

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 28 August 2016



Responsorial Psalm

In your goodness, O God, you prepared a home for the poor.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Jesus is invited to the house of a leading Pharisee for a meal. When he arrives, he feels that he is being spied upon by some of the people there. So he decides to do a little bit of spying on them in return. The sight that met his eyes was not good. The Pharisees were very religious people, and set themselves up as models for the rest of the community. Yet here they are in the Gospel scrambling for places of honour, showing just how proud, vain, and selfish they really were. They were there not to honour their host, but to honour themselves. Whenever we enter a holy place, whether it be a church, a cathedral or a monastery, we are immediately humbled. We can feel very small and insignificant. We can come to realise how flimsy and false are the things we depend upon. But in a strange way we can also feel exalted. Because when we humble ourselves, and let go of the thing that give us a false sense of importance and superiority, and which often separate us from others, we find that we are exalted. We begin to understand our true greatness, which lies, not in ourselves, but in the fact that we are children of God.

Every Sunday we are invited to a banquet – the banquet of the Eucharist. Here Jesus is the host, and we are his guests. Here there are no special places – you can sit wherever you want, apart from on the priest's chair of course! Apart from the priest – who has the specific role as the President of the Assembly – status and rank have no meaning. Differences don't count. This is because before God all of us are equal. Here every place is a place of honour. Entering the house of God makes everyone equal. When we cross this threshold, privilege blows away like smoke, and we are all humbled yet elevated too.

Once upon a time the mayor of a town invited all the people of the town to a banquet. Among those who turned up was a man of great distinction by the name of Daniel. Daniel was a great scholar and a wise man. Yet he was very humble and didn't like being honoured. When he arrived the mayor naturally invited him to sit at the top table. Daniel thanked him but said he would prefer to sit among the poor at the table nearest to the door. When other distinguished guests arrived, the mayor invited them to sit wherever they liked. Naturally they chose to sit at the top table. The banquet hall was filled up, and eventually the only place left was one at the bottom table. Then at the last minute a very distinguished guest arrived. The mayor had no option but to take him to the vacant seat. "But this is the bottom table," the man protested.

"No, this is the top table," the mayor replied. "Wherever Daniel sits is the top table," the mayor continued.

The moral of the story is that it's not the place that honours the guest, but the guest that honours the place. We don't know at what place Jesus sat during the meal at the Pharisee's house, but wherever it was, that became the place of honour. The banquet is a symbol of the Kingdom of God. We shouldn't be concerned about seeking a place of honour there. We should feel privileged to be invited at all. In any case, in God's Kingdom every place is a place of honour.

**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

Eileen Hogan, Angela Leonard, Vincent Lythgoe, Alice Wilcock, Good Exam Results, Exam Success, St Jude.

HYMN BOOKS

Thank you for the very generous donation of £1,000 towards the cost of hymn books in memory of John Lucas.

If you would like to have a hymn book dedicated to a loved one, please have your requests in by Monday 5th September. Thank you.

LEGACY

We have received a legacy from the late Margaret Grogan for £15,000. Thank you to Margaret for remembering St Joseph's in her will. May she rest in peace.

DIVINE MERCY

There are some Divine Mercy prayer cards available in both porches. Please feel free to take one.

COFFEE MORNING

Next week, 4th September, Coffee & Tea will be served in the Mather Room. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

CLOSURE OF CHAPEL ST

Once again on Sunday 4th and possibly Sunday 11th September, Chapel St will be closed for resurfacing. The only way to gain access to the church in a car is down Bonnywell Rd, Siddow Common and over Mather Lane Bridge. The car park to the Mather Room will be open but there will be no access to the church car park. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY COFFEE MORNING

Tea & coffee will be served after Mass next week, Sunday 4th September, everyone welcome. Anyone wishing to help, please see Brenda. Thank you.



FATIMA 2017

In 2017 the Church will celebrate the centenary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to the Three Visionaries of Fatima. To commemorate this event we are planning a Pilgrimage to the shrine. The proposed dates are Monday 19th to Friday 23rd June with flight departing from Liverpool. Accommodation will be in a good 3 star hotel at the edge of the Sanctuary with full Board and the anticipated cost will be in the region of £400/430, subject to airfare. There have already been enough expressions of interest for a viable pilgrimage and bulk reservation of seats will soon be made available by the airlines. If you are interested but haven't yet registered your interest, please do so by contacting Des on 07973 114365 as soon as possible.

CREATION TIME

Pope Francis has asked the whole world to pray and reflect on Creation during *Creation Time* which begins on September 1st and ends on October 4th, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Inspired by the Pope's letter "*Laudato Si': On Care of our Common Home*", the Justice & Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have produced a booklet designed to bring people together in parishes during this period. We will be having *Creation Time* sessions in our Deanery at St Richard's, Atherton on Wednesdays September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and October 5th at approximately 10.00am, after Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Each of the five sessions includes prayers, the Sunday Gospel, illustrative local and international stories, excerpts from "*Laudato Si'*" and questions to guide our discussions. Please come along and join us. Each session should last approximately an hour.



Pope Francis @Pontifex Aug 23

New forms of slavery such as human and organ trafficking, forced labour, and prostitution are true crimes against humanity.

Aug 21 - Mercy does not just mean being a "good person" nor is it mere sentimentality. It is the measure of our authenticity as disciples of Jesus.

Aug 19 - Where there is love, there is also understanding and forgiveness.

Aug 18 - Never abandon prayer, even when it seems pointless to pray.

Aug 17 - Through the cross we can touch God's mercy and be touched by that mercy!

