

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

12 APRIL 2015



Responsorial Psalm

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel the disciples are gathered in a locked room. The recent violence has made them fear for their lives. They have become runaways from a hostile society, so they lock themselves away in what they hope is a safe house. For all of their defensiveness, however, they cannot keep out the pressing love of the Risen Jesus. He appears amongst them, his greeting is "Peace" and their response is joy.

For the evangelist John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Christ. The disciples breathe in and the Spirit becomes part of them. But one of the disciples, Thomas, is missing. When he arrives he refuses to believe what he hears. Thomas is part of the apostolic group but he is also an independent spirit. He refuses to become part of this company of believers until he can see the Risen Jesus for himself. He may want to believe, yearn to accept as true what the others say, but his wish to do so cannot struggle into faith. Doubt cannot be transformed into faith by willing it. After all, the other disciples only come to believe in the Risen Jesus when they see him for themselves. The consistent honesty of Thomas is what makes him doubt. For Thomas to say he believed would be mere play-acting and make-believe. For Thomas it is important to see what the others see so that he can believe.

We learn from the Gospel that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples – when he sees the Lord for himself. We can appreciate, however, that the character of the apostle Thomas is larger than the person. He stands for all those who have not seen the Lord but are challenged to believe in him. The story of Thomas leads us to the Beatitude aimed at the generations of people who will not see the Risen Lord: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." It is not that we are asked to do what the apostle Thomas could not do, that is, believe in Jesus simply on the testimony of others. Thomas at this stage was not gifted with the Holy Spirit and no one can believe in Jesus without the Spirit of God. As we hear in today's Second Reading, the principal witness to the Risen Jesus is the Holy Spirit – "since the Spirit is truth." We can only pray "My Lord and my God" because we allow the Spirit of God to pray in us.

If faith is one of the principal gifts of the Holy Spirit, faith is also a way of life that has to be nurtured, helped to grow, and loved into maturity. It is not a precious stone that has to be locked in a vault. Faith can die from a lifetime's neglect. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, and live the life of our faith. Faith demands us to take that extra step with the Risen Lord. This does not mean that we will never have doubts; but, if like Thomas we care about what we believe in, that care in time will bring us into the presence of the living Lord.

**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. There is a list of winning numbers in the Easter Egg raffle at the back of church. The next 200 club draw will be on Wednesday 22nd April.

ST JOSEPH'S

MASS INTENTIONS

Tom Anderson, Cooper & Parry Families, Marie Corner, Wallace O'Connell, Pat Gerard Moss, Gerald Peak, Wallace Standing, Robert Woods, Wedding Anniversary.

RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery on Monday 13th April. Thank you.

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 RAFFLE

The Easter raffle made £220. There are still a number of prizes unclaimed, please check your tickets with the list at the back of church. Thank you to all who supported the raffle.

EASTER LILIES

If you have donated a lily to be put on the Altar in memory of a loved one for Easter, there is also a Book of Remembrance on the Altar with their names in. Please take a look.

CLOSURE OF ST GABRIEL'S, HIGHER FOLDS

Saint Gabriel's church has now 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.

ST PIO OF PIETRELCINA

"Community Prayer is a powerful weapon in the hands of the Church and the faithful."

"If more souls unite together in prayer, they form a formidable power." St Pio of Pietrelcina.

Please come and share an hour of prayer with the Padre Pio prayer group each Saturday from 10.00am at St Ambrose Barlow church.

ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

There are still spaces available to travel to Lourdes with the Archdiocese of Liverpool, 24th – 31st July 2015, by air from Liverpool Airport or by Jumbulance from Burtonwood. Assisted pilgrims (those with medical, mobility or other special needs) will be accommodated in the Accueil St Frai or in hotels depending on need and travel circumstances. For more information, or to register as an assisted pilgrim, please call Adam Taylor at the Lourdes office on 0151 727 4000 or visit our website www.liverpool-lourdes.com before the deadline of April 30th (deadline applicable to assisted pilgrims only). The pilgrimage is open to everybody in the Archdiocese and beyond.

