

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

6 MARCH 2016



Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I will leave this place and go to my father and say:
"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

REFLECTION

The parable of the Prodigal Son is possibly the best known and best loved of all of Jesus' parables. Yet, for many people, it is an unfair story. It does look like the older son has got a raw deal. After all, after the younger son comes back, we can correctly assume that he will be entitled to even more inheritance on top of the inheritance he has already spent, thus ensuring the older son only has a quarter rather than a half when the father eventually dies. Many believe the young son got away with it and that he should have been punished and taught a lesson when he came home. He was determined to have his fill. He set out for a city where appetites of every kind could be satisfied. But when his money ran out the blind lights faded and all the doors were closed against him. He felt sorry for himself. His own pain made him realise the pain he had caused others, especially his father. So he said to himself, "I will go back to my father and tell him I'm sorry." It was a brave decision and it took a lot of courage to carry it out. It's not always easy to say sorry even over a trivial matter. The journey back was a sad and fearful one. It's easy, in fact it's great, to come home when you're a hero laden with trophies and glory. But the prodigal son had not trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise and his love. He was coming home laden with shame and disgrace. Everything was out of his hands. Suppose his father didn't welcome him back? What would he do then? He had learned his lesson. He didn't have a good time in the long run. Maybe he enjoyed fleeting moments of pleasure, but he certainly had no joy. He had suffered a lot – hunger, loneliness, degradation, the pain of remorse, the sense of betrayal against his family. Each sin of his had brought its sure, swift penalty along with it.

So what happened? Would his father welcome him back and give him another chance? When the father saw his son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and the next minute they were in each other's arms. The father didn't just accept him back. He welcomed him back. All was forgiven. The biggest discovery the younger son made was that he was loved in his sins. The father never stopped loving him. He didn't have to change to be loved and received back into the family again. There were no conditions to the father's love. It was perfect love. It was unconditional. Those who have experienced this kind of love know something about the heart of God. God's forgiveness is not a cold, half-hearted forgiveness but a warm and generous one. God doesn't just forgive. He loves us and lets us know it. The story doesn't give us a license to go out and sin, but it does show us that there is always a way back with God because he is the perfect Father. In a sense we are all prodigal sons and daughters but, just like the story, Jesus came to reveal God as the loving Father who celebrates when we turn back to him. Let us always remember this and we celebrate our faith and share this great message 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

MASSES

Michael Bacon, Patricia Berndwood, Sydey Butterworth, Monica Davies, John Garvey, Joseph Garvey, Peter Hall, Helen Hudson, Thomas & Kathleen Jones, Josephine Oddie, John Thompson,

FLOWER TEAM

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

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.

TWELVE APOSTLES 200 CLUB

Many of you are probably aware that for many years John Thompson ran the 200 Club. Because there is no one to take over the running of it, sadly, the 200 Club will now cease. All the money that has been paid has gone into the Parish account. If anyone would like further information, please speak to Fr. Kieran

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.

COFFEE MORNING -Cancelled

There will not be any Tea & Coffee on Sunday 6th March

WITH YOU ALWAYS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

Session 6 'Jesus brings us together'

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 (Side Hall)	3.45pm
Wed 20 th April	Twelve Apostles School Hall	4.30pm
Thu 21 st April	Sacred Heart Church Hall	4.30pm



Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 16

Jesus would never ask us to be assassins; he calls us to be disciples. He would never send us to die. He invites us to life.

Pope Francis'@Pontifex Feb 17

The mercy of Jesus embraces everyone in every part of the world: open your hearts!

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 4th March until Saturday 5th March 24Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 24 Hours availability for Confession

LENT

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

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

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

- Confessathon at St Joseph's on March 19th 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 23rd 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 (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.

TRIDUUM

This year, as last year, we will have 2 Triduums. One at St Joseph's and one in the other three churches.

