

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

14 FEBRUARY 2016



Responsorial Psalm

Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

REFLECTION

All of the readings this weekend are descriptions of people who stand up for what they believe in. They even put their lives in danger because of their belief. The words of Moses in the First Reading are a form of a Creed for the Jewish people. It expresses their origins, their identity and their relationship with God when Moses shares the words, "My father was a wandering Aramean." It tells of their belief in what God has done for them and what God's loving plans and intentions are for them. God turned this group of nomads into a settled people, freeing them from slavery and giving them a blessed and fruitful land in which they could live in peace with each other and with their God. This is the dream.

Saint Paul expresses his belief in how this dream has in fact come true in the person of Jesus. All who now place their faith in Jesus as Lord can know the liberation, the salvation and the mercy of God. Jesus' response to the devil's three temptations in effect gives us Jesus' own statement of faith. He rejects the lure of materialism, the danger of thinking that all that is important to humans is to feed the body, to look for happiness and fulfilment in the material things of life. Jesus also resists the attractions of power, fame, glory, popularity and wealth. These are idols, false gods that demand our souls. Only God is worthy of our worship. And finally, perhaps the greatest temptation, Jesus refuses to doubt God or to put him to the test.

Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Not my will, but yours be done", should become our prayer too during Lent. This is Jesus' statement of belief, his statement of complete trust in God the Father. So what about us? What are our statements of belief? Each Sunday we recite the Creed at Mass. We profess with our lips what we hold dear in our hearts, that God is the loving Father of us all, that Jesus is the Son of God, that God's Holy Spirit is at work in us, inspiring us to live as the holy people of God in service of the world. Are these mere ideals, dreams, pious hopes? Or dare we stand up and truly place our lives fully behind these beliefs? Are we willing to live out the consequences of being Jesus' disciples today? We are invited to make Jesus' Creed our own: to look beyond mere material goods to make us happy; to reject the false gods of power, popularity, and wealth; to trust God's loving plan for us, even in our own personal Gethsemane or Calvary moments. Do our lives reflect our faith that, through all our wanderings, God is leading us from slavery to freedom, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life? And can we spend our lives making this dream more of a reality for 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

FLOWER TEAM

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are in great need of a new Flower Team. Anyone interested, please contact the office.

SACRED HEART

This year, on Friday, 4th March at 7.30pm, our church will be hosting the **Women's World Day of Prayer** service for all churches in Leigh. Both sexes and all ages are invited. Practices for singers, 7.30pm for one hour, are on Mondays, 22nd and 29th February. The service has been written by Christian women from Cuba. If anyone could loan any items from Cuba, for a display in the church, they would be cared for and returned to you promptly after the service. Please ask your friends. Please ring (01942) 676962.

TWELVE APOSTLES ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

... will take place from Easter Monday, March 28th to Thursday March 31st. The cost is £175, names and a deposit of £30 are required ASAP. Please see Margaret Hawkins or Therese Thompson.

WITH YOU ALWAYS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Session 6 'Jesus brings us together'

Wed 2 nd March	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 9 th March	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 10 th March	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm

Session 7 'Mary: the first Disciple'

Wed 6 th April	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 20 th April	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 21 st April	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm

LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2016

The pilgrimage this year is from 22nd to 29th July. Places are still available for ordinary and assisted pilgrims in both hotels and the Accueil Marie Saint-Frai (with 24 hour medical and nursing care). Hotels cost from £669 per person including flights from Liverpool John Lennon Airport, transfers and three daily meals. Our tour operator this year is Joe Walsh Tours (0151 909 2871). Pilgrims requiring assistance (mobility/medical etc.) in any form should contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at their earliest convenience to avoid disappointment. Lourdes Office Tel: 0151 727 4000

Email: lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk

Web: www.liverpool-lourdes.co.uk

DEMENTIA FRIENDS CHAMPION?

Are you one already or could you become one? The Archdiocese has joined the Dementia Action Alliance and is committed to making the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends awareness session available in all our parish communities. So we need people who have completed the one-day training and become Dementia Friends Champions. If you are a Dementia Friends Champion, or you would like to become one, please contact Maureen Knight at the Pastoral Formation Department, 0151 522 1046, m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

Training information at <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk>

The diocesan Action Plan drawn up by our Dementia Working Group can be viewed now and will be regularly updated on the Dementia Action Alliance website where it is listed as Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool: www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/3012_liverpool_dementia_action_alliance



Pope Francis @Pontifex Feb 8

Entering through the Holy Door means discovering the depths of the Father's mercy, who seeks each of us personally.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Feb 4

God wants to live amidst his sons and daughters. Let us make space for him in our hearts.

LENT

During Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions. Candidates for the Sacraments - especially on the Sundays of Lent.

Friday, 19th February is Lent Fast Day (Friday of 1st week)

Friday, 4th March is Women's World Day of Prayer

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

There will be two extra opportunities to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Pastoral Area during Lent.

