

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 11 September 2016



Responsorial Psalm

I will leave this place and go to my father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!**

REFLECTION

Sometimes, in the Gospels, Jesus asks the people to supply the ending of the parable he is sharing with them. In the Gospel of Matthew he tells the story of the vineyard owner who sends agents out to ask for the fruit of his vineyard. The people who rent the vineyard abuse the agent and finally kill the owner's son. So Jesus asks his audience what the owner will do. The people reply, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to others who will deliver the produce to him." In today's Gospel, we have three parables that Jesus completes. But if he hadn't completed them the first two would have been easy to finish. What would the shepherd do? He would continue looking for his lost sheep. What would the old woman do? She would continue looking for her lost coin. But the ending of the third parable, the famous story of the Prodigal Son, would have been less obvious to the people listening to Jesus. When we lose property, we want it back. When we lose people, then our emotions are much more complex. Anger and self-righteousness can get in the way. To lose a son is much worse than losing a sheep or a coin, but we can often lose people in our lives by falling out with them and by not seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. The father in the parable seems to humiliate himself and accept his son back at all costs. His pride did not matter anymore. What mattered most was his love for his son.

The only treasure God really cares about is people. Jesus gave his life on the Cross as a sign of this, that God places his love for his people above everything else. But as treasure, we have to cooperate with God if we are to be found. In other words we have to accept his love and mercy, just as the Prodigal Son did in today's Gospel. He realized his unworthiness but understood the greatness of his father's love. This is what gave him the belief that he could go home and ask forgiveness. There are many other elements to the story, especially the position of the elder son who had obviously been a very good and loyal son to the father but wondered where his father's great love for the other son left him. His position reminds us that we should rejoice and be glad for everything God has given us every single day, and not complain when someone else is blessed a little bit more. It makes us ask an important question, how merciful and forgiving are we?

In the Dominican Order of monks and nuns, when an applicant seeks to be accepted as a novice, the would-be novice is asked what he or she seeks. The answer is: "God's mercy and yours". There is a very important truth here. We cannot have a relationship with God that excludes all other human beings, especially when it comes to showing mercy and forgiveness. Human beings need to be forgiven by each other as well as by God. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Humility and acceptance makes mercy possible, but the humility of God has placed mercy into our hands. We can obscure this mercy and make life hard for others, or we can give each other hope and make our world a better place. As a great philosopher once said, "Mercy is not like a medicine, which we may take for a while and then, being healed, are able to dispense with. It is more like the air that we breathe. We breathe it in and we breathe it out. Mercy is the atmosphere of Heaven. It is the air in which all the songs of Heaven are sung."

**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

Phylis Bailey, Vernon Byrne, Patrick & Deirdre Costello, Ann Davidson, Mr Donnelly & Family, William Fairclough, Vincent Ganley, Annie Garvey, Christine Hession, Kevin O'Rourke, Neil O'Rourke, Albert Sankey, Veronica Worrall, Thanksgiving St Jude,

THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary will be speaking at both Masses today, Sunday 11th September.
Please remember all Legionaries in your prayers.

HYMN BOOKS

Many thanks to all those who have sponsored our new hymn books. Your great generosity has meant that all 250 hymn books have been paid for and dedicated. The new hymn books have arrived and over the next weeks they will be inscribed with your dedications by a parishioner who is a calligrapher. Thank you for volunteering! Once the dedications have been inscribed in all the books, we will start using them at St Joseph's church. Please note that all the books have now been dedicated. Thanks once again.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th September at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

Please come along to our Coffee Morning, tea, coffee, biscuits available, make new friends and chat with old ones. You will be helping towards the upkeep of the Hall as well.

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.

SACRED HEART, LEIGH, LOTTERY

Tickets are now available at the back of church for the next draw which will take place on Friday, 16th September with a roll-over jackpot of £350+ and many numbers already crossed off the ticket. Pick three numbers from the remaining ones for only 50p to be in with a chance. Good luck!

THANKS FOR SIGNING

Thanks to those who signed the petition against allowing abortion, even up to birth. The four A4 sheets have been passed to Andy Burnham, our MP.

