

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

20 DECEMBER 2015



## Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel this weekend we hear the story of Mary's visitation to her cousin, Elizabeth. During this visitation Elizabeth spoke these wonderful words to her: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The theme of being blessed, if we believe in God, runs throughout the Gospels. Wonderful things happen to those who believe. There are many examples. Jesus said to the centurion, "Go, may it be done for you as you have believed," and his servant was cured. To the woman with the haemorrhage he said, "Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well", and her bleeding stopped. To the two blind men he said, "May it be done to you according to your faith," and they received their sight. The central theme of the Gospel is the blessedness of those who believe. All of Jesus' preaching had as its aim the development of faith in people's hearts. However, it is not simply a matter of believing, but of trusting and acting on their belief. We sometimes may hear people say, "It's OK for you, you've got great faith." But it's not like that. Faith doesn't always make life easy. In fact, the opposite is more likely to be the case. It's because we have faith that we refuse to give up. Faith challenges us to persevere, to struggle on, often with no guarantee of a happy outcome.

Mary is blessed because she not only believed but also acted on her belief. Immediately after the visit from the angel Gabriel, she went to visit Elizabeth. From this we see that her faith was more than mere words. She lived out her calling to be the Mother of God's Son from the very outset. Mary was the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus. This is why she has become our role model over many centuries. We too will be blessed if, like Mary, we hear the Word of God and act on it. Christmas can be a great help to our faith. Somehow we can feel that God is very close to us at Christmas because this is when he became like us. The central essence of the Good News is that God made himself present to us in the life of Jesus who walked on this earth. At the first Christmas there were those who believed and those who did not believe. The Gospel stresses the blessedness of those who believe the Good News. As we enter into the final week of Advent let us prepare for the Lord's coming by living out the Good News of God each day and by sharing this message with others.

## THANK YOU

Fr Kieran and Fr Colin would like to say a very big thank you to all of you for your support during 2015. Especially to all those who clean our churches, do the gardening, read at Mass, to the Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Singers and Musicians, money counters, gift aid teams, collectors, Catechists, organisers of various parish events, to everyone who in any small way contributes to the life of our parish. Your help and support is much appreciated.

*May we wish you all a very  
Happy and Holy Christmas*

**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

Ernest Clarke, Brian Crawley, John Griffin, Harrison & Hollingsheade Families, Michael McRory, Jack McWilliam, Kevin, Joseph, Neil & Elizabeth O'Rourke, Alice Pennington, William Pennington, Maurice Phillips, Issabella Phillips, Sandra Phillips, Mark Prescott, Desmond Sarsfield, Edith Smith, Joseph Smith, Sheila Smith, Eddie Trumble, Sylvia Withington, Kathleen Withington, Jack Withington, Robert Woods, Special Intention, Special Intention (new baby), Successful Operation, Thanksgiving Our Lady

### 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 VINCENT DE PAUL

The total for the SVP Collection was £540. A very big thank you to you all for your generosity.

### RED MISSION BOXES

The total amount raised by St Joseph's Red Mission Boxes during 2015 is £6,260.00. Grateful thanks go to all our dedicated Collectors, Box Holders and Donators, in helping to achieve this total. Anyone who would like to have a Red Box at home or become a donator, should contact the Parish Office or Paul on 01942 679368. We particularly need volunteers to be collectors. The task involves collecting a maximum of ten boxes of donations once every three months.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### CHRISTMAS DRAW

There is a list of winners at the back of 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!

#### WEEKLY LOTTERY

There will, of course, be no lottery draw on Christmas Day. Tickets will remain on sale next Sunday and next week until Thursday noon 31<sup>st</sup> December when the draw **will** take place. Why not increase your chances of winning (and the jackpot) by buying extra tickets?

#### TWELVE APOSTLES

#### CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

Many thanks to everyone who supported the draw we raised £265 prizes can be collected from the back of church. Please check winning numbers list - not all yet claimed.

#### 200 Club Draw (Big One)

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

#### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WORLDWIDE

28 Greetings cards have been sent (by airmail, £32.29) to those from the 2015 list received from ACAT (action by Christians against torture). Thanks to those who signed cards. May our Prisoners of Conscience worldwide efforts bear fruit.

#### 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



Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 14

One goal for each day: to convey the tenderness of Christ to those who are most in need.

### 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

### 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)

### 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  
5.30pm - St Joseph's Carol Service  
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  
11.30pm - Sacred Heart Carol Service  
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

#### 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** £1,868.12

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

The retiring collection this weekend will be for the people of Cumbria who have been devastated by recent floods. Fr. Paul Seddon has a direct contact with the Team Vicar in Appleby, which is one of the worst hit areas in Cumbria, so the money we collect will go straight to where it is needed.

### 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:-  
Kayla Ameyoe Whyte

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Doris Yates, Paul Johnson

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.



The coach will leave Twelve Apostles Club on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm (any problems ring Therese Thompson 01942 253507)

## 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 Joseph's Players 2016 Pantomime  
St Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street,  
Leigh WN7 2PR

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
to  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Starts: 7.15pm - Tickets: £8 Adults, £4 16's & under  
Matinees: 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Starts: 2pm - £10 Adults, £4 16's & under  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> - All Tickets £4

# SLEEPING BEAUTY

Box Office  
Ratcliffe's Cycles  
Bradshawgate, Leigh

Refreshments and raffle available

# 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 19 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Anthony Martyn

## Sun 20 December **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

*Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers*

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

## Mon 21 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Cathy Rigby & Marian Higgins  
OL 10.00am Funeral Service Doris Yates

## Tue 22 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Annie Butler

## Wed 23 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OL 10.00am MASS Margaret Holden  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Kathleen & Philip McLoughlin

## Thu 24 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Carrie O'Rourke  
SH 10.00am MASS James Worden

## **VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY**

12A 5.30pm MASS Mary Langan & members of Langan family  
StJ 5.30pm Carol Service  
StJ 6.00pm MASS Carolyn Burke  
SH 11.30pm Carol Service  
SH 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS Joan Ganley

## Fri 25 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) Holyday of Obligation**

StJ 8.30am MASS Alf Keavney  
SH 9.30am MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke LD  
StJ 10.30am MASS J B Griffin  
OL 11.15am MASS Austin Wood

## Sat 26 December **FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

**NO** Exposition & Reconciliation and no MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Brian Sheridan LD

## Sun 27 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

StJ 8.30am MASS Steven Naylor  
SH 9.30am MASS Mr Aspinall  
StJ 10.30am MASS Gordon, May & Keith Turner  
OL 11.00am MASS Albert Purcell (LD)  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 11<sup>th</sup> December the numbers drawn were 2, 6, 7. NO winner of £376. This week's estimated jackpot was £440. 18<sup>th</sup> December results in the porch. The next draw will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> December

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. 378 M Sweeney, £5 No. 283 M Roach, £3 158 B Welding, £2 No. 292 B & H Edwards

**Bonus Ball** 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](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)

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady  
Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: [frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com](mailto:frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com)

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey  
Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

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