

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year C)

3 APRIL 2016



Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia, alleluia!

REFLECTION

After the death of Jesus the identity of the disciples and the direction of their lives changes dramatically. Now they are a group of men whose shared fear keeps them company, and whose only direction in life is to lock themselves in the Upper Room. They are rooted in fear. They are deeply afraid that they may have to face the same fate as their master. It is into this desperation that the Risen Jesus comes. And he comes not to disown his disciples for abandoning him but to reclaim them with his peace. He shows himself to them. The resurrection doesn't make the marks of cruelty and suffering disappear. The Risen Jesus is the wounded Christ. He is Jesus who was crucified. In his gift of peace the disciples experience great joy, and they are commissioned to share that joy with others. Again because of Christ, they have a new-found identity and a new direction to their lives. Now they receive his Spirit too.

But one of their number is missing. Being absent from the community means that Thomas missed the meeting with the Risen Lord, and when he returns he cannot bring himself to believe in the disciples' story. His doubt is that of a man who is committed to the truth. Unlike Judas, he did not betray Jesus. Unlike Peter, he did not deny him. There is a sparkling authenticity about Thomas: he refuses to say that he can understand or believe when he cannot manage to understand or believe. Thomas is brave enough to have the conviction of his doubts, and rather than hoarding his doubts to himself he shares them with the others. Later, the Risen Jesus appears again to his disciples and the purpose of the visit is clearly to pay attention to the doubt of Thomas – not to scorn it. Thomas is invited to inspect a wounded Jesus to discover the reality of the resurrection. But seeing Jesus is enough for Thomas, and he is the one who proclaims his faith, "My Lord and my God." As Thomas is fearless in voicing his doubts, he is quick to proclaim his faith, and in John's Gospel it is he who makes the most important affirmation about who Jesus is – that he is LORD and GOD.

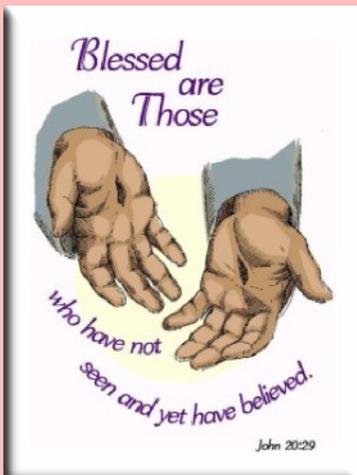
In coming to believe in the Risen Jesus the disciples experience a profound change. They become spirited followers of the Lord. They have seen the Lord, they have met him, they have eaten with him. They can testify to others through the authority of their own experience. As John says, "What we have seen and heard we are telling you so that you too may have fellowship with us as we have fellowship with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3) The apostles have a unique place in the Church. They experienced Jesus at first hand and were authorized to be his witnesses. As we hear in today's First Reading they led many people to believe in the Lord through the power of their witness. But what about all those who never met Jesus or never heard him or did not touch him? We are numbered amongst them. Can we believe without seeing the Lord for ourselves? This is why the story of Thomas is so important because it tells us that it is possible to believe in Christ without seeing him. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" is the teaching of the Gospel. This Beatitude is for all of us who live in the absence of the physical Jesus but who believe in him as our Lord and Saviour today.

So let us allow today's Gospel to bless us and, like Thomas, let us not panic when we sometimes may doubt, but pray that the Lord will reveal himself to us each and every day of our lives.

**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

Bernard & Joyce Worden (Diamond Wedding) Successful Operation, Thanksgiving Our Lady & St Jude.

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee Morning is held in the Side Hall after 10.30am Mass every week. Everyone is welcome, come along and have a chat.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

BONUS BALL

There are two numbers free on our Bonus Ball. Anyone interested, please see Margaret at the back of church.

COFFEE MORNING

Tea and coffee will be served after Mass next Sunday. Everyone welcome.

EASTER RAFFLE

There is a list of prize winners at the back of church.

SACRED HEART

WEEKLY LOTTERY - HELP!

