

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C)

13 MARCH 2016



## Responsorial Psalm

What marvels the Lord worked for us!  
Indeed we were glad.

## Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
Seek good and not evil so that you may live,  
and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

## REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we have a magnificent story of the mercy of Jesus as he forgives the woman caught committing adultery. It is interesting to note that the story is missing from the earliest manuscripts of John's Gospel. Some scholars argue that this is because early Christians struggled with the idea of God's forgiveness being offered so easily by Jesus and that this was at odds with the strict penitential practices of the early Church. If this is true, it reflects an old problem many people had with Jesus and many people have with God. Does God really forgive as easily as this? In the story the woman is caught committing adultery. It takes two people to commit adultery but the man seems to have had access to an emergency exit leaving the woman in the hands of the scribes and Pharisees. These religious leaders are zealous about the execution of the Law which means the execution of the woman. They are in the moral majority for they clearly have the Law on their side. Armed thus they arrive to tackle Jesus on the issue.

Jesus' reaction to all the fuss is to start writing on the ground. But his questioners persist and Jesus responds not by taking issue with the Law but by taking issue with the lawyers. When you remember the Law but forget what the Law is for, perhaps your memory is a little selective. Jesus seems to think that all victims can do with some form of allegiance so he refuses to join this moral majority. Jesus does not say that the woman is innocent or that adultery should be taken lightly, but he isn't exactly persuaded about the innocence of her accusers. He asks them to check their own memories and their own track-record on sin. If they are innocent, then they can throw stones. And whilst they are thinking about all this Jesus continues with his writing.

At the least the woman's accusers were honest people for they recognize that they are not innocent either. So the procession of unemployed executioners is led away by the eldest. Jesus doesn't want them to just walk away but to exercise their forgiveness too. Jesus and the woman are left alone. And the woman hears the Good News from Jesus: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." When we picture this Gospel scene we can all imagine ourselves in the place of the woman caught in adultery. However, the challenge of the Gospel is not whether we can see ourselves as the woman in the story, but whether or not we can see ourselves as the ones accusing her. Can we forgive as readily as Jesus forgives? Or do we dote on people's wrongdoing, reminding them of past failures? Can we forgive and simply leave their sins behind and forget about them? We can sometimes spend time wondering whether God can really forgive us. Yet God's track-record on forgiveness is very clear. He's had lots of practice and he's very good at it. How about our track-record? Are we good at forgiving?

**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

Delia Brett, John Burke, James John Cheetham, Michael Dowding, Deceased members of the Flynn Family, Francis Gallagher, John Garvey, Alf Keavney, Mary Littlewood, Anne Mateer, Pat Montegue, Theresa & John Ryder, Edith Smith, John Thompson, James Winstanley, Alison & Matthew (Wedding), Petition to St Jude, Special Intention for family members

### 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 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.

### 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 LILIES

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. There is a box at the back of Church for donations.

#### CHURCH CLEANING

We will be cleaning our Church for Easter on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 10.00am. Please come and help, if only for an hour. Many hands make light work.

### WITH YOU ALWAYS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

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

Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> April	St Joseph's (Side Hall)	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 Mar 9

God has caressed us with his mercy. Let us bring God's tender caress to others, to those who are in need.

Small gestures of love, of tenderness, of care, make people feel that the Lord is with us. This is how the door of mercy opens.

Mar 7

My life, my attitude, the way of going through life, must really be a concrete sign of the fact that God is close to us.

Mar 6 - The Jubilee of Mercy is a propitious occasion to promote in the world ways to respect life and the dignity of each person.

Mar 5 - May the Lord free us from all temptation that separates us from what is essential in our mission and help rediscover the beauty of faith.

Mar 4 - Jesus Christ, with his closeness and tenderness, leads sinners into the place of grace and pardon. This is the mercy of God. Open your heart to mercy! Divine mercy is stronger than the sins of men.

Feb 18 - Thank you to Mexico and to all Mexicans. May the Lord and the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe accompany you always.

I have felt welcomed and received with affection and hope by the Mexican people. Thank you for opening the doors to your lives.

### 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 one more special opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Pastoral Area during Lent.