Speak Up week of action

CAFOD, as part of The Climate Coalition, is leading a week of action on climate and energy from 8 to 16 October 2016. In solidarity with our partners, this is your moment to speak up for the love of the earth, our common home, and our global family.

Whether you're willing to **organise an event** or simply want to **find out about events near you**, your first step is signing up by visiting www.cafod.org.uk.

Last year, world leaders agreed to shift from fossil fuels, the biggest cause of climate change, towards renewable energy. We need to speak up to ensure our government upholds its promises to the poorest people.

Organise or join an event near you this October. Speak up to your MP and bring your local parish, school or community together to care for our common home

CAFOD
just one world

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,536.78
S.V.P. collection £ 388.50

Thank you for your continuing generosity

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Thomas Raffry

RECENTLY DECEASED

John Keith Wood
Eternal rest give unto him ...

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Liam John Francis Munnely & Elizabeth Mary Prescott, who were married at St Joseph's last Saturday.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to Thomas Arthur Penn and Jackson William Jones.

PRO-LIFE TIMES

The Pro-Life Times is available at the back of church. Please take a copy

PARISH FEAST DAY

St Edmund Arrowsmith

Edmund was born at Haydock in 1585. In 1605, at the age of 20, Edmund left England and went to the English College in Douai, France, to study for the priesthood. He was ordained priest on 9th December 1612, and sent on the English mission a year later. He ministered to the Catholics of Lancashire until around 1622, when he was arrested and questioned by the bishop of Chester. Edmund was released when King James I ordered all arrested priests to be freed. In 1624, Edmund joined the Jesuits but in 1628 he was re-arrested and convicted of being a Roman Catholic priest in England. He was sentenced to death, and hanged, drawn and quartered on 28th August 1628. He was recognised as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

Margaret Clitherow

Margaret was born in 1556. At age 15 she married John Clitherow and their family home was at The Shambles, York. Margaret became converted to Catholicism in 1574. She then risked her life by harbouring and maintaining Catholic priests. She kept priests hidden and allowed them to celebrate Mass in her home through the thick of the Catholic persecution. Her home became one of the most important hiding places for fugitive priests in the north of England. In 1586, Margaret was arrested for the crime of harbouring Roman Catholic priests. Although pregnant with her fourth child, she was executed on 25th March 1586 by being crushed to death. Following her execution, Elizabeth I wrote to the citizens of York expressing her horror at the way Margaret had been treated. Along with St Edmund Arrowsmith, St Margaret Clitherow was canonised by Pope Paul VI in October 1970.

As we celebrate the Feast days of our patron saints this week, we ask for their prayers of intercession.

***Saint Edmund Arrowsmith, pray for us.
Saint Margaret Clitherow, pray for us.***

Tuesday 30th August - St Edmund Arrowsmith
Thursday 1st September - St Margaret Clitherow

Please try your very best to come along to the annual Feast Day Mass, to celebrate the lives of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith and Saint Margaret Clitherow. This year the Mass will take place in Holy Family church, Boothstown, on

Wednesday, September 7th at 7.00pm



St Joseph's Players Present

CHESHIRE CATS

a comedy by Gail Young,
directed by Pauline Nevell,

Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th September.
Curtain up 7.30pm
Tickets adults £8, 16 and under £4.

Tickets available from Ratcliffe's Bike Shop,
Bradshawgate, Leigh, or pay on the door on the night



There will be a collection every night, if you wish to donate, for Cancer Charities

STRATFORD TRIP

Fr Paul has been phoning those who have expressed an interest in going on the trip to Stratford. **If you haven't heard from him recently could you please phone him as soon as possible to confirm your place on the coach and your ticket for the theatre if you have asked for one?** A reminder that the trip takes place on Thursday September 15th. Departure points and details will be shared with you very soon.

TAIZE EVENINGS

If enough people are interested, Fr Paul (the Elder!) would be more than willing to start doing Taizé Evenings in the Deanery. We would need to get a team of people together to do this, to help plan them and prepare them. If you're interested why not come along to the Feastday Mass on September 7th. It would be good to enjoy Taizé Evenings together and enjoy the stillness that they can bring. Please see Fr Paul at the Feastday Mass if you're interested in helping.

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 27 August

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson LD

Sun 28 August

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Jacob Shepherd (4 years old sick)

SH 9.30am

MASS deceased members O'Sullivan family

StJ 10.30am

MASS Julie Gallagher (100th Birthday)

OL 11.00am

MASS Paddy O'Brien LD

StR

SUMMER SCHEDULE **NO** Sunday evening Mass.

Mon 29 August

Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Jack Parr RIP

Tue 30 August

Memorial of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Priest, Martyr

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 7.00pm

MASS Edwin Spencer LD

Wed 31 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Y II, W 22)

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am

MASS Vinny Johnson LD

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Alice Wilcock anniv.

Thu 1 September

Memorial of Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, and Margaret Ward, Martyrs

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Alice Milward anniv.

SH

NO MASS

Fri 2 September

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 10.00am

MASS Marie Daven LD

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Eddie Unsworth anniv.

Sat 3 September

FEAST OF ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope & Doctor

SH 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS Vida Raines LD

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Pat Atherton

Sun 4 September

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Christine Hession RIP

SH 9.30am

MASS Michael Paraska Teodor anniv.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Walter Wyndik anniv.

OL 11.00am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm

MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area resumes today

Our Lady's 500 Club £10 No. 116 C Ellis, £5 No. 246 n Flynn, £3 No. 470, £2 No. 487 Jessica Flannery
Bonus Ball No. 17 B Woods

PARISH E-MAIL ADDRESS

It is now safe to use the parish email again. Thank you.

PASTORAL AREA WEBSITE

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

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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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

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