

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

28 FEBRUARY 2016



## Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Repent, says the Lord,

for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

## REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Luke shares a very difficult subject, that is, the suffering of the innocent. There is a conversation between Jesus and some of the people who tell him about Pontius Pilate's latest atrocity: he had killed some Galileans who were offering sacrifices. This is an atrocity on a number of levels. Firstly, Pilate had innocent people slaughtered. According to Jesus these people were no greater sinners than other Galileans and therefore their deaths were no punishment for sins. Secondly, Pilate violated their religious practice by mixing human blood he had caused to be shed with the blood of sacrificial animals, adding desecration to murder. No documentary evidence for this example of Pilate's brutality exists apart from this passage in St. Luke's Gospel. Such an action was in keeping with Pilate's customary behaviour. We need only remember his actions during Jesus' trial, when he chose to condemn an innocent man to death in order to save his own reputation with the Roman Emperor. In today's Gospel, Jesus adds his own tragic story, about a collapsed tower at Siloam that killed 18 people. Again we have a story that is not found anywhere else. Jesus points out that the tragic deaths of these poor victims are no indication of any guilt. Jesus stresses that all people need to repent, otherwise they too will perish. By "repent" Jesus means to make a change of heart or mind. In Matthew and Mark, Jesus issues a call to repent when he announces the Good News that the Kingdom of God is close at hand. So now Jesus implies that failing to make a change of heart or mind – that is, repentance – carries an even greater danger than the threat of unexpected death.

The Gospel leaves some major questions unanswered. How can God allow innocent people to suffer and die? It would almost be easier to understand (though perhaps harder to accept) a God who constantly punishes sin, but Jesus clearly distances himself (and his Father) from any such conclusion. Of course, this is what causes people to ask, "How can God allow innocent people to suffer?" there is, however, some helpful biblical background to this issue in today's First Reading. There is a conversation between Moses and God via the burning bush. Moses is given a remarkable insight into the plans of God. God tells Moses that he has "heard the cry of my people in their distress....I mean to respond to their need." This applies to the distress of God's people who are slaves in Egypt. God promises to free them, but there is also the revelation of the name by which God chooses to be known: "I Am", meaning "the one who always is". This reminds us of the hope that God always hears the cry of his people in their distress and always tries to respond. The Good News that Jesus reveals is that HE IS God's response to our need. In Jesus, God does not take away human suffering; God shares in it. Every parent knows what it is like finding it impossible to take away a child's pain. So like every parent, God our Father shares the suffering of all his children. The death of Jesus guarantees this, and his resurrection points to the total destruction of all suffering, all pain, all sorrow.

**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

### MASSES

Teresa Adamson, Phyllis Bailey, Deceased Members of Boon & Campbell Families, Elizabeth Cleworth, Monica Davies, Francis Gallagher, Joan Horton, Raymond Jarvis, Vernon O'Beirne, John Thompson, Catherine Trundle, Alice Wilkinson, Sick person,

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

### EASTER RAFFLE

We will be having our Easter Raffle and any donations will be appreciated:- Chocolates, Eggs, Wine etc.  
Thank you for donations already received. Tickets will be on sale after Mass.

### EASTER LILYS

If you wish to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, they are £1.50 each and will be put on the Altar at Easter. Envelopes and paper at the back of church for donations.

### SACRED HEART

This year, on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> to Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 <sup>nd</sup> March	St Joseph's (Mather Room)	3.45pm
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm

#### Session 7 'Mary: the first Disciple'

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



#### Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 17

Do not forget that the mercy of God is our shield and strength against injustice, destruction and oppression

#### Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 17

Earnings and capital are not more important than the human person, but should be at the service of the common good.

### 24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

simultaneously throughout the world with the Holy Father in Rome at The Holy Cross and Saint Helen Jubilee Shrine Church will hold these 24 Hours for the Lord from 4pm Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March until Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 24Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 Hours availability for Confession



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

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.00pm.
- Confessathon at St Joseph's on March 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

### CHRISM MASS

If you would like to go to the Chrism Mass in Liverpool Cathedral this year then please write your name and contact number on the sign-up sheet at the back of Church. The Chrism Mass takes place on Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7.00pm. It is always a wonderful gathering of the whole of the Archdiocese during Holy Week. More details of leaving times and pick-up points very soon.

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS

... on Laudato Si' and the Year of Mercy

Tuesday evenings during Lent

(1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOORS.

As we celebrate the Year Of Mercy we are invited to go through the Holy Doors at the Cathedral in Liverpool as part of our Pilgrimage of Mercy. We have been invited to take part on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> – along with the Pastoral Areas of Ashton and Wigan. The visit will consist of our arriving at the Cathedral at 10am.

- After going through the Holy Doors we will be invited to pray the Stations of Mercy.
- After a short Service of Reconciliation we will be welcome to visit the Crypt.
- Then, together with one of the bishops, or the Dean of the Cathedral, Fr. Tony O'Brien, we will celebrate Mass at midday.
- After this we may well have an hour or two at the Albert Dock where we can have our packed lunch and enjoy some time shopping or sight-seeing.

