

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 29 NOVEMBER 2015



## Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Luke gives us the last address of Jesus' public ministry. And Jesus is clearly fretful about the future as he paints a bleak picture of the end of the world. There is talk of nations in agony, of bewilderment, of people dying of fear, of the power which menaces the world. It is a nightmare view of total disaster which "will come down on every living person on the face of the earth."

In Jesus' view of the future there is another side to such disaster. Jesus' forecast is liberation. After the horror story we might take some convincing that there is some good news somewhere. Jesus' view is that the terrible things that will happen are signs that something else is happening: the saving visit of the Son of Man at the end of time. The disaster is the end age. The Good News is that out of this comes final liberation for all true disciples. It is what we pray for in the Eucharistic Prayer: "We hope to share in your glory when every tear will be wiped away. On that day we shall see you our God as you are." Like the prophets before him, Jesus is painting a grim picture of the future in order to influence what is happening now. He doesn't want to paralyse people with fear but to energize them into action. The real purpose of speaking of the final day is to say something about today – that we should stay awake. And since the future is determined by those who share responsibility for shaping it, then we must all stay awake to what is happening now.

Today's Gospel encourages us to do two things which are difficult to hold together: to be realistic about the way the world is going, and at the same time not lose hope in the future. This can be very difficult. The danger is that we see the bad things of the world very clearly. We only need watch the TV news each day to see that. This can easily lead us to lose hope. Jesus' message somehow has to convince us that there is still hope in the future, a hope that will bring us liberation. The way Jesus does this best is through his own life from birth to resurrection. So, Advent reminds us that we don't have to sleepwalk into the future. We have to remember the story of Jesus again. The message of his life becomes the ground for our hope. The future holds hope only because we are convinced of God's actions in the past. That's why we retell the story again and again beginning with each Advent.

We all need to be reminded of God's love. As we begin again to listen to the Gospel story let us remember how far-reaching God's love really is, especially when we think of the life of Jesus. Only when we keep looking at him throughout the year can we keep our flame of faith alive and share this light with others.

**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

### ST JOSEPH'S

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Margaret Coleman, Milly Gallagher, John Brian Griffin, Alf Keavney, Terance Keavney, Rev. Dcn. Alan Mee, Mark Prescott, Albert Purcell

#### FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for children from St Joseph's being Confirmed and making their First Communion next year, is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm in St Joseph's church.

#### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Fair, who gave their time to help organise it and run a stall and all those who donated gifts, cakes, bottles etc. a big thank you to Mosses Garden centre who donated all the plants and hanging baskets. A total of £2,709.72 has been raised.

#### CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

Our Church will be decorated for Christmas in memory of deceased loved ones. Please complete a form and return to the office along with your donation. Please mark envelopes "Christmas Memorial" and return before December 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at St Joseph's on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7.30pm. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

#### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm in church the Junior School Advent Service

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm in church the Infant School Advent Service.

All welcome, please come and support our children.

#### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

##### BONUS BALL

We have ten spare numbers on the Bonus Ball. Anyone wishing to participate should please see Margaret at the back of church.

##### COFFEE MORNING

Tea and Coffee will be served after Mass next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. All welcome.

##### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Tickets will be on sale before and after Mass for our Christmas Draw.

##### CHURCH CLEANING

We will be cleaning our church on Tuesday and would appreciate any help. Please come along at 10.00am, even if you can only spare an hour.

#### SACRED HEART

##### CHRISTMAS CARDS

A selection of Christmas cards and 2016 calendars are in stock in our little shop next to the confessional together with a range of gifts. Come and have a look after Mass!

##### CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Our Archdiocese (which has been supporting Christians in the Holy Land for several years) invites you to stand in solidarity with our Christian sisters and brothers of the Holy Land, by sending a Christmas Card. On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, there will be cards available for you at Sacred Heart and Our Lady's churches, but you may bring your own small or medium size religious Christmas card, with your greeting (English or Arabic) and your name (address optional) inside

and leave in box at Sacred Heart church rear. No stamp required, but postal donations welcome (20 grams costs £1.33). Your envelope will be posted for you to one of the Holy Land churches.



Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 26

May my visit to Africa be a sign of the Church's esteem for all religions, and strengthen our bonds of friendship.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 25

Mungu abariki Kenya! God bless Kenya!

#### WITH YOU ALWAYS

#### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

##### Session 4 'Holy Spirit: the helper'

Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm

#### HELP NEEDED

Sister Megan is asking for help for someone in need. Furniture, white goods, bedding, pots, pans etc. If you can help please ring Sister Megan on 01942 683554

#### PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

This group meets for an hour of prayer at St Ambrose Barlow church every Saturday at 10.00am.

#### ORDER OF DEACONS

##### Why we need more deacons

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will host an evening for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves. Wives and priests are also welcome on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30-9.00pm, refreshments available from 7.00pm at St Joseph's Parish Rooms, Meeting Lane, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BB.

#### THE GOOD COUNCIL NETWORK

Clare McCullough talks about the inspiring Pro-Life work of the Good Council Network that is bringing hope to women and saving countless babies lives from abortion. You can watch episode 5 of Three wise women on EWTN at 11am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December. You can watch EWTN on Sky 589 or online [www.EWTN.co.uk](http://www.EWTN.co.uk) For more information about the Good Council Networks life changing and lifesaving work see: [www.goodcouncilnetwork.com](http://www.goodcouncilnetwork.com)

#### PRAYER FOR SYRIA

God of compassion,  
Hear the cries of the people of Syria.  
Comfort those who suffer violence.  
Console those who mourn the dead.  
Give strength to Syria's neighbouring countries  
to welcome refugees.  
Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms.  
Protect those who are committed to peace.

God of Hope,  
Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with their enemies.  
Inflame the Universal Church with compassion for the people of Syria, and give us hope for a future built on justice for all.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and Light of the world. Amen.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,664.22

Catholic Youth Services £ 357.49

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

### SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially Margaret Beckett, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Philip Harte, Shannon Mackay, Jack Parr, Mary (Molly) Toher.

### BAPTISM

Welcome into our community through baptism to:-  
Mya Rose Dean, Jenson Steven Warhurst

### WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Louise Clare Farrell & James Bailey who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Thomas Collier, William O'Neill, Bridget Greenhalgh, John Brian Griffin, Carol Ann Westhead, Albert Edward Purcell, James Towey.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### LUNCHTIME REFLECTIONS

Thanks to all who attended. As sessions three and four were combined, the series is completed, but now begins the time to put *Laudato Si'* into practice. Please pray for positive outcomes from world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, 30<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December.

### WORLD GIFTS

World Gifts are a different way in which we can all help to fight poverty. The World Gift catalogues are available at the back of church. You will find a range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to communities around the world. The refugee crises in both Europe and the Middle East have prompted us to include two additional World Gifts. Food for a family and a Winter survival kit. Please take a catalogue and see if you can give a loved one a gift that will help the poorest people in the world.

### CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR OLDER PEOPLE

We are looking to deliver gifts and spend time with people who may otherwise not see anyone else. Are you or someone you know going to be alone this festive period? Please get in touch via e-mail address [rachel\\_prescott1990@hotmail.com](mailto:rachel_prescott1990@hotmail.com) or on 01942 875032 (Flower Shop). If you would like to donate gifts (of e.g. playing cards, crosswords, sweets, chocolate, books etc.) or of your own spare time, please call into the drop-off point 'Inspire Gift Shop' on Market St, Atherton (opposite the Post Office) or 'Flower Shop by Gill' on Smith St, Atherton. Any donation, no matter how small is greatly appreciated.

