

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (YEAR C)

27 DECEMBER 2015



Responsorial Psalm

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. So today let us give thanks to God for all families everywhere and pray that we, as fellow parishioners, may truly live more like a family here on earth. Jesus himself needed a family to be part of. He needed the love, security and fellowship that a loving family could bring. So as we think of the role of Mary and Joseph in Jesus' life, let us therefore never forget their role in our salvation for they are the family who helped to bring Jesus into the world, and cared for him and nourished him as a good mother and father. No doubt Jesus' experience of growing in a loving family enabled him to be so loving and compassionate to others, especially during his ministry here on earth.

Very early on in Jesus' ministry, in today's Gospel in fact, we hear that "Mary stored up all these things in her heart." After the visit of the shepherds to the manger, we hear a similar comment, "Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart." Because we look with the gift of hindsight we sometimes forget how confusing life must have been for both Mary and Joseph. They clearly didn't immediately understand the meaning of what was happening to them and what God was asking of them. It was perhaps much later when many of the things that had happened to them, especially in the days surrounding Jesus' birth, began to make sense. We read a number of times in the Gospels that Mary felt "perplexed". So what did she do? She pondered, reflected and prayed, seeking to understand what was happening to her and to her child. Mary and Joseph both come across as silent, reflective people. All through their lives they reflect and pray about how God has treated them. In this way they are filled, eventually, with insight and wisdom.

The lives of Mary and Joseph in the Gospel remind us that we cannot always find an immediate answer to our questions. Sometimes we only learn through experience. Sadly there are many people around who do not seem to learn from experience. But for others experience is the real school of learning. Wisdom is the fruit of much pondering. Parents need a lot of wisdom to bring up children well. What Mary and Joseph learned from listening and praying they passed on to their child who, Saint Luke tells us, "increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and other people." Jesus was taught, nourished and formed by a wise couple who loved God with all their heart and soul. As we celebrate this great feast of the Holy Family, let us pray that we may see God at work in our lives today and together, like Mary and Joseph, share his message of Good News 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

Audrey Ashurst, Gladys Blackledge, Alf Case, Mary & John Connor, James Frost, Michael Monaghan, Andrew O'Brien, Roy Parr, Alice Pennington, William Pennington, Maurice Phillips, Issabella Phillips, Sandra Phillips, William Phillips, Howard Seedall, John Smith, Sylvia Withington, Kathleen Withington, Jack Withington, Golden Wedding, Special Intention Special Intention - Michael & Maria, Lawrence, Liam & Bridget, Tracy, Marie, Patrick, Thomas, Teresa.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

500 Club £10 No. 196 Mrs C Ellis, £5 No. 381 Miss M Sweeney, £3 No. 425 Mrs N Flynn, £2 No. 499 Mrs B Ryan
Bonus Ball No. 42 Mrs M Roach



Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 20
However grave our sin, God responds with total forgiveness (MV 3).

Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 19
Mercy is the path uniting God with man, for it opens the heart to the hope of an eternal love (MV 2).

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

NEW YEARS DAY

On 1st January each year, the Church celebrates the great Feast of the Motherhood of Our Lady. So, on New Year's Day, Mass in our Parish will take place in Our Lady of the Rosary at 12.00 noon. It is also a special day of prayer for peace so we will ask for the prayers of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, and pray for world peace in a holy hour, beginning at 11.00am, again in Our Lady of the Rosary. Please try to come along and join us for the holy hour and Mass as we begin 2016 by honouring Our Lady in a special way.



Fr Nieran & Fr Colin would like to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Thank you all for your support in 2015 and a special thanks to our wonderful ladies who have decorated our churches so beautifully and produced the lovely flower arrangements for Christmas and throughout the year.

BURNS' NIGHT

Friday 15th January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45pm, including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink - £7.00. For tickets please contact Des 876050

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 26 December

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 Aspinnall

StJ 10.30am MASS Gordon, May & Keith Turner

OL 11.00am MASS Albert Purcell (LD)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in Pastoral Area

Mon 28 December FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Fred Barns (Birthday)

Tue 29 December FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, (BECKET) BISHOP & MARTYR

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH NO MASS

Wed 30 December SIXTH DAY OF NATIVITY OCTAVE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke

Thu 31 December SEVENTH DAY OF NATIVITY OCTAVE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Elizabeth & Carrie O'Rourke

Fri 1 January SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

OL 12.00noon MASS Kath Sales

Sat 2 January Memorial of Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Barry Graham

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Paul McVeigh

Sun 3 January SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS Margaret McCarthy

SH 9.30am MASS Terence Knowles

StJ 10.30am MASS Mark Prescott

OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in Pastoral Area

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,540.65

Cumbria Appeal £ 785.38

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:-
Archer Blue Wilson

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh Featuring the Fantastic 50's & 60's sensation, **EDDIE ROBBINS & THE JETSONS**

Tickets £15 Available from Des Cooney 01942 674868

Parish Office 01942 673517

Licensed Bar, Hot Pot Supper, Free Raffle

St Joseph's Players Present Sleeping Beauty

20th January to 30th January

Tickets adults £8 under 16's £4

Box office: Ratcliffe's Cycles, Bradshawgate, Leigh