

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Year C)

8 MAY 2016



Responsorial Psalm

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

When Jesus ascended into Heaven, the apostles were suddenly left alone. The *Acts of the Apostles* tells us how they found it difficult to believe or understand what they had witnessed. For some time after he was no longer visible, they stood staring up into the clouds, probably feeling confused, abandoned, and perhaps very scared. What would the future hold for them? They had accompanied Jesus throughout his public ministry. They lost him when he was arrested and lost him again when he died on the Cross and was buried. In the days between Jesus' death and resurrection, they were probably overwhelmed with guilt at the realisation of their cowardice, when they abandoned him at the time of his greatest need. So when Jesus appeared to them on Easter morning, it was possibly an uncomfortable encounter. His forgiveness probably made them feel even more guilty. At the same time, having those few days without him and then forty days once again in his presence led the apostles to realise just how much they loved Jesus. Now he had gone again – and this time his absence would be for good. He had instructed them to go out into the whole world to proclaim the Good News of God's love, but this time he had left them to do it on their own. Jesus had promised them the Holy Spirit, but they did not yet understand his words. Jesus' ascension looks to have left them abandoned and lonely.

There is a big difference between being alone and being lonely. Solitude can be very welcome. We all need space to think our own thoughts and to refresh our energy. Loneliness, on the other hand, can be frightening. However much we appreciate solitude, nobody wants to be lonely. Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would come after his own departure. There would be a period of waiting and soul-searching before Pentecost arrives. The *Acts of the Apostles* tells us that the apostles returned to the upper room and stayed there, possibly making each other feel worse as they shared their fears, guilt and questions about all that had happened. They were lonely because they felt lost and abandoned. Their experience was not the peaceful solitude of a retreat or a few hours in a quiet beauty spot. Instead, theirs was the anxiety of the lost child, longing to be found and comforted, worried whether or not they would ever again feel the protection and loving presence of Jesus in their company.

Jesus knew what he was doing. In leaving the apostles to their own devices, he recognized the depths of loneliness that they would experience. He also knew that the Holy Spirit would find them in their emptiness and would bless them with the courage they needed to face the future. He also knew that the apostles would never grow in faith whilst he was still with them. They would rely on him too much. Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles would carry out the mission that Jesus had given them. However difficult it was for the apostles when Jesus ascended into Heaven, it was a vital step on their journey of faith and ours too.

**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

Tony Broster, Jack Cleworth, Thomas Farrington, John Lucas, Alice Milward, Joseph Roarty, St Jude.

MAY PROCESSION

The May Procession will be taking place today, Sunday 8th May at 11.45am. The children from Year 4 will be leading the procession. Please come along to honour Our Lady. You can bring a small bunch of flowers to place at her altar if you wish.

GIFT AID

The Gift Aid repayment claim for 2015-16 is now being prepared for submission. Thank you to all those taxpayers taking part in the Gift Aid scheme which provides much needed extra income for the parish - without any added cost to the givers. The only requirement is to be paying at least enough tax to cover the amount reclaimed on your donations.

If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax or have changed address, a phone call or letter to the parish office will be passed to the Gift Aid team for attention. Thank you again.

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SVP

At all Masses on the weekend of 14th/15th May 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 that you 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

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th May at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

LAND AT PLANK LANE

If anyone has any information about the spare land at Plank Lane that belongs to Our Lady of the Rosary and is willing to make a statement about it, please contact John Ledger at St Joseph's church on 01942 673517. Thank you.

SACRED HEART

THE ROSARY

During the month of May, the Rosary will be prayed before midday Mass on Thursdays at Sacred Heart church.

SACRED HEART SHOP

Cards and small gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are now available.

MUSICIANS & SINGERS

All musicians and singers are welcome to attend a music workshop, led by Sister Moira Meegan, on Saturday 21st May at Sacred Heart church from 10.00am – 1.00pm. It will be an opportunity to learn some new Glorias, Mass Settings and other church music. If you would like to come, please contact Fr. Kieran on 01942 731679.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

From the weekend of 14th/15th May through to 4th/5th June we will welcome our Year 4 children who will be confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time. This will take place at the 5.30pm Mass at Twelve Apostles church and the 9.30am Mass at Sacred Heart church. On a practical note, the

first few benches at the front of each of these churches will be reserved for our children and their families. Also, Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary will be at the slightly later time of 11.15am.



Pope Francis @Pontifex May 3

Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God's mercy, out of love for us, died on the cross, and out of love he rose again from the dead.

May 2

There is the grave problem of labour, because of the high rate of young adults unemployed, but also for the issue of the dignity of work.

May 1

I address a cordial greeting to the faithful of the Eastern Churches who are celebrating Holy Pascha today. Χριστός ἀνέστη!

Apr 30

Work is proper to the human person and expresses the dignity of being created in the image of God.

Apr 29

Jesus conquered evil at the root: he is the Door of Salvation, open wide so that each person may find mercy.

Apr 28

Before the spiritual and moral abysses of mankind, only God's infinite mercy can bring us salvation.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS

When Parishioners are admitted to Hospital, the Catholic Chaplains attached to the hospital are responsible for providing pastoral visits and sacramental care. However, NHS procedures mean the patient or their family must ask nursing staff that they want the Catholic Chaplain to be informed and wish to have their names put on the Chaplain's list for Holy Communion visits. If the patient or family want to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick (anointing) or for any urgent needs, the nursing staff should be told to contact the 'Catholic Chaplain on call'. If you are in hospital and you want a visit by a Hospital Chaplain, you must ask the nursing staff. **Please tell your family and friends about this.**

ST PIO PRAYER GROUP

Meetings of the Saint Pio prayer group will continue throughout the summer on Tuesdays, 7.00pm at St Ambrose Barlow.

