

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C) 24 July 2016



Responsorial Psalm

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In today's First Reading we hear Abraham bargaining with God over the number of people needed to save two cities from destruction. There is a comical picture of Abraham as a shrewd and persistent bargain hunter at an auction – where the price decreases – fifty, forty, thirty, twenty, ten! Abraham appears to be a street-wise character who presses God for the best possible deal. God is portrayed as the patient dealer, who is not as testy and difficult to deal with as people might imagine. As Abraham wonders whether God will get angry at his final markdown of the original price, God agrees not to destroy the cities for the sake of ten good people.

An equally generous picture of God emerges from the Second Reading, Paul's letter to the Colossians: "God has forgiven us all our sins and cancelled every record of debt we had to pay." Paul argues that God has done this in a very dramatic way – he has nailed all our debts and sins to the Cross of Jesus. "How can God hold onto our record of debts when he sees Jesus' record of love?" in the Cross of Jesus, all our sins, small and great, are forgiven.

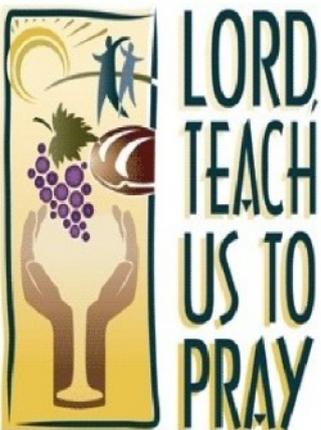
However this image of a generous and forgiving God is not necessarily one that all people readily believe in. This is why, when Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray, he insists that they relate to God as Father, Abba, and approach him in the confidence of children who know they are loved. Jesus also uses the story of the neighbour asking his friend for bread as a reminder of the need for persistent prayer. We can call on God at any time and, because we are his children, he will answer our prayers. Eventually!

Behind Jesus' advice on prayer is his image of a God who really wants to help and save his people. Because Jesus believes in God as a loving Father he believes we should relate to him and talk to him as a loving Father too. Yet many people may ask, "I've prayed for so many things over so many years and still my prayers have not been answered!" Jesus' answer is that it is still worthwhile to keep on asking, to keep on seeking, to keep on knocking, because God is more than silence – he is also the Word and he will reply. In the end Jesus will stake his own life on this belief. His passion and death are the most powerful appeal to his Father for the sake of all of us. God sent us a great Messiah in Jesus, and he did hear the cry of the Messiah's appeal to forgive all our sins. This is something we pray for every time we say the "Our Father" and it is perhaps one of the greatest gifts God has given to all of us.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighdeanery.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

James Clegg, Fred Cooper, Marie Daven, Marie Fitzsimons, Marian Higgins, Terry Malley, Cathy Rigby, Ann Ross, Mary Taylor, Special Intention

RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the Presbytery tomorrow, Monday 25th July. Thank you.

NEW HYMN BOOKS FOR ST JOSEPH'S

Those parishioners who attend St Joseph's will be aware that we are desperately in need of new hymn books. An idea which has been suggested is that people would like to donate a hymn book to the Church, perhaps in memory of a loved one, this would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to do this, please put £6 (the cost of each hymn book) in an envelope and pass it into the Parish House, along with the name of the person the hymn book is to be dedicated to. That person's name will then be inserted into the hymn book's front cover alongside a request for prayers. If you require any further information please speak to Fr Colin or Jacqui. As always, many thanks for your support and generosity.

THANK YOU

Damian and Gabrielle would like to thank everyone for their cards, masses and kind words with regard to their mum Marie Fitzsimons. We found them to be very comforting at this sad time.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

FORTHCOMING EVENT

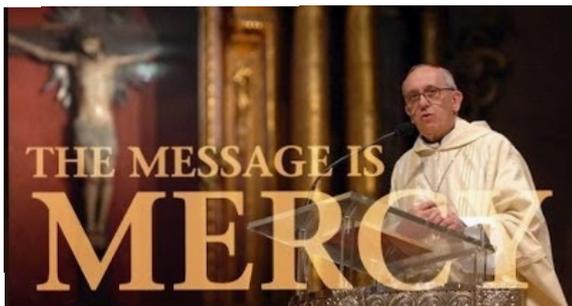
We are having a cake sale after Mass on Sunday 7th August. Any donations of cakes will be very much appreciated. Thank you

PLANK LANE HORSES UPDATE

A meeting has taken place between the Archdiocese, Council Representatives and Solicitors. The outcome is that the council solicitors will act on behalf of the Archdiocese and a trespassing notice will be served. If there is any opposition, court proceedings could take anything up to twelve months. At this time the Archdiocese would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey and gave statements to help with this matter.

ST PIO PRAYER GROUP

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



Pope Francis @Pontifex Jul 17

Let us remember the elderly and the sick who in the summer months are often more alone and can be in difficulty.

Pope Francis @Pontifex Jul 15

I pray for the victims of the attack in Nice and their families. I ask God to convert the hearts of the violent blinded by hate.

