

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 4 September 2016



Responsorial Psalm

O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

The famous Russian writer Dostoyevsky was only in his early twenties when he wrote his first book, "Poor Folk". It proved a big success. He became famous overnight. Such adulation at such a young age would have gone straight to his head except that the book brought him into serious conflict with the local authorities. He was wrongly accused of being an anarchist. He was arrested and, together with others, was actually sentenced to death. However, the sentence was commuted to imprisonment, and he and his comrades were packed off to Siberia where he spent the next four years of his life. It was ten years before he started writing again. Instead of embittering him and destroying him, the experience enriched him. It was tough, having ten years of suffering to draw on, but the experience gave him much needed inner strength and authority. Whenever anyone approached and challenged him about his writing, "What right have you to speak for the people?", he would lift up his trouser legs and point to the scars left by the chains, and his questioners would be silenced. He later wrote, "Prison saved me. Because of prison I became a completely new person ... it was there that I came to see myself more clearly, and there that I learned to understand Christ. It strengthened my faith and awakened my love for those who suffer. It also strengthened my love for Russia and for all the Russian people."

In today's Second Reading, St Paul also displays his credentials as a disciple of Christ. He too was imprisoned and forced to wear chains. This experience gave him authority when he spoke about following Jesus. When young people came to Mother Teresa and expressed a desire to join her congregation, she left them in no doubt as to what they were getting themselves into. She said, "Our work is hard. We are serving the poor and the homeless twenty-four hours a day."

In the same way Jesus did not hide the difficulties, the hardships and the sacrifices that would be required of those who wanted to follow him. He told them in no uncertain terms that it wouldn't be easy. Many of the early disciples did leave Jesus' company. The Gospel suggests it was because they could not accept Jesus' teaching anymore. It was also because they came to realize how difficult it was to be a disciple. Today we can draw encouragement from the example of the disciples. The Gospels show us that they struggled at every point to follow Jesus. Yet he did not write them off. And it's clear that they learned from their failures. It was only after Jesus' death and resurrection that they became his true followers. By looking at them we discover our own inadequacies.

So the Gospel offers hope to Christians who fail in any way. Repentance and a second chance are always possible. There is always a way back with God. Do we offer others a way back too?

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighdeanery.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
YOUR CROSS**

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Ann Davidson, Christine Hession, Ellen Squires, Thanksgiving St Jude.

THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary will be speaking at both Masses on Sunday 11th September.

Please remember all Legionaries in your prayers.



HYMN BOOKS

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.

DIVINE MERCY

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

COFFEE MORNING

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

ST JOSEPH'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the Support Group will be on Wednesday 14th September at 7.00pm in the Green Room.

SCHOOL WELCOME MASSES

The 10.30am Mass on Sunday 25th September is a special welcome Mass for the Reception children from St Joseph's School.

Wednesday 5th October there will be a Welcome Mass for the Children in Year 7 at St Mary's.

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 today, Sunday 4th September, everyone welcome. Anyone wishing to help, please see Brenda. Thank you.

SACRED HEART, LEIGH, LOTTERY

This week is *back to school* week and the lottery is getting ready to resume. Tickets are being prepared so that children can take them home from school to their parents and tickets will be available in church by next weekend. The next draw will take place on Friday, 16th September with a roll-over jackpot of £350+ and eleven numbers already crossed off the ticket. Pick three numbers from 1-19 for only 50p to be in with a chance. Good luck!

CREATION TIME

A reminder that this week we begin a series of meetings / discussion groups focusing on Pope Francis' letter "*Laudato Si': On Care of our Common Home*". The Justice & Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have produced a booklet entitled "Creation Time" 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. So, the first session takes place **this Wednesday September 7th at 10.00am in the Parish House at St Richard's, Atherton**. Why not come along to Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.00am? Exposition will finish early at 9.45am so that we can meet in the Parish House for an hour. Please come along and join us. All welcome.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Sep 1 - God gave us the earth "to till and to keep" in a balanced and respectful way.

Aug 31 - Serving with love and tenderness those who are in need helps us to grow in humanity.