- Service (including individual confessions) at Holy Family on March 2nd at 7.00pm.
- Confessathon at St Joseph's on March 29th between 10.00am - 2.00pm.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

... this year have been adjusted so as not to clash

- Holy Family, Boothstown, Sunday at 3.00pm.
- St Richard's, Atherton, Monday at 7.00pm.
- St Joseph's, Leigh, Wednesday at 7.00pm.
- Sacred Heart, Leigh, Thursday after midday Mass.
- St Ambrose Barlow, Astley Friday at 7.00pm.

'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.

7.30pm - 9.00pm on Wednesday, 17th February 2016
(Refreshments available from 7.00pm)

Christ the King Parish Room, 78 Queens Drive, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 6YQ

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

... on 'Laudato Si' and the Year of Mercy
Tuesday evenings during Lent
(16th, 23rd February and 1st, 8th, 15th March)
at St Ambrose Barlow Hall from 7.45pm - 8.45pm

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,465.56 (part)

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

Next weekend, the retiring collection will be in support of CAFOD. Please take and return your Lenten Fast Day envelopes as soon as it is convenient.

SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially Margaret Beckett, Baby Grace Burgess, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Philip Harte, Shannon Mackay, Jack Parr, Claire Slater, John Thompson, Kevin O'Rourke, Margaret Case.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Monica Davies, Scott Charlesworth, Margaret Seddon.

Eternal rest grant unto them.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS

You are invited by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon to the Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King next Sunday 21st February at 11.00am. All are welcome. Refreshments will be served in the Gibberd room afterwards.

PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE 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

BAD WEATHER PREPARATION

In the event of ice and snow please take greater care when coming into grounds of each of the churches. Wear suitable footwear. There may be limited access to each church with only some paths gritted. If the weather is very bad do not attempt to get to Mass.

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

The Catholic Trust for England and Wales has purchased a package of e-learning programmes available to all members of the Catholic community free of charge. This is part of the Church's ongoing commitment to safeguarding. If you wish to access the training course email safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk your email should contain your name, the name of your parish, your role in the church e.g. Catechist, Eucharistic minister etc. On receipt of your email, the safeguarding administrator will register your email address with EduCare. You will receive a welcome email from them inviting you to set your password. You will then have instant access to the training programmes.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

A public meeting about the refugee crisis will be held on Wednesday, 17th February, 7.30 to 8.30pm in Leigh Parish church vestry.

AN EVENING OF BIG BAND MUSIC.

There will be an evening of big band swing, featuring the Mark Gillbanks Big Band at St Stephen's church, Manchester Road, Astley on Saturday, 27th February - from 7.00pm. Admission £10 - pay on the door.

LENT FAST DAY FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

The day water came to 14 year old Proscovia's community, her life changed completely. Her mother was close to removing her from school because she needed the young girl to collect life-giving water for the family to drink, wash and cook with. This would mean she would keep her family alive, but Proscovia's dreams of getting an education would die.

When Proscovia cranked the pump on that incredible day and water finally flowed from it, she knew she no longer had to walk hours to collect it each day. She could wash when she wanted and cook when she wanted. It meant that she was never late for school or missed a day.



This phenomenal transformation was thanks to the compassion and generosity of CAFOD supporters throughout the country.

Please continue with your prayers for the men and women who work for CAFOD, that through the grace of God they may continue to support people and bring hope to those in greatest need.

We pray for world leaders: that they may act to protect God's creation and ensure all people have access to these gifts.

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 13 February

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Brian Griffin LD

Sun 14 February

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Kathleen Sinclair (anniv.)
SH 9.30am MASS Beaty & Syd Fletcher
StJ 10.30am MASS Molly Toher R.I.P.
OL 11.00am MASS Gerald and Eileen Massey
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Mon 15 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.45am FUNERAL MASS Margaret Seddon

Tue 16 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 7.00pm MASS Maureen Henrys L.D.

Wed 17 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00am MASS Brenda Greaves L.D.
StJ 11.45am FUNERAL MASS Monica Davies
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 18 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Vincent Keavney R.I.P.
SH 12.00noon MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke L.D.
SH after Mass Stations of the Cross

Fri 19 February

Weekday of Lent

Lent Fast Day

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Special Intention
StJ 12.00noon MASS Kathleen Sinclair (anniv.)

Sat 20 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
StJ 12.00noon MASS Margaret Newby (sick)
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Molly Toher L.D.

Sun 21 February

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Ward family (S.I.)
SH 9.30am MASS William Landers (birthday memorial)
StJ 10.30am MASS Joe & Tony Shovelton (anniv.)
OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery On 5th February the numbers drawn were 7, 19, 21. NO winner of £212. This week's estimated jackpot was £244. Due to holidays, the next draw will be on 4th March.

Our Lady's 500 Club n/a

Bonus Ball n/a

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



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