There will be a meeting next Wednesday 9th March at 7.00pm at Sacred Heart Presbytery for anyone, from Twelve Apostles, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of the Rosary, who are willing to help with the organisation of the Triduum.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday

Our Lady's	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.30pm
	Watching till 10.00pm	
St Joseph's	Mass of the Lord's Supper	7.30pm
	Watching in the Green Room	
	Night Prayer of the Church	9.45pm

Good Friday

Sacred Heart	Stations of the Cross	10.15pm
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
St Joseph's	Morning Prayer of the Church	9.00am
	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
	Walk of Witness	
	Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
	Meditations at the Cross	7.00pm

Holy Saturday

XII Apostles	Easter Vigil	7.30pm
St Joseph's	Morning Prayer of the Church	9.00am
	Easter Vigil	7.00pm

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,640.09
Crib offerings sent to Nugent Care £ 240.62
Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

This weekend the retiring collection is on behalf of the White Flower Appeal.

At all masses on the weekend of the 12th/13th March 2016 the SVP will be having its quarterly collection.

The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages during the year.

We ask you to continue to be generous, as any small amount helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

If you would like support from the SVP or know anybody who might benefit from our support or a visit from one of our members, please contact the parish secretary with your/their details (01942 673517).

God bless SVP Treasurer

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Karl James Aldred & Andrea Lynne Ashcroft who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday

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, Kevin O'Rourke, Margaret Case.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Margaret Mary Littlewood, John Terence Knowles
Eternal rest grant unto them.

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 9th – 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.

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy (the first Sunday after Easter Sunday) be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on Good Friday. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

"These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by.' The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy."

In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her:

"On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this

ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls."

The different souls prayed for on each day of the novena are:

DAY 1 (Good Friday) - All mankind, especially sinners

DAY 2 (Holy Saturday) - The souls of priests and religious

DAY 3 (Easter Sunday) - All devout and faithful souls

DAY 4 (Easter Monday) - Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him

DAY 5 (Easter Tuesday) - The souls of separated brethren

DAY 6 (Easter Wednesday) - The meek and humble souls and the souls of children

DAY 7 (Easter Thursday) - The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy

DAY 8 (Easter Friday) - The souls who are detained in purgatory;

DAY 9 (Easter Saturday) - The souls who have become lukewarm.

During the Solemn Novena leading to Divine Mercy Sunday, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy should be offered each day for the day's intentions.

There are copies of the Novena at the back of church.

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

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.



GIVE UP CLOTHS FOR GOOD

TK Maxx is the UK's largest corporate funder of research into children's cancer. With your help we can find cures and kinder treatments for children with cancer. Cancer Research UK Kids & Teens' scientists are working hard to develop better and kinder treatments to avoid problems for children in later life.

To get involved just fill up a bag with unwanted cloths, shoes, DVDs, books or accessories and take it to TK Maxx. Bags are available in the porch. Thank you.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

St Joseph's School are collecting Sainsbury's Vouchers. Please would you post your vouchers in the collection box at the entrance to church. We use the vouchers in exchange for footballs/tennis balls etc. Thank you so much for your support.

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 5 March

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

Mon 7 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Michael Bacon (Anni)
SH 12.00 noon MASS Molly Togher

Tue 8 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke L.D.

Wed 9 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00am MASS Elizabeth Green and Stephen Halleb (forthcoming wedding)
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Margaret Mary Littlewood
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 10 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS John Garvey (Anni)
SH 12.00noon MASS Beaty & Syd Fletcher
SH after Mass Stations of the Cross

Fri 11 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH NO MASS
StJ 12.00noon MASS Margaret Keavney (RIP)
StJ 3.15pm FUNERAL SERVICE John Terence Knowles

Sat 12 March

Weekday of Lent

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
OL 12.00noon MASS Teresa and John Ryder (birthday mem)
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 13 March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Please pray for Pope Francis on this 3rd anniversary of his election as Pope.

StJ 8.30am MASS Julie Lock (Birthday Mem)
SH 9.30am MASS Terence Regan L.D.
StJ 10.30am MASS Thomas & Kathleen Jones (Anni)
OL 11.00am MASS Patrick Ryan (LD)
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The result of the 4th March draw are displayed on the porch notice board.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 315 M Roach, £5 No 417 N Jones, £3 No 404 J Waterfield, £2 No. 399 J Waterfield

Bonus Ball No 55 K Jones

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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