

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 3 JANUARY 2016



Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. In today's Gospel Matthew tells the story of how some wise men arrive in Jerusalem asking where they can find the newborn king whose star they have followed from the east. The old-born king, Herod, is not exactly delighted at the news. He calls together the wise men to Jerusalem, who consult the scriptures to find that a leader will emerge from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. The wise men from the east continue their quest and come to their journey's end in Bethlehem where the star halts over a house. They enter it and see the child with his mother Mary. They pay homage to the child, they leave their unusual gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and then quietly return to their own country without reporting to Herod. Matthew's Gospel is the only one to tell this part of the Nativity story, and the question arises: what does it mean? We sense that Matthew is telling us a wonderful truth, is revealing to us some hidden event, is trying to engage us in Good News. And in the Second Reading today Paul tells us the meaning of the Epiphany when he writes, "God's secret plan was revealed to me and was unknown in past generations; it means that the Gentiles now share the same inheritance as the Jews, they are members of the same body, they share the same promise in Christ through the Gospel."

The truth of the Gospel is that Jesus is for ALL people. The wise men are the Gentiles, the non-Jews, like ourselves. We come from all over the world and we can find Jesus and do him homage. He is the infant king of the Jews but he is not the exclusive property of any tribe or nation. He belongs to us all, and we can all belong to him. He is the journey's end for all those who seek the face of God, for all who seek for meaning and purpose in their lives. He came not only for the chosen race, but for the human race. In a sense the wise men are the ancestors of all of us who seek. We are all seekers. We seek for love, for acceptance, and for understanding. And we know that the journey towards wholeness and holiness is a journey without end. We will not always have stars in the sky to guide us. Yet even the wise men had to stop being stargazers and consult the scriptures to find out where Jesus was. We don't have the stars but we do have the Good News of scripture and we have each other to help us in our journey to God. As we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany today let us pray that the light of the star will guide us to the place where Jesus is, in the Eucharist, in his Word and in each other.

**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, Elizabeth & Jack Cleworth, May, John & Christine Gillbanks, Olivia, Ken & Stephen Hartnell, Alan & Eileen Hogan, Annie & Bob Johnson, James & Ann Marsh, Anne & James McDermott, James Owen McDermott, Howard Seedall, Eva Sherridan, Joe & Tony Shovelton, Margaret Woodcock, Florence Yates, St Jude, Private Intention

RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring their contents to the Presbytery on Monday 18th January 2016.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Moss Bank Nurseries for the beautiful tree and all the support given to St Joseph's throughout the year.

TWELVE APOSTLES

There are still a few prizes left from our Christmas Draw these can be claimed from the back of church. 200 Club Results: £100 No 27 A Morris, £50 No 65 V Jardine, £25 No 38 I Atkinson, £25 No 215 A Newton, £5 prizes No 186 Anne Southern, No 139 J Brundrett, No 78 R and M Foxcroft, No 32 P Newton, No 48 Ben Parry, No 13 V Johnson, No 158 A Clews, No 203 John Thompson, No 112 S Peters, No 28 Marie Frain

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

There is no Coffee Morning today, back to normal in February.

500 CLUB £50 No. 375 Mr P Leonard, £10 No. 315 Mrs M Roach, £5 No. 474 Mrs M Collins, £3 No. 196 Mrs C Ellis, £2 No. 080 Mr D Flannery

Bonus Ball No. 20 Mrs J Newill



Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 26

Let us pray for Christians suffering persecution, often amid the shameful silence of so many.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 25

When Christ is your friend, you have joy, serenity, happiness.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Dec 24

God is in love with us. He becomes small to help us love him in return.

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

Session 5 'Teach us to Pray'

Wed 3 rd Feb	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 10 th Feb	Twelve Apostles School Hal	4.30pm
Thu 11 th Feb	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm

DIARIES

There are free diaries available at the back of all our churches. Please take one.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The next meeting takes place at Holy Family on Thursday, 14th January, 7.30pm, please come. Louise Zanré, Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, will reflect on Pope Francis' message for Peace Sunday at LACE, Croxteth Drive, L17 1AA, 2 to 4pm on Sunday, 17th January. All welcome. For more information ring 0151 522 1080 or e-mail s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk to learn about some of the many Justice and Peace issues.

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 2 January

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Paul McVeigh

Sun 3 January SOLEMNITY - 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

Mon 4 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Successful Operation

Tue 5 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

Wed 6 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS Sick Babies

Thu 7 January Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke RIP

StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Eva Sherridan

SH 12.00noon MASS Andrea Jeffries

Fri 8 January Weekday of Christmas Time

SH 10.00am MASS Special intention

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Vincent Keavney

Sat 9 January Weekday of Christmas Time

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OL 12.00noon MASS John Griffin (LD)

12A 5.30pm 1st MASS OF SUNDAY Allen & Agnes Newton

Sun 10 January FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS Eileen Kelly RIP

SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

StJ 10.30am MASS Ernest Clarke

OL 11.00am MASS

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in Pastoral Area

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL Christmas Day £ 3,982.33

Sunday 27th December £ 1,699.92

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

THANK YOU

Fr Kieran & Fr Colin would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and gifts at Christmas and for your continued support throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Eva Bernadette Sheridan, Vincent Keavney

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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

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