Aug 29 - May God's mercy towards us move us to be merciful towards our neighbours.

Aug 28 - An easy prayer to say every day: "Lord, I am a sinner: come with your mercy".

Aug 27 - May a powerful gust of holiness sweep through all the Americas during the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy!

Aug 26 - Consoling those who suffer we are able to help build a better world.

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,814.04

Thank you for your continuing generosity

Next weekend there will be retiring collections at all our churches to support the *Catholic Education Service*.

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke

RECENTLY DECEASED

Margaret Joyce Hodkinson
Eternal rest give unto her ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to Ruby Keegan, Alfie Ray Wright, Frankie Mae Parkinson, Charlie Mari Parkinson (received).

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Jody Holt & Katie Marsh, who were married at Sacred Heart church last Friday.

PRO-LIFE TIMES

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

PARISH FEAST DAY

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, **this week**, the Mass will take place in Holy Family church, Boothstown, on **Wednesday, September 7th at 7.00pm**



WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to school to all our children, teachers and staff in our three junior schools and also St Mary's. We hope you are refreshed after the summer break and enjoy the year ahead. A special welcome to the reception children: may your time at school be full of learning, fun and making new friends. Please keep all our children in your prayers at this time.

We're Going Back To School



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

The Parish Trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon takes place soon on Thursday, September 15th. Departure points and details are as follows:-

- 9.00am from St. Joseph's, Leigh (after 8.30am Mass).
- 9.30am from St. Richard's, Atherton (after 9.00am Mass).

Why not join us for Mass first then get on the coach for the trip to Stratford? If you are going to the theatre, can we suggest that you bring a packed lunch? Last year most people managed to get lunch before the play but, as the play starts slightly earlier, and just in case we hit traffic, it might be best to bring lunch with you. If we get there in good time we can always have lunch on the lawn in front of the theatre – weather permitting of course, although we are going much earlier this year. We hope to leave Stratford at approximately 6.30pm so hopefully should arrive home about 9.00pm, depending on the traffic.

TAIZE EVENINGS

Hopefully we will begin a series of Taizé Evenings in the Deanery during the Autumn. It would be good to get a team of people together to this, to help plan them and prepare them. If you're interested why not contact Fr Paul (the Big One!) as soon as possible. Watch this space for more details.

"DANCE NIGHT"

St Richards Hall on 15th October

After a number of very successful Dance Nights at St Richard's Hall, the Catenian Association of Leigh are delighted to sponsor and promote another "Dancing to Swing with the Phil Steadman Band" on Saturday, October 15th 7.30pm-11.30pm Ticket price of £12.50 will include live dance band and a hotpot supper. Tickets are available now as there has been strong demand in the past. Please contact Des (876050) or Eamonn (892967) or Ratcliffe's Bike Shop, Bradshawgate, Leigh.

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary, StR = St Richard, HF = Holy Family

Sat 3 September

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.

OLR 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm **MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING** in our Pastoral Area resumes today

Mon 5 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Y II, W 23)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Thomas Lowe RIP

Tue 6 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS John Thompson RIP

Wed 7 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OLR 10.00am NO MASS

StJ 12.00noon MASS Teresa Ashton Birthday

HF 7.00pm MASS OF OUR PASTORAL AREA PATRONAL SAINTS at HOLY FAMILY, BOOTHSTOWN

Thu 8 September FEAST OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Albert Sankey RIP

SH 12.00noon MASS Monica Davies RIP

Fri 9 September *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 10.00am MASS deceased members of Flynn family

StJ 12.00noon MASS Teresa Higgins Birthday memorial

Sat 10 September *Memorial of Saint Ambrose Barlow, Priest and Martyr*

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon MASS Special intention (BB)

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joan Ingham

Sun 11 September TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

Education day

StJ 8.30am MASS Mary Littlewood RIP

SH 9.30am MASS Marion Daven LD

StJ 10.30am MASS Brian Ashton Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Kath Sales anniv.

StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 102 C Ackers, £5 No. 416 J Waterfield, £3 No. 335 N Jones, £2 No. 319 K Jones **Bonus Ball** No. 8 A Simpson

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
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: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