### MUSIC MEETING

There will be a meeting of musicians and singers on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.00pm in St. Richard's, Atherton. This is open to anyone from the Deanery who would like to learn new material and simply join with other musicians and singers from the different churches in the area. During the meeting we will learn some new material from a recent music conference in Wales and also have the opportunity to share new music with each other. Please come along and join us in song!



### Billions invested in dirty fossil fuels overseas

The UK government is spending billions of pounds investing in dirty fossil fuels overseas – more than double the amount it spends supporting renewable energy. To protect the planet and the poorest people from climate change, we urgently need to shift the balance.

Inspired by our faith and encouraged by the words of Pope Francis, we're asking **Climate and Energy Secretary Amber Rudd** to lead that shift, away from dirty fossil fuels towards clean, sustainable energy that meets the needs of the poorest people.

You can help by emailing the government. Visit [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) for the details



## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY



ST JOSEPH'S HALL, CHAPEL ST, LEIGH  
THE FANTASTIC 50'S & 60'S SENSATION

## EDDIE ROBBINS

and the

## JETSONS

LICENSED BAR,  
HOT POT SUPPER, FREE RAFFLE

Tickets £15

Available from Des Cooney 01942 674868

Parish Office 01942 673517

Entertainment starts at 8.00pm

Doors open at 7.00pm

### ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL - ADVENT SERVICE

St. Mary's High School would like to invite pupils of all ages to attend an Advent service at St. Ambrose Barlow church on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December, at 7.00pm. Before the service, all pupils are encouraged to arrive for 6.00pm for social time in the parish hall where refreshments of hot chocolate and cakes will be available. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend the service. Any questions please contact the school.

### ST MARY'S SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

St Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> Form students would like to invite Senior Citizens from our parish to their annual Christmas Party. Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 noon to 2.00pm  
Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to go.

## 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 28 November

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joan Ingham LD & decd. members of the Ingham families

### Sun 29 November **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Robert Woods (Anniv.)  
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area  
StJ 10.30am MASS Mandy Barwick (Anniv.)  
OL 11.00am MASS Catherine Trundle  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

### Mon 30 November **FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ **9.30am** MASS Frank Duff and deceased members of the Legion of Mary  
12A 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Thomas Collier  
StJ 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE William O'Neill

### Tue 1 December **Tuesday of the first week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon NO MASS

### Wed 2 December **Wednesday of the first week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OL 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Bridget Greenhalgh  
StJ 12.00noon MASS The Farrimond Family

### Thu 3 December **Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am NO MASS  
SH 12.00noon MASS Eileen Kelly LD

### Fri 4 December **Friday of the first week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 10.00am NO MASS  
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS J.B. Griffin  
StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Carol Ann Westhead

### Sat 5 December **Memorial of Saint John Almond, Priest, Martyr**

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
SH 12.00noon MASS Richard Francis LD  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 6 December **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice O'Connell (Anniv.)  
SH 9.30am MASS Nora & Jack Pearson & departed loved ones  
StJ 10.30am MASS Mark Prescott (Birthday memorial)  
OL 11.00am MASS Tom Rasburn (LD)  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 20<sup>th</sup> November the numbers drawn were 2, 11, 19. NO winner of £206. This week's estimated jackpot was £260.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** 15<sup>th</sup> November £10 No. 399 Mr J Waterfield, £5 No. 130 Mrs A Unsworth, £3 No. 141 D & F Quinn, £2 No. 246 Mrs N Flynn **Bonus Ball** No. 11 Mrs A Farrell  
22<sup>nd</sup> November £10 No. 499 B Ryan, £5 No. 486 K Jones, £3 No. 008 Scott, £2 No. 208 J Causby.

**Bonus Ball** No. 18 Mr P Purcell

**Twelve Apostles 200 Club** £40 No 56 S Gredecki, £15 No 74 Mrs Hampson, £5 No 140 T Thompson, £5 No 27 A Morris

### 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 Paul Seddon or Fr Paul Grady 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)

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