

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

13 DECEMBER 2015



Responsorial Psalm

Sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The readings this weekend introduce us to three very important people in the story of our salvation and especially in the Season of Advent. Zephaniah, John the Baptist and Saint Paul all shared one belief: that the Lord was very near. God's nearness didn't act as a threat to them, but secured them with a source of joy that no one could steal from them – not even the executioner. Their joy in the closeness of God gave them an edge to their preaching in getting others to make themselves ready. It gave them a vision to see the far side of disaster. It moved them to draw other people into a sense of joy of knowing that God was very close to them. The picture of John the Baptist as a man full of joy is not one we hear about very often. John is usually portrayed as a lonesome figure, with a weird wardrobe and an even stranger diet, who rants and raves at everyone with ears. But John was a magnetic character who intrigued people to seek him out and follow him. People don't usually travel out into the wilderness, a very dangerous place in John's day, unless there was something or someone very special to see and listen to. In the person of John, people saw something of the way of God himself.

This is why many of the people asked him, "What must we do then?" And John's answer is to challenge people's generosity and sense of fairness so that others too may have reason to rejoice. Give bread to the hungry and clothes to those who have none. When the tax collectors ask what to do, John tells them to keep to the going rate without over-taxing people. They are burdened enough. To the soldiers who accompany the tax collectors, John tells them not to use their position as a weapon for their own reward. Be content with your pay and be just to others, especially the poor and the weak. John makes such a deep impression on all the people that word goes around that he might be the Christ, the Saviour for whom the people have been waiting for so long. Again, this expectancy is a measure of John's effect on people. John doesn't claim to know who the Messiah is. All he knows is that he is not him. This role is for someone else, someone greater and more powerful than John.

John the Baptist and Saint Paul both shared a radical sense of God's nearness. Both were executed for their faith. The joy of God's loving presence was a power that carried them through times of horror, so that neither had to deny the difficulty of their existence. Both men faced an opposition determined to destroy them. Both had a belief in God to encourage them beyond the reality of imprisonment and execution. We all need a power that carries us through difficult times, that keeps us going when we face the reality of our weakness and limitation. To believe in the abiding presence of a God who cares gives us a deep sense of joy in the midst of the crisis that we sometimes encounter in life. This presence of God must always challenge our generosity and call on our inner sense of justice to help others. As we continue our journey through Advent let us pray that we, like John and Paul, may respond to the call of God to follow him and prepare his way in the lives of 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

Pillip John Aldred, Annie Butterworth, J. B. Griffin, Terence Keavney, Iolo & Annita Manfredi, Special Intention Louis, Angeola Manfredi & Family, Jimmy Maxwell, Bernard Thompson, A Get Well Mass, Special Intention - St Jude, Thanksgiving.

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.

THANK YOU

Mary Griffin and family greatly appreciate all the love and support they have received through the many prayers and Masses from parishioners. Mass of thanksgiving will be offered for you all.

LITTLE CHURCH

Once again this year Little Church is having its 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.

JESUIT MISSIONS

The Jesuit Missions London send their thanks and wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas season to the many kind parishioners who have donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of income for the Mission causes overseas.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ADVENT PRESENTATION

Wednesday 16th December 6.00pm in church the Infant School Advent Service. All welcome, please come and support our children.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Our Christmas Draw will take place after Mass today.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who helped with the cleaning of our church.

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!

TWELVE APOSTLES

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

... will take place after Mass a few tickets are still left £1 a strip.

200 Club Draw (Big One)

Will take place on Saturday, 26th December. Please make sure your payments are up to date (see John Thompson).

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

The service will be in St Richard's church, Atherton, on Thursday, December 17th at 7.00pm. Last Tuesday we began the "Year of Mercy", 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.



Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 8

May the Jubilee of Mercy bring us all closer to God's goodness and love!

Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 1

God Bless Africa!

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 30

The time has come for new messengers of Christ, ever more generous, more joyful and more holy.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Nov 30

Christians and Muslims are brothers and sisters, and we must act as such.

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

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES

There are plenty of Christmas Masses to choose from. Why not take one of the Christmas posters home from the back of church, display it in your window and invite people to come to one of the Christmas Masses?

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm – XII Apostles, Leigh
6.00pm – St Joseph's, Leigh
6.00pm – St Richard's, Atherton
6.00pm – Holy Family, Boothstown
8.00pm – Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.45pm – Holy Family, Boothstown
Midnight – Sacred Heart, Leigh

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am – St Joseph's, Leigh
9.00am – Holy Family, Boothstown
9.30am – St Richard's, Atherton
9.30am – Sacred Heart, Leigh
10.30am – St Joseph's, Leigh
11.00am – Ambrose Barlow, Astley
11.00am – Holy Family, Boothstown
11.15am – Our Lady of the Rosary, Leigh

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,395.69

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:-
Oscar Jack Grimshaw,

RECENTLY DECEASED

Melanie Hurdus

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

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

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MERCY

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us
your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being
enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from
seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep
after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that
you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of
God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who
manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen
and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in
weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in
ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel
sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its
anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace
from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives
and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for
ever and ever.
Amen.

YEAR OF MERCY

There are resources at the back of each church for the Year
of Mercy including a leaflet on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



The coach will leave Twelve Apostles Club on Wednesday
30th December at 3.00pm (any problems ring Therese
Thompson 01942 53507)

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

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 12 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Kathleen McArt

Sun 13 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

(Gaudete Sunday)

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

Mon 14 December *Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Mary Roach (Anniv.)

Tue 15 December *Tuesday of the third week of Advent*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Jiari Zhang

Wed 16 December *Wednesday of the third week of Advent*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.15am ADVENT MASS in church for school end of term Mary Fildes
StJ 12.00noon MASS Tony Broster
StJ 6.30pm Advent Service, St Joseph's Infant School

Thu 17 December *Weekday of Advent II*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Sylvia Withington
SH 12.00noon MASS John Kelleher
StR 7.00pm RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Fri 18 December *Weekday of Advent II*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Melanie Hurdus
OL 10.00am MASS Bridie Greenhalgh LD
StJ 12.00noon MASS Deceased Members of the Manfredi Family

Sat 19 December *Weekday of Advent II*

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
StJ 12.00noon MASS Special Intention Our Lord, Our Lady & All Saints
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Anthony Martyn

Sun 20 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
SH 9.30am MASS Diamond Wedding
StJ 10.30am MASS Barbara Cooke
OL 11.00am MASS John Griffin LD
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery On 4th December the numbers drawn were 5, 10, 21. NO winner of £320. This week's estimated jackpot was £380.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 324 J Evans, £5 No. 116 C Ellis £3 No. 254 N Flynn £2 No. 391 A Sharkie

Bonus Ball No. No. 23 R Ellis

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
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