Sales of tickets in recent weeks have been very disappointing. The consequence is that prizes are less attractive, the weekly jackpot increases more slowly and, statistically, prizes are paid out less frequently. The lottery has survived successfully for many years since Fr Graeme Dunne started it but it has always relied on a triple source of ticket sales i.e. in church, in school and in the local community. The school has promised a drive to increase sales to parents. This is an appeal to churchgoers to buy more tickets and, importantly, an appeal for volunteers to take tickets to their place of work, or their regular pub or club or other social venue, to sell and collect tickets and bring them back to church every Friday. It is a valuable source of income not only to the Church but the school as well and a better chance at winning more attractive prizes. Please contact Deacon Tony if you can help.

WITH YOU ALWAYS SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

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 Mar 30

If we open ourselves up to welcome God's mercy for ourselves, in turn we become capable of forgiveness.

Mar 29

Jesus shows us the real face of God, for whom power does not mean destruction but love, and for whom justice is not vengeance but mercy.

Mar 28

Every Christian is a "Christopher", that is, a bearer of Christ!

Mar 27

Jesus Christ is risen! Love has triumphed over hatred, life has conquered death, light has dispelled the darkness!

Mar 26

To live Easter means to enter into the mystery of Jesus who died and rose for us.

Mar 25

The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world.

Mar 25

Impress, Lord, in our hearts the sentiments of faith, hope, love and sorrow for our sins.

Mar 24

Jesus loved us. Jesus loves us. Without limit, always, to the end.

Mar 24

Anointed with the oil of gladness to pass on the joy of the Gospel.

Mar 23

With how much love Jesus looks at us! With how much love He heals our sinful heart! Our sins never scare Him.

Mar 22

I entrust to God's mercy all those who lost their lives. #Brussels

THE LEGION OF MARY ACIES CEREMONY

St Joseph's church, Wednesday 6th April, beginning with the Rosary at 7.00pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm. The Acies ceremony is the Legion's annual Mass where the Legionaries consecrate themselves to Our Lady. All welcome.

HELP NEEDED

Sr Megan is asking for a single bed for a young boy. If you are able to help please contact her on 01942 683554.

ST PIO PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Saint Pio prayer group will take place on Tuesday 5th April at 7.00pm at St Ambrose Barlow, continuing on Tuesdays throughout the summer.

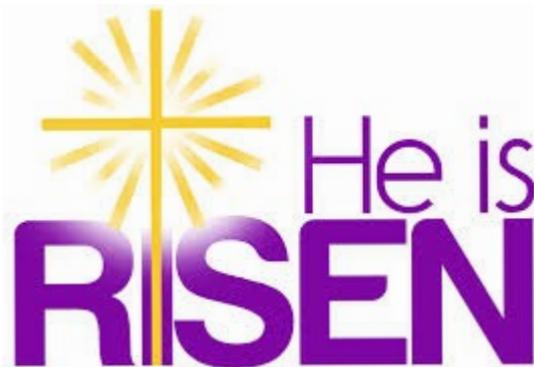
JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The next meeting takes place at Holy Family on Thursday, 7th April at 7.30pm. Please come to learn about some of the many Justice and Peace issues.

EASTER PRAYER

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:
New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work

World Day of Prayer for Vocations	Sunday 17 April
St Joseph the Worker	Sunday 1 May
World Communications Day	Sunday 8 May
The Church especially at Pentecost	Sunday 15 May



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,742.00
Holy Places £ 491.29

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Bernard & Joyce Worden on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding!

Congratulations and best wishes also to Mr & Mrs Pope on the occasion of their Golden Wedding!

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kevin Quinn, Patricia Brandwood, Isaac Haggerty (20 months old)

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 9th – along with the Pastoral Areas of Ashton and Wigan. We will be arriving at the Cathedral at 10.00am. The first pick up will be at St Joseph's at 8.30am and then St Richard's at 8.40am. We will be returning at around 3.00pm.

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

Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 3rd April

A Holy Hour of Grace will be held at Holy Family this afternoon. There will be Exposition and recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3.00pm, followed by adoration. During this time the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. The hour will conclude with Benediction.