Dr Marian Tolley

"Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it."

(Luke 24:40)

Saturday 18 April 2015

9.30am - 4.30pm at LACE

Cost £15 including lunch.

Dr Marian will be leading this inspiring day for all proclaimers and hearers of the Word. "Parish renewal begins when readers of the Word proclaim it in the conviction that God is speaking. The congregation sit up and listen."

Book online at www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Courses-Events or ring 0151 522 1040 or email formation@rcaol.co.uk



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 9

Lord, give us the gift of tears, the ability to cry for our sins and so receive your forgiveness.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 6

Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 5

Christ is risen! Christ is alive and journeys with us!

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 3

The Cross of Christ is not a defeat: the Cross is love and mercy.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 2

Jesus washes the feet of the Apostles. Are we ready to serve others like this?



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,843.92

Holy Places £ 472.53

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



Tom Anderson, Margaret Kelley, Brian Pemberton, Hilda Maud Perry, Thomas Togher.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present
Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Pirates of Penzance

Tuesday 12th – Saturday 16th May 2015
7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £11 & £13, Concessions available

Contact 01942 883722

Join a crop of not-so-ruthless pirates,
not-so-fearless policemen,
and not-so-helpless young maidens
for a swashbuckling and hilarious adventure!

www.thethreetowns.net

NEW FITNESS CLASS

Every Wednesday 8.00 - 8.45pm. Come along for a great workout, fun while exercising and a good social atmosphere.

Who: Adults of all ages. Starting at beginners level and working up to a more advanced and challenging workout.

Where: St Joseph's Mather Room, Mather Lane, Leigh WN7 2PR

Please contact Julie to book on the classes as soon as possible as numbers are limited. Attend the Classes four weeks in succession and get a week free.

For more details contact Julie juliefoulds@btinternet.com

Facebook Juulie Foulds School of Dancing Group or phone 07809673564

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

A PASTORAL AREA SOCIAL EVENT

Tea Dance



in

Saint Ambrose
Church Hall

on

Sunday 10th May
2.00pm - 5.00pm

£10 including
Afternoon Tea

Raffle, spot prizes, good music and dance.
Everyone welcome

For tickets contact Eamonn on 01942 892967

Or Tony on 01942 673481 or 676652

Sue Wakefield's Slimming Group

Goes Silver and Triple Session

9.00 am, 11.00am, 1.00pm, 5.00pm & 7.00pm
Every Tuesday at St Joseph's Mather Room,

Mather Lane, Leigh

The Class at St Joseph's has added an extra session due to being an award winning group.

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 11 April

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 12 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

StJ 8.30am MASS Francis Gallagher
SH 9.30am MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr (Anniv.)
StJ 10.30am MASS Teresa Cooney
OL 11.00am MASS Eileen Massey and Danny O'Brien
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Mon 13 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Special Intention
StJ 11.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Tom Anderson

Tue 14 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Catherine Hoy (Anniv.)

Wed 15 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS Speedy Recovery
SH 7.30pm MASS Mary Joan Goulden

Thu 16 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Terence Donohue
SH 12.00noon MASS Gerard Leeney

Fri 17 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 9.00am Morning Prayer
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Thomas Togher
StJ 12.00noon MASS Elizabeth Cleworth
OL 9.45am MASS Special Intention (NF)
12A 11.00am FUNERAL MASS Margaret Kelly
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Hilda Maud Perry

Sat 18 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
StJ 12.00noon MASS Anne Marsh
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY 40th Wedding Anniversary

Sun 19 April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Wedding Anniversary
SH 9.30am MASS Mr P.T. Simon (Anniv.)
StJ 10.30am MASS Edith Smith
OL 11.00am MASS John and Theresa Ryder
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

Sacred Heart Lottery On 4th April, the numbers drawn were 12, 15, 25. No winner of £124. This week's estimated jackpot is £160.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 427 P Purcell, £5 No. 482 Dominic Lee, £3 No. 318 K Grimshaw, £2 No. 123 C Ackers
Bonus Ball No. 43 F Rasburn

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
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