

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 6 DECEMBER 2015



Responsorial Psalm

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Salvation is one of the great themes of Advent. Today a great cry goes out, "Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be levelled, winding ways be straightened and rough roads made smooth, and all humanity will see the salvation of God." These are wonderful words and they hold a wonderful sense of hope for all of us. They are a declaration of God's love. However, some people have a problem with messages like this because they think they have to be perfect for God to love them – "God would never love me with my imperfections and sins." So they try to be perfect in order to win God's love. This effectively means that they are trying to manage everything on their own instead of relying upon the love and mercy of God.

Once there was a monk called Ambrose. An expert on spiritual living, Ambrose was in great demand for talks and retreats. He was a very intelligent man and a very hard worker. He was a bit of a perfectionist and always liked to be organized and in control of things. But at the height of his fame, he was struck down with a terminal illness. It seemed as if his ministry was over. However, it was when he was weak, when things were completely out of his control, that he became strong. This happened because he decided to use his illness to reach out to other sufferers. And so successful was he that his final illness turned out to be most fruitful. Instead of being "in control" he had to open himself up to the support of the other monks and, of course, he had to trust in God more and more because he did not have the strength in himself to do what he wanted to do. He had to rely on God more and more.

When we pray to God from a position of self-sufficiency and power, there is not a lot that God can do through us. But if we approach him with weakness and need, we are more likely to let God into our lives and our hearts. It is sometimes because of our imperfections that God helps us in our weakness. Our imperfections are the wounds that catch God's eye and qualify us for his mercy and healing. There are those who say we shouldn't display weakness because it doesn't create respect and people look down on us. God doesn't. It is because we are weak that he loves us even more. And it is through sharing our weaknesses that we can bring hope to others who feel weak too. None of us can ever be perfect on our own. We can only reach perfection, whatever perfection may be, through and with him. As we journey through Advent let us acknowledge our weaknesses and imperfections in the sure and certain hope that God is there for us. And let us pray that, like John the Baptist, we may share this hope of salvation with others.

**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

ST JOSEPH'S

MASS INTENTIONS

Tony Broster, Alf Case, Jack & Elizabeth Cleworth, John Griffin, Alan & Eileen Hogan, Peter Lythgoe, James & Anne Marsh, George Milward, Ann O'Connell, David & Benjamin Robinson, Special Intention

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 19th.

LITTLE CHURCH

Once again this year Little Church is having it's copper collection for CAFOD. If you have any spare coppers please bring them to Church on Sundays and give them to one of the catechists. Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday 9th December 6.30pm in church the Junior School Advent Service

Wednesday 16th December 6.00pm in church the Infant School Advent Service.

All welcome, please come and support our children.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

There is a list of the winning numbers in both porches.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

COFFEE MORNING

Tea and Coffee will be served after Mass today, Sunday 6th December. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

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

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!

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for children being Confirmed and making their First Communion next year will be held at Twelve Apostles on Wed 9th Dec at 4.30pm and Sacred Heart on Thurs 10th Dec at 7.00pm. Please keep the children in your prayers.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The service will be in St Richard's church, Atherton, on Thursday, December 17th at 7.00pm. In Advent this year we begin the "Year of Mercy" which has been initiated by Pope Francis to both encourage and welcome people back to Church. So this year we are going to have a Deanery Reconciliation Service which will include individual Confessions. If you do not wish to go to Confession during the service then you will still be able to join us in prayer and take part in the singing and the rest of the liturgy. Please come along and join us in prayer.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

Twelve Apostles 5.30pm Mass
St Joseph's 5.30pm Carol Service
St Joseph's 6.00pm Mass
Sacred Heart Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

St Joseph's 8.30am
Sacred Heart 9.30am Mass
St Joseph's 10.30am Mass
Our Lady of the Rosary 11.15am Mass

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SVP

At all masses on the weekend of 12th-13th December the SVP will be having its annual Christmas collection. The money we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages who might struggle during the upcoming festive period. Please be generous, any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community. God bless,
SVP Treasurer.



Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 29

The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us that God is waiting for us with open arms, just like the father of the prodigal son.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 29

Where there is violence and hatred, Christians are called to witness to the God who is Love.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 29

I come to the Central African Republic as a pilgrim of peace and as an apostle of hope.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 28

I have great hope for Africa, and for the harvest of grace that the Lord is preparing in your midst.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 28

Uganda has experienced the witness of Christian martyrs. May they help us spread the joy of the Gospel without fear.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 27

The world is witnessing an unprecedented migration of peoples. I want to thank Uganda for its generosity in welcoming refugees.

WITH YOU ALWAYS

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Session 4 'Holy Spirit: the helper'

Wed 6 th Jan	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 13 th Jan	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 14 th 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

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 this Thursday, 10th 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 30th December. You can watch EWTN on Sky 589 or online www.EWTN.co.uk For more information about the Good Council Networks life changing and lifesaving work see: www.goodcouncilnetwork.com

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,757.08

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:- (Twins) Daniel Tiwatayo Oyobanjo and Danielle Tiwatope Oyobanjo.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Albert Edward Purcell, James Towey

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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 CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Thank you for supporting the churches in the Holy Land with your Christmas greetings. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Palestine who live under a military occupation, with a 30 foot high surrounding wall, border checks; severely restricted movement, water and electricity supplies; land (livelihood) & houses confiscated & illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian lands. Postage donations were £47.12. The airmail postage was £15.00 to Father Twai (Administrator) in Jerusalem, who will distribute them to 14 churches throughout the Palestinian territories. The £32 difference will be used to send greetings to Prisoners of Conscience worldwide. Please sign a card today at Sacred Heart.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Please pray for positive outcomes from world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, 30th November to 11th December. Thanks to everyone who signed the petition calling on David Cameron to show wisdom at this Conference. CAFOD submitted 40,000 signatures to 10, Downing Street.

TOYS & HEATERS

Clean, whole, toys for children under 5 years would be gratefully received by the volunteers who run the Leigh Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support, for use at the drop-in on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 2.45pm at Kingsleigh Methodist Youth Centre, opposite Leigh Bus Station. Stand-alone heaters are requested by 2 of our refugees. Queries to (01942) 676962.

ST MARY'S SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

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

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

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

A DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

Come and enjoy a feast of Christmas music at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 12th December at 7.00pm. Compèred by BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips, the concert will feature a range of Christmas music, old and new. The Metropolitan Cathedral Choirs will be joined by the Liverpool Suzuki Violin Group. Tickets are priced at £5 for a single ticket, and £10 for a family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) and can be purchased from [lpoolmetmusic.ticketsource.co.uk](http://poolmetmusic.ticketsource.co.uk)

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 10th 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.

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.

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 5 December

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

Sun 6 December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice O'Connell (Anniv.)
SH 9.30am MASS John Heneghan
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

Mon 7 December **Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Albert Edward Purcell

Tue 8 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 12.00noon MASS Kath Sales (LD)

Wed 9 December **Wednesday of the second week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke LD
StJ 12.00noon MASS John Joseph Ward
StJ 6.30pm Advent Service, St Joseph's Junior School

Thu 10 December **Thursday of the second week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Carol & Annitta Manfredi (Anniv.)
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE James Towey
SH 12.00noon MASS Olive Taylor

Fri 11 December **Friday of the second week of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Tommy Byrne
StJ 12.00noon MASS Michael Sayer (RIP)

Sat 12 December **Saturday of the second week of Advent**

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
OL 12.00noon MASS Beth Dale
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Kathleen McArt

Sun 13 December **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Kathy Hallinan (Anniv.)
SH 9.30am MASS Norah & Jack Pearson and departed loved ones
StJ 10.30am MASS Terence Keavney (Anniv.)
OL 11.00am MASS Ruth Walter and Glyn and Dorthey Elmer (Anniv.)
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery On 27th November the numbers drawn were 4, 10, 16. NO winner of £262. This week's estimated jackpot was £320.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 429 P Purcell, £5 No. 357 B Ryan, £3 No. 100 M & D Flannery, £2 No. 009 A Unsworth
Bonus Ball No. 18 P Purcell

The winning number for the Doll at the Christmas Faire was 106 - 110 W Costello.

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 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
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Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

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