Easter Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool

Dear friends,

During the Easter season we bask in the light of Christ. Jesus said he was the Light of the World, so my prayer this Easter is that this light will shine into the dark corners of our world where there is war and deprivation; where people are made homeless by strife and persecuted for their religion; where there is ignorance and intolerance.

May Christ's light enter the hearts of world leaders so that by their decisions and action the world may be a safe place

where children can grow up in the security of loving homes, and look forward to a happy and fulfilled future.

Let the light of Christ into your own lives and those of your families. And may it bring you an inner peace and joy as you experience the mercy of God everyday in the ordinary things you do.

May the risen Lord bless you and your families during this Easter Season.

+Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool

QUIET DAYS AT THE CENACLE 2016

Why not treat yourself to have space to be?

Why not come and enjoy some time to be quiet and pray?

April 30th, May 28th, June 18th; Oct 29th; Nov 26th

Days begin at 10.00am with coffee and end at 4.00pm. Offering for the day is £10.00, bring your own lunch. No need to book, for further information contact Sr Winifred, Cenacle, Tithebarn Grove, Liverpool, L15 6TW. 0151 722 2271 emailwinniwcenacle@mail.com

St Joseph's Players Present

The Late Edwina Black

A Thriller set in Victorian England
By William Dinner & William Moran
Directed by Pauline Nevil

Tuesday 12th April to Saturday 16th April
Curtain 7.30pm

Tickets Adults £8, 16 years & under £4

Available from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop, Bradshawgate or pay on the door.

The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present

Waltzes from Vienna

Music by Johann Strauss (father & son)

Tuesday 10th – Saturday 14th May 2016 7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £11 & £13 Concessions available

Contact 01942 883722

Set in glittering Vienna, Strauss refuses to recognise his son's musical talent. He becomes jealous of his son's success and ambition to succeed him as the Waltz King of Vienna.

The intriguing Countess Olga Baranskaya recognises his musical talent and schemes to help Johann fulfil his dream of becoming a great composer.

Humour, glamour, romance and a feast of Viennese music that set the whole world dancing, climaxed by the immortal "Blue Danube". For all fans of Andre Rieu this show is a 'must see'.

"Direct from Carnegie Hall, New York"

Classical Spain - an evening of live classical music featuring soloists Salva Contreras Gila on clarinet and Javier Navascues on Cello at St Stephen's Church, Manchester Road, Astley. Bar opens at 7.00pm and concert commences at 7.30pm. Admission costs £10 (includes supper!)

Ticket details to follow, or pay on the door.

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 April

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Birthday Memories (GW)

Sun 3 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

StJ 8.30am MASS Alison & Matthew (Wedding)
SH 9.30am MASS William McNamara LD
StJ 10.30am MASS James John Cheetham (Anniversary)
OL 11.00am MASS Austin Wood
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Mon 4 April

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Teresa Anderson RIP

Tue 5 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Danny Smith (Anniversary)

Wed 6 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 1.00pm FUNERAL MASS Pat Brandwood

Thu 7 April

Memorial of Saint John Baptiste de la Salle

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Steven Naylor (Anniversary)
SH 12.00noon MASS Elizabeth O'Rourke

Fri 8 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
(OL) 10.00am MASS AT MOSS BANK COURT Betty Gill (Anniversary)
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL MASS Kevin Quinn

Sat 9 April

Weekday of Easter

NO Exposition & Reconciliation today (Pilgrimage to the Holy Door)
NO mid-day MASS today

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson LD

Sun 10 April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS James Parker (Anniversary)
SH 9.30am MASS Patrick A. O'Sullivan Jnr. (Anniversary)
StJ 10.30am MASS Margaret Featherston (Anniversary)
OL 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery On 26th March the numbers drawn were 2, 11, 16. There were no winners of £386. Last week's estimated jackpot was £410.

Our Lady's 500 Club £50 No. 492 B Ryan, £10 No. 162 F Hilton, £5 No. 210 M Roach, £3 No. 215 M Collins, £2 No. 014 S Wilkinson

Bonus Ball No 28 T 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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Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

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Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

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