Prayer for the Care of Creation September World Day of Prayer

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. We prepare to celebrate the second annual World Day of Prayer in September 2016.

The annual Day of Prayer is inspired by his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared earth.

Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand; they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, You became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world as the channels of your love for all creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom Of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.

'A Christian prayer for union with creation' was published in Pope Francis' encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*. This prayer is for Christians to pray for inspiration to take up the commitment to creation set before us by the Gospel of Jesus.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,922.41

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

SICK

Eileen Boardman

Please submit to the parish office the names of those you know to be sick and who would welcome our prayers. Entries will be expired after four weeks so, if someone remains unwell, their name should then be re-submitted.

RECENTLY DECEASED

James Anthony Clegg
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish by baptism to:-
Freddie Michael Marsden

LOURDES AT HOME DAY

Friday 29th July 2016

Sacred Heart church, Leigh

7.30am Mass (followed by breakfast)
9.15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (until 11.15am)
12.00noon Mass of Anointing of the Sick (followed by lunch)

Please add your name to the SIGN-UP list at the back of church for catering purposes.

We would be grateful if Eucharistic Ministers, SVP Visitors and others who visit those who are sick and housebound, could extend an invitation to those they visit and sign the sheet at the back of church on their behalf.



RETREATS 2016

at St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Freshfield, Formby. L37 1PH. Contact: 01704 875850 or 07712 178670
E-mail: nora.coughlan@gmail.com

Individually Guided Retreat: Sr Margaret O'Shea SMG September 11-17.

Preached/Directed: August 23-27: "Soul care" Fr Tony Slingo, September 27-30: Fr John Hemer MHM

TWELVE APOSTLES SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

XII Apostles RCPS are looking for a Foundation Governor to start in September. This is a voluntary role and you don't need any qualifications or expertise just a commitment to making a difference to our young children's future. If anyone is interested or would like to find out more about the role please contact Father Kieran or Mrs Newton the Headteacher on 01942 674312 for an informal chat.

ST JOSEPH'S AREA SENIOR CITIZENS OVER 50's CLUB

is looking for new members to join this exciting group!

We meet on Wednesdays at 1.00pm - 3.30pm
in St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh



For
Bingo Games,
Refreshments



Contact Mrs Lucas on 07598 954 913
Everyone is welcome!



GOD IN HIS MERCY CARES FOR YOU

Sunday 25th September 2016 at 3.00pm
Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool
A Celebration Mass for and with disabled people
ALL WELCOME

Principal Celebrant Archbishop Malcom McMahon

The Cathedral is accessible for wheelchair users and the Mass booklets will be in both large and small print. BSL/sign language interpreter will also be available.

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass downstairs in the Gibberd Room



PASTORAL AREA WEBSITE

Our website has moved. Please change your bookmarks from leighpastoralarea.co.uk to leighdeanery.co.uk

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

There has been a problem with the parish e-mail address. Please do not use it until further notice. If you wish to contact the parish office or put a notice in the newsletter, please ring or drop a note in at St Joseph's presbytery. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

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 23 July

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joan Glover L.D.

Sun 24 July

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

StJ 8.30am MASS Jack Cleworth RIP

SH 9.30am MASS Marie Daven L.D.

StJ 10.30am MASS John Topping (anniv.)

OL 11.00am MASS Special intention (J.N.)

StR SUMMER SCHEDULE means **NO** Sunday evening Mass until 4th September.

Mon 25 July

FEAST OF SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Jack Cleworth (R.I.P.)

Tue 26 July

Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Mary Malley (anniv.)

Wed 27 July

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 17)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am MASS John Thompson L.D.

StJ 12.00noon MASS Boon & Campbell families

Thu 28 July

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Monica Davies (Birthday Memorial)

SH 12.00noon MASS Pat Ryan (R.I.P.)

Fri 29 July

Memorial of Saint Martha

SH 7.30am MASS Successful Operation

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 9.15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (2 hours)

SH 12.00noon MASS of Anointing of the Sick Ellen Mullahy

Sat 30 July

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS Maria Barnes (Special intention)

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Ann Mary Wilson

Sun 31 July

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year C)

StJ 8.30am MASS St Jude (Thanksgiving)

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Tom & Betty Kennedy (Wedding Anniversary Mem.)

OL 11.00am MASS Paddy O'Brien L.D.

StR SUMMER SCHEDULE means **NO** Sunday evening Mass until 4th September.

Sacred Heart Lottery On 15th July the numbers drawn were 8, 11, 17. There was no winner of £326. Last week's estimated jackpot was £350.

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 218 Mr Collins, £5 No. 182 A Sharkie, £3 No. 452 Mrs E West, £2 No. 289 Mrs N Flynn

Bonus Ball No. 41 Mrs M Flannery

We still have two numbers available on our Bonus Ball. See Margaret at Our Lady's church if you would like to join in.

ST. EDMUND ARROWSMITH PARISH OFFICE

The office for the administration of our parish is based in St. Joseph's presbytery, Mather Lane. Email [REDACTED] 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, Dennis Vint

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

Email: [REDACTED]

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