- 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. **Please sign up this week if you wish to go. We need to confirm numbers with the coach company. Thank you**

### LENTEN REFLECTIONS

... on Laudato Si' and the Year of Mercy  
last Tuesday evening session on 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.

### TRIDUUM

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

### 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	11.00am
	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

### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

God be praised and thanked at work in the people of Cuba who offered this Service and in so many people of our area, resulting in this uplifting celebration. Special thanks to staff and pupils of Sacred Heart School for their inspiring contributions and their generous help. May we hold in prayer the people of Cuba and try to follow the example of Jesus' radical love.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,474.34  
Crib offerings sent to Nugent Care £ 163.13  
Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

At all masses on this weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> 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

## ST JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY

Mass will be celebrated in St Joseph's church with the school children from St Joseph's on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March to celebrate St Joseph's Feast. All welcome.

## 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

Maria Furnhead, Michael James Kenedy  
Eternal rest grant unto them.

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOOR

As we celebrate the Year Of Mercy we are invited to go through the Holy Door 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 10.00am.

- After going through the Holy Door 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.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

## GIVE UP CLOTHES 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 clothes, 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.

## DIVINE MERCY

Sister Faustina Kowalska, who was granted the title "Secretary of Mercy" by the Holy See in the Jubilee Year of 2000, reported a number of apparitions during religious ecstasy which she wrote in her diary, later published as the book *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*. The three main themes of the devotion are to ask for and obtain the mercy of God, to trust in Christ's abundant mercy, and finally to show mercy to others and act as a conduit for God's mercy towards them.

Pope John Paul II had notable affinity towards this devotion, being a native of Poland and authorised the devotions in the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic Church. The liturgical feast of the Divine Mercy is celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.

The primary focus of the Divine Mercy devotion is the merciful love of God and the desire to let that love and mercy flow through one's own heart towards those in need of it. As he dedicated the Shrine of Divine Mercy, Pope John Paul II referred to this when he said: "Apart from the mercy of God there is no other source of hope for mankind".

There are five main forms of this devotion.  
The Divine Mercy image with the specific inscription Jesus, I trust in you;  
The commemoration of the Feast of the Divine Mercy Sunday  
The recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
The designation of the Hour of Mercy at 3:00 am or pm  
The spreading of acts of mercy to the whole humanity, in preparation for the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

*Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God.*  
Words attributed to Jesus by Faustina in her diary.

Sr. Faustina wrote that on the night of Sunday, 22 February 1931, while she was in her cell in Plock, Jesus appeared to her as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays emanating from his heart. In her diary she wrote that Jesus told her:

*Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You". I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish.*

There are copies of the Novena and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at the back of church.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



## 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 12 March

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 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of his election as Pope.

StJ 8.30am

MASS Julie Lock (Birthday memorial)

SH 9.30am

MASS Terence Regan L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Thomas & Kathleen Jones (anniv.)

OL 11.00am

MASS Patrick Ryan L.D.

StR 6.30pm

MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

### Mon 14 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Hannah O'Hora (anniv.)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke

### Tue 15 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon

MASS Deceased members, Legion of Mary

### Wed 16 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

OL 10.00am

MASS John Thompson

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Catherine Trundle

StJ 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross

### Thu 17 March

#### FEAST OF SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS James Winstanley (anniv.)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Mollie Toher L.D.

SH after Mass

Stations of the Cross

### Fri 18 March

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.15am

MASS Rachel

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Carol Ann Driver

### Sat 19 March

#### SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

StJ 10.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation "Confessathon" until 2.00pm, interrupted for Mass

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Marlene O'Neill

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Tyrer

### Sun 20 March

#### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am

MASS John & Agnes Coan (anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Albert Finney (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Sylvia Withington (anniv.)

OL 11.00am

MASS Joyce Worthington L.D.

StR 6.30pm

MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** On 4<sup>th</sup> March the numbers drawn were 16, 21, 23. There were no winners of £290. Last week's estimated jackpot was £350.

**Our Lady's 500 Club** £10, 224, J Waterfield; £5, 089, Jessica; £3, 112, M Sanderson; £2, 189, Alison Sharkie.

**Bonus Ball** No 47, A Unsworth.

### 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

Tel: 01942 673517/01942 731679

Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

Tel: 0161 790 2390

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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

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