Very soon lists will go up in all the churches in the Pastoral Area. Please sign up as soon as possible if you would like to go so that we can book coaches.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,762.27

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

Next week the retiring collection will be on behalf of the White Flower Appeal.

### WHITE FLOWER

Since the Abortion Act was passed 48 years ago, the lives of 8.5 million unborn children have been cut short by abortion. That amounts to 485 babies each day.

SPUC campaigns for the legal protection of unborn children, but there is much more to SPUC's work for example We train speakers to give talks in schools, supply GP's surgeries with leaflets which let women considering abortion know the pro-life alternatives, provide a post abortion counselling service to women suffering after abortion and run an out-reach programme.

We also face the threat of assisted suicide and although the Assisted Dying Bill last September was defeated the clamour for euthanasia legislation is gathering pace. SPUC has launched a new information campaign called Lives Worth Living, giving some balance to a very one sided debate.

Please be generous in supporting SPUC's Lives Worth Living campaign and it's other work and remember SPUC's work and all those affected by abortion in your prayers. Thank you.

### 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, Claire Slater, Kevin O'Rourke, Margaret Case.

Baby Grace Burgess is feeling much better now and says thank you for the prayers.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Winifred Robinson, Greta Mary Langen William McNamara  
Eternal rest grant unto them.

### 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.

### LENT FAST DAY



Thank you for your generous compassion for those living in poverty and for fasting in solidarity with them.  
The collection will be open throughout Lent.

*Merciful God,  
Source of all that is good, wash us clean of  
all that prevents us from seeing you in each  
Of our sisters and brothers around the world.*

*Transform our hearts this Lent, through prayer,  
Fasting and almsgiving, to be open to the needs  
Of all those who thirst.*

*Spirit of compassion, move us to share with*

*All people the water of life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### PARISH VOLUNTEERS - SAFEGUARDING

All Parish Volunteers who work with or have contact with children and vulnerable adults are invited to a training event to be held at Holy Family, Boothstown on Saturday 19th March from 9.30 to 1.30pm. The training event is entitled "Creating a Safe Environment - Policy and Practice" and is Module 3 of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service National Training Programme. It is open to all who volunteer in our parishes and it is not necessary to have completed Modules 1 and 2 as further 'catch-up' training sessions are planned for these later in the year. It is important if you wish to attend the event that you register your interest with the Safeguarding Department by either phoning 0151 522 1043 or e-mailing [safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk). Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, but if you need lunch you are advised to bring a packed lunch. For further details of the training please see the posters displayed on your parish notice boards.

### CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

In 1933, God gave Sister Faustina a striking vision of His Mercy, Sister tells us:

"I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds and I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus."

Of another vision on Sept. 13, 1935, she writes:

"I saw an Angel, the executor of God's wrath... about to strike the earth...I began to beg God earnestly for the world with words which I heard interiorly. As I prayed in this way, I saw the Angel's helplessness, and he could not carry out the just punishment...."

The following day an inner voice taught her to say this prayer on ordinary rosary beads:

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

2. Then on the Our Father Beads say the following:  
Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

3. On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following:  
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).

4. Conclude with (three times):  
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Jesus said later to Sister Faustina:

"Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy...."

"...When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior".

## 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 27 February

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Special Intention (H.R.)

### Sun 28 February

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Albert Purcell (Birthday memorial)  
SH 9.30am MASS Kitty Gallagher (anniv.)  
StJ 10.30am MASS Joe Roberts (anni)  
OL 11.00am MASS Catherine Trundle (Birthday Mem)  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

### Mon 29 February

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Alf Case

### Tue 1 March

#### FEAST OF SAINT DAVID, PATRON OF WALES

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Dorothea Grundy R.I.P.

### Wed 2 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OL 10.00am MASS Moss Bank Rudi Schoelzel (LD)  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Herd Family (Special Intention)  
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

### Thu 3 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Raymond Jarvis (Anni)  
SH 12.00noon MASS Repose of the soul of Shirley Wyka  
SH after Mass Stations of the Cross  
12A 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE Winifred Robinson

### Fri 4 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH NO MASS  
12A 11.30am FUNERAL MASS Greta Mary Langen  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Phyllis Bailey (Birthday memorial)

### Sat 5 March

#### Weekday of Lent

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
SH 12.00noon MASS Mary & Paul Caren  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Terry Wilcock

### Sun 6 March

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

##### Laetare Sunday

StJ 8.30am MASS Michael Mallowney  
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area  
StJ 10.30am MASS Paul & Anne Unsworth (Golden Wedding)  
OL 11.00am MASS Jose Anthony (LD)  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** The numbers drawn on 4<sup>th</sup> March will be displayed on the porch notice board.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10 No. N Flynn, £5 No. 387 P Purcell, £3 No. 447 A Sharkie, £2 No. 444 Aimee

**Bonus Ball** No. 42 M Roach

### 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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