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 Communications Day Sunday 8 May

The Church especially at Pentecost Sunday 15 May

Twelve Apostles Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Guides

Senior Section are now meeting at Sacred Heart Church Hall. We are looking for new members to join the following groups:

Rainbows - 5 to 7 years

Brownies 7 to 10 years

Guides 10 to 14 years

Senior Section 14 to 25 years (Rangers and Young Leaders)

Any new members would be very welcome. If you would like more information about any of the above groups please ring Cheryl on 07719 357069.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,849.01

People of the Ukraine £ 242.23

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support. Today is the 50th World Communications Day and the second collection will be taken on behalf of Catholic Communications.

Next week's retiring collections will be for our S.V.P. Society.

SICK

Please remember in your prayers all who are sick at this time, especially Margaret Beckett, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Philip Harte, Thomas & Brenda Lowe, Shannon Mackay, Claire Slater, Kevin O'Rourke.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Thomas Baker

Eternal rest grant unto him.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE AT LADYWELL

Bishop Tom Williams invites you to join him on Saturday 28th May for our annual diocesan Pilgrimage to Ladywell, Fernyhalgh Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 5RR. The Pilgrimage will begin with the celebration of Mass at 12.00noon in St Mary's church; followed by a Rosary Procession to the Shrine and later in the day there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Pilgrims will need to bring their own packed lunch and, weather permitting, will be able to have a picnic in the grounds of the shrine.

If you would like more information, please contact Fr James Preston: frjamespreston@gmail.com

EDUCARE E-LEARNING PACKAGE

The Liverpool Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office recommend to ALL parishioners (especially those who volunteer within the Parish), parents and schools that they should sign-up to this important training package. The purpose of the training is to raise awareness and understanding across all aspects of child and vulnerable adult activities. There are 7 modules - Child Protection, Child Protection in Education, Child Protection Refresher, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Adults Refresher, Mental Capacity and Child Exploitation & Online Safety. The training is all online and can be undertaken on your own personal computer.

To download a brochure and see the courses available go to www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk.

To access the training follow these steps:

1. Email safeguarding@rcaol.co.uk to register your interest.
2. Your email should contain your name, email address, the name of the parish and your role in the parish (if you don't have a specific role just state Other (parishioner)).
3. The Safeguarding Administrator will register your details with EduCare who will send you a Welcome letter telling you how to access the modules and asking you to set your password.
4. Once you are set up you can enter the system and complete the modules at your own pace. You can save and close at any time and resume whenever it is next convenient.

DEMENTIA FRIENDS

The Archdiocese has joined the Dementia Action Alliance and is committed to making the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends sessions available in every Parish Community. We need people who will volunteer to train to become Dementia Friends Champions. If you already help in any way, or

would like to apply for training or simply find out more, then please contact Maureen Knight at the Pastoral Formation Department on 0151-522-1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

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 and becomes jealous of his son's success.

The 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".

ASTLEY YOUTH BAND - SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 13th May 7.00 for 7.30

The Band (80 musicians) will be performing in St Stephen's church. Tickets - Adult £5.00, Children £2.50 (ticket includes supper). Pay on the door.



ABBAY FUNERALS

Are hosting a

ROYAL TEA PARTY

(To Celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday)

on

THURSDAY 9th JUNE 2016

1pm – 3pm

at

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh.

Free admission by Ticket only.

Tickets are available from

Abbey Funerals

94 Chapel Street

Leigh

Or contact Gemma Evans on 01942 261936.



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 7 May

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson

Sun 8 May

StJ 8.30am **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

SH 9.30am MASS Patricia Brandwood (RIP)

StJ 10.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan

OL 11.00am MASS Fr John Southworth (40th Anniversary of Ordination)

StR 6.30pm MASS Special Intention (F)

MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Mon 9 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am NO MASS

Tue 10 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Ted Charnock L.D.

Wed 11 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OL NO MASS

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Thomas Baker

Thu 12 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ NO MASS

SH 12.00noon MASS Kevin Quinn L.D.

Fri 13 May

THE DEDICATION OF LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH NO MASS

StJ 12.00noon MASS John Lucas

Sat 14 May

FEAST OF SAINT MATHIAS, APOSTLE

OL 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OL 12.00noon EUCHARISTIC SERVICE

StJ 1.30pm NUPTIAL MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Greta Langan L.D.

Sun 15 May

PENTECOST SUNDAY

StJ 8.30am MASS William O'Hora (RIP)

SH 9.30am MASS Mr P.T. Simon 20th anniversary of death

StJ 10.30am MASS People of the Pastoral area

OL 11.00am MASS Tom & Betty Kennedy (Birthday Memorial)

StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery On 29th April the numbers drawn were 8, 14, 15. There were no winners of £636. Last week's estimated jackpot was £700.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No.

Bonus Ball No.

There are 2 numbers available on our Bonus Ball, if you are interested in joining, please see Margaret at the back of church.

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
Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey
Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

Email: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

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