Days passed and still there wasn't the slightest sign of growth. Instead, to my horror, I saw that I was beginning to decay. Still, miraculously, I was still alive. A tiny pulse continued to beat deep inside me. But I felt that I was losing the battle, and even the will to live. The fact that I continued to live was due to the prompting of some mysterious outside force.

Meanwhile, unknown to me, things were happening in the great world above. Nature was about to come to my rescue. The earth was beginning to thaw out. Rainwater sank slowly down and soaked into me. Then things began to happen fast. My once tough husk, now ravaged by decay, began to soften and swell. Suddenly it burst open and out came a tiny shoot. On seeing this, I cried out, "I'm not going to die after all. I'm going to be reborn." And reborn I was. I shot up, a sturdy shoot that soon turned into a tall stalk. The sun shone warmly on me. The wind caressed me. Soft rain fell on me like a blessing. And all the time I was growing and ripening. Then one day I discovered that I was no longer a single grain, but a whole host of them, all clinging to the top of a tall stalk. Suddenly the great purpose for which I was born became clear to me. I was born to quench hunger and to give life. With that all the pain I suffered took on a different meaning.

A grain of wheat has to die if it is to bear fruit. And a single grain of wheat can produce as many as seventy grains. In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to be like a grain of wheat, to die to our own selves to allow the Spirit of God to produce his fruit in our lives. As Jesus died on the Cross may we allow his life to spring into life through us, just as Jesus brought us new life through his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**

Except a grain of
wheat fall into the
earth and die,
it abideth
alone;

but if it die,
it beareth
much fruit.

John 12:24

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. 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

Julie Booth, Tony Broster, Larry Burke, Charelsworth Family, Margaret Doherty, Rebecca Duffy, Florence Evans, John & Winifred Ellis, Bill Fairclough, Maureen Gallagher, Mary Grundy, Mary Leyden, Pearson Family, Winifred Smith, Alice Pugsley, Special Intention,

CHOIR

If you enjoy singing or can play a musical instrument why not join the choir. The next choir practice will be on Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

WOMEN'S SODALITY

There will be a meeting of the Women's Sodality on Tuesday 24th March at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

GARDENING DAY

St Joseph's Gardening Day Saturday 28th March 10.00am. Please come along if only for an hour to help keep our gardens looking lovely.

COFFEE MORNING

Every Sunday after the 10.30am Mass there is Coffee Morning in the Side Hall. Come along and have a chat and meet new friends.

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.

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 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 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



HOLY WEEK SERVICE TIMES

Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Our Lady of the Rosary 7.30pm watching till 10.00pm
St Joseph's 7.30pm watching till 10.00pm
9.45 pm Night Prayer

Good Friday

Morning Prayer

St Joseph's 9.00am Morning Prayer

Stations of the Cross

Sacred Heart 10.00am
St Joseph's 10.00am

Walk of Witness

Leave St Joseph's at 11.00am walking to Leigh Library, followed by a light lunch at the Parish Church.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sacred Heart 3.00pm
St Joseph's 3.00pm

Meditations at the Foot of the Cross

St Joseph's 7.00pm

Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer

St Joseph's 9.00am

Easter Vigil

Twelve Apostles 7.15pm
St Joseph's 8.00pm

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,693.96

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patricia Grundy, Margaret Baxter

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 17

Let us allow God to fill our hearts with his goodness and mercy.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Mar 14

Lent is a time for drawing near to Christ by listening to the word of God and celebrating the sacraments.

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

This was not a fund-raising event but 81 cards were sent, costs have been covered and the surplus donations of £14.55 will be added to the collection for the Holy Places in Jerusalem. Thanks to those who participated.

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.

DON'T BE LATE!

Don't forget to put your clocks forward by an hour on Saturday night so that you will be on time for Mass on Palm Sunday.



"Spring Concert"

Astley Youth Band present their Spring Concert at St Stephen's church, Astley on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Special guests are "Norse Brass". All welcome. Admission is £5 adult and £3 concessions - pay on the door.

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

CATHOLIC PIC

Catholic Pic would like to recruit

DRIVERS

To deliver magazines to churches in:

Prescot, Whiston, Widnes.

Warrington, St Helens

Wigan & Leigh

The magazines would need to be picked up from Liverpool each month. You will need an excellent knowledge of the area and, if possible, your own van.

The work is paid.

Please leave your landline number and name on

0151 733 5492

if you are interested and we will get back to you.

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.

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 March

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

Mon 23 March **Weekday of Lent (Fifth Week of Lent)**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Rebecca Duffy (Anniv.)

Tue 24 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH NO MASS

Wed 25 March **SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Patricia Grundy

StJ NO MASS

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross & Evening Prayer

SH NO MASS

Thu 26 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Margaret Baxter

StJ NO MASS

SH NO MASS

SH 12.30pm Stations of the Cross

Fri 27 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Fr Adrian Brinn

Sat 28 March **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

St J 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Anthony Hunter

Sun 29 March **PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (YEAR B)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Private Intention

SH 9.30am MASS Mary Joan Goulden

StJ 10.30am MASS Golden Wedding

OL 11.00am MASS Ruby Wedding Marie & Bill Toye

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 13th March, the numbers drawn were 2, 10, 17. ONE WINNER of £616. This week's estimated jackpot is £60.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10, 150 Mrs B Welding; £5, 270 Mrs J Welding; £3, 273 Mrs D Quinn; £2, 173 Mrs B Ryan.

Bonus Ball No. 45 M Flannery

Twelve Apostles 200 Club £40, 201, Wendy Halliwell; £15, 46, B McDermott; £5, 74, L Stephens; £5, 2, B Heaton.

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
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Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood
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