

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B

3 MAY 2015



## Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

Today's First Reading from Acts reminds us of the extraordinary story of Saint Paul. Before his conversion he was a religious fanatic, prepared to kill in the service of his vision. He fiercely persecuted the early Christians but he was converted on the road to Damascus. From being one of the main persecutors of the early Christians he became one of the greatest champions of Christianity. A few days after his conversion he began to preach in the local synagogues that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. The people found it hard to believe that this was the same man who carried out organized attacks on the followers of Jesus. He proved too much for some of the Jewish people. They rounded on him, calling him a turncoat and a traitor. But he was more than a match for them when it came to debating about Jesus. Pretty soon everything turned nasty. His enemies drew up a plan to kill him. The result was that Paul had to go into hiding. His enemies kept a watch in case he tried to escape. But, with a little help from his friends, Paul escaped by being lowered over a wall in a basket and he escaped to Jerusalem. Even in Jerusalem many of the disciples were suspicious of him. They could not believe that this man who had so often persecuted Christians could be a genuine disciple. But then a disciple by the name of Barnabas came to his aid. He introduced Paul to the main disciples. Once they accepted that his conversion was genuine, which didn't exactly happen overnight, things improved for Paul and he became one of the leaders of the early Church. Soon he was preaching about Jesus in Jerusalem. He did so with such enthusiasm that he often put his own life in danger. He once again had to flee and went to Caesarea and then Tarsus, his home town.

When you consider the harm Paul did to the early Church it's easy to understand why many doubted the genuineness of his conversion. Had we been present at the stoning of Stephen and witnessed Paul's rôle in it, we too would have doubted his discipleship. It was the same Paul who encountered the disciples yet he had changed completely. The fact that Paul had once persecuted the early Church did not mean that he was evil through and through. There was another and better side to him. He was a highly committed person, who was capable of hard work and sacrifice. Often we don't understand or even sometimes wish to accept that people can change. We resort to old clichés like a leopard cannot change its spots. It doesn't help that we live in an unforgiving culture. Paul's conversion was truly genuine. On the road to Damascus he saw the error of his ways. This experience released his true self, and he became the person he was meant to be. And he went on to become a real champion of the Christian Church. At the end of his life he was able to say, "I fought the good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith." (2 Timothy 3:7).

The story of Paul shows us that a person can change. In him we see the power of God's grace working through human weakness and sinfulness. His conversion is described in the Acts as passing from darkness to light. As he himself said later, "God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of his beloved Son." (Colossians 1:13). These wonderful words sum up Paul's life. They could sum up our lives too.

**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

Despite rumours to the contrary there are still bar facilities at Twelve Apostles Club. In fact, there are three rooms for hire -

- A nicely decorated function room complete with dance floor and stage with an adjoining kitchen and a fully stocked bar which is available for hire for weddings, engagement parties, adult birthday parties etc.
- A comfortable lounge available for those smaller functions, which also has a fully stocked bar.
- A nice community room which is suitable for children's parties and such like without bar facilities.

To hire any of the above rooms or for more information telephone 07921816501.

The Friends of Twelve Apostles School are holding a Spring Fair on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 3.15pm. They are looking for Tombola prizes: unwanted gifts, bottles of spirits or wine, chocolates etc. and items for cakes stall. Please take into school or leave at the back of church.

### ST JOSEPH'S

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Tony Broster, Elizabeth Frost, Joyce Gibbon, Michael Oldfield, Roy Parkinson, James Unsworth, St Jude, Special Intention

#### FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

The First Communion & Confirmation Mass will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am. Please keep the children who will be receiving these Sacraments in your prayers.

#### MAY PROCESSION

This year's May Procession will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May after the 10.30am Mass. The children who made their First Communion and were confirmed will be leading the procession. Please come along and honour Our Lady with them.

#### WOMEN'S SODALITY

The next meeting for the Women's Sodality will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00pm in the Side Hall. All ladies welcome.

#### CHOIR PRACTICE

Choir Practice, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Green Room. All singers and musicians welcome.

#### SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next Support Group Meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Mat at 7.30pm in the Green Room. All welcome.

#### 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

#### COFFEE MORNING

We are having our tea & coffee morning today after Mass (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May). Everyone welcome.

There are still some unclaimed prizes left from the Easter Raffle.

### SACRED HEART

The little shop next door to the confessional box is now fully stocked for the First Communion and Confirmation season with cards and small gifts suitable for our children. Please call in after Sunday Mass and see what else is available too!

### 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. Commencing 12<sup>th</sup> May we will meet each Tuesday evening at 7pm in St Ambrose Barlow Church.

### ELECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

CAFOD and CSAN (Catholic Social Action Network) developed the following four questions for candidates ahead of the **General Election this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015:**

**What will you do to make work pay?**

**What will you do to guarantee access to a genuinely affordable home?**

**What will you do to speak out for the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world?**

**What will you do to make tackling climate change a priority and to prevent it pushing people deeper into poverty overseas?**

These questions were sent to our local candidates by our Justice & Peace Group. All the responses received have been collated and printed copies are available in all the churches of the Pastoral Area this weekend. Electronic versions are also available on request.



Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 28

Every Christian community must be a welcoming home for those searching for God, for those searching for a brother or sister to listen to them.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 25

We Christians are called to go out of ourselves to bring the mercy and tenderness of God to all.

Pope Francis @Pontifex · Apr 23

In the Sacraments we discover the strength to think and to act according to the Gospel.

### CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SACRED HEART & OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

During the month of May at 9.30am Masses at Sacred Heart and on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at the 11.00am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary our Year 4 children will be Confirmed and make their First Holy Communion. We welcome them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith.

### LET'S SING – ADULT COMMUNITY CHOIR

Do you like to sing? Carrie Morrow, the Head Teacher of Sacred Heart School in Hindsford has recently set up an adult Community Choir in Leigh, rehearsing in the Turnpike Gallery on Wednesdays between 7.00 and 9.00pm. The choir are now recruiting for all voice parts, age 16 plus, at a cost of £2.50 per session. Come along and meet new people and join in the singing with a variety of song styles. For more details contact the Turnpike Gallery and ask for information about the Leigh Community Choir on 07933 239823 or email [creativeleigh.org.uk](mailto:creativeleigh.org.uk)

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1566.22

Priests' Training Fund £ 774.14

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

## BAPTISMS



Welcome into our Community through Baptism to:  
Fray Rose Parr

## SICK



Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially Carolyn Burke, Albert Hollingshead, Elizabeth Landers, Jack Parr, Sarah Jones (nee Dunne).

## RECENTLY DECEASED



John Brian Keavney, Sarah Alice Finity (Sally)

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

## The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present  
Gilbert & Sullivan's

### The Pirates of Penzance

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.threetowns.net](http://www.threetowns.net)

## Turnpike Community Theatre

presents

### Beauty and the Beast

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June (sold out)**  
**7.15pm at Twelve Apostles Club**  
**Tickets are available for sale online at**  
**[www.turnpikecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.turnpikecommunitytheatre.com)**  
**£5, £4.50 (children/concessions), £17**  
**(Family 2 adults + 2 children)**  
**or £5.50 each, cash only at the door.**

## BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Boys in Years 2 - 5 are invited to come and meet the choristers and have the opportunity to sing in the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am - 4.00pm.

## PASTORAL AREA SOCIAL EVENT

### Tea Dance



In  
**Saint Ambrose  
Church Hall**

on  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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**

## PHOENIX QUILTERS

**Tenth Anniversary Exhibition**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015 10.00am to 3.00 pm**  
**St. Ambrose Barlow Parish Hall**  
**Manchester Road Astley, Manchester M29 7DZ**  
**Admission £1**

**There will be a wide range of lovely bed quilts on show with many smaller projects on display from cushions and bags to wall hangings. Demonstrations of patchwork and quilting. Refreshments on sale and a Tombola with prizes.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

Eight million people have been affected by the powerful earthquake in Nepal. Help us deliver aid where it's needed most.

Please donate to our Nepal earthquake appeal.

We have committed an immediate £200,000 to help our partner Caritas Nepal to respond to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake which struck between the capital Kathmandu and the city of Pokhara.

### How can I help?

£21 will provide clean water to three families for a week

£35 provides tents to shelter 15 families

£70 buys enough rice for 10 families for a month

Fr. Pius Perumana S.J, Director of Caritas Nepal, who is in Kathmandu, said: "It was the worst earthquake I have ever experienced in my life. The aftershocks are still strong. The indications so far are that this is a major emergency.

"Lots of houses have fallen down and there are lots with cracks. Thank God it was during the day and on a holiday as many people were outside when the quake happened. Rescue is the first priority. Lots of people have lost their homes and are out on the street or in open spaces, so we will be looking to provide them with food and temporary shelter."

**The Second Collection this week and next will be for the CAFOD Emergency Appeal.**

## 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 2 May

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Thomas Hunter

### Sun 3 May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Joseph Harris (anniv)

SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am MASS John Keavney (anniv)

OL 11.00am MASS Lee Jones

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

### Mon 4 May FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Pearson Family

### Tue 5 May Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Kathy Palmer

### Wed 6 May Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Brian Keavney

SH NO MASS

### Thu 7 May Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ NO MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS Gerard Leeney

### Fri 8 May Weekday of Easter

StJ 9.00am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Jack McWilliam (anniv)

OL NO MASS

### Sat 9 May Weekday of Easter

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OL 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Speedy recovery (MF)

### Sun 10 May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Alice Wilkinson (anniv)

SH 9.30am MASS For Exam successes

StJ 10.30am MASS Margaret Doherty (anniv)

OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR THE PASTORAL AREA

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 24<sup>th</sup> April, the numbers drawn were 6, 17, 18. No winner of £258. This week's estimated jackpot was £320.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 146 B Ellis, £5 285 W Roach, £3 078 B Ellis, £2 457 J Newill

**Bonus Ball** No. 47 B Ryan

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

Priest: Fr. Dave Heywood  
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

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