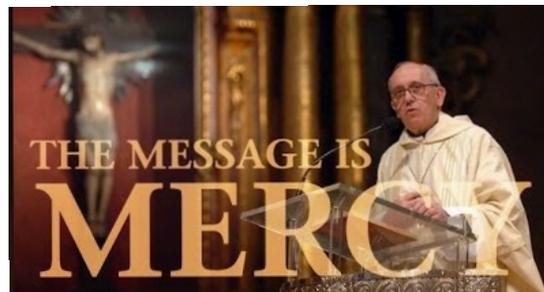
COFFEE TIME

Please, if you can spare it, spend some time after Mass over a cup of tea or coffee in Sacred Heart church and get to know one another better. This is a regular event on the second Sunday of every month.

CREATION TIME

Last Wednesday we began 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. The Creation Time sessions in our

Deanery are 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 second session takes place **this Wednesday September 14th 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 6 - What a great gift the Lord has given us in teaching us to forgive and in this way to touch the Father's mercy!

Sep 5 - The one who builds on God builds on rock, because he is always faithful, even if we sometimes lack faith.

Sep 4 - Let us carry Mother Teresa's smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey.



Sep 3 - Let us imitate Mother Teresa who made works of mercy the guide of her life and the path towards holiness.

Sep 2 - Charity means to draw close to the periphery of existence of the men and women we encounter every day.

RCIA

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a Catholic or would like to know more about the Catholic faith?

If so please contact the Parish Office, if there are enough interested we hope to run an RCIA Group.

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 £ 1,478.60

Thank you for your continuing generosity

This weekend there will be retiring collections at all our churches to support the *Catholic Education Service*.
Next weekend - Home Missions collection.

HOME MISSION SUNDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 2016

Theme: PROCLAIM the joy of love

On this day we are encouraged to pray for the work of evangelisation in England and Wales, remembering in our prayers especially those whom we know are distant from the life of faith. Please support the second collection which funds the bishops' national work of evangelisation. The collection also ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic Faith. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. For more information see: www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms16

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke

RECENTLY DECEASED

Kevin O'Rourke, Ronald Clayton, William Charles Bernard Whelan
Eternal rest give unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to
Kady-Leigh Whitworth,

PARISH FEAST DAY

Thanks to all who came to Holy Family church on Wednesday evening to celebrate the lives of the patron saints of our two parishes. With a full complement of priests and deacons and people from all churches it was a good opportunity to renew friendships and to recommit ourselves in prayerful service to one another.

COME & SEE DAY

Organized by the Irenaeus Project, this year's "Come & See" Day will take place on Sunday October 29th in Faith Primary School, Prince Edwin Street, Liverpool, from 10.00am-5.00pm. The speakers this year are David Lord Alton and Steve Atherton from the Archdiocesan Justice & Peace Commission. The cost is £10 per person. Please bring your own lunch but drinks will be provided. To book e-mail jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or phone 0151-949-1199 for a booking form.

WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT

A Retreat Day specially for women has been arranged at the Tabor Retreat Centre on Saturday 24th September. The day is designed to help us make sense of what is happening in our lives and give us hope for the future. To book a place call Tabor on 01772-717122. Why not bring a friend? Two places are £20. More information on www.carmelite.net

REBUILDING ENGLAND'S NAZARETH

On the 24th September we shall be celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Walsingham, and on that weekend the Bishops have asked all parishes to have a second collection to help in the development of England's National Shrine to Our Lady. We are looking to upgrade existing buildings and build new facilities, to help us serve the increasing numbers of pilgrims, who continue to walk in the Walsingham Way, since the shrine was established in 1061. Our aims are to update our facilities, and to make provision for sick and disabled pilgrims and to have facilities for young people to come on pilgrimage.

Full details are given on our website www.walsingham.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity.

Mgr. John Armitage Rector

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 this 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).

We hope to leave Stratford at approximately 6.30pm so hopefully should arrive home about 9.00pm, depending on the traffic.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

St Richard's Parish Centre

Tuesday 13th September, 10.00am - 12.00noon

Please come support this very worthy cause.

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 10 September

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

Mon 12 September Weekday in Ordinary Time (Y II, W 24)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Veronica Worrall (Anni)
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE William Charles Bernard Whelan

Tue 13 September Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Doctor

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Pat Montague

Wed 14 September FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 10.00am MASS Bernadette Merleyn
StJ 12.00noon MASS Michael & Amelia Griffin (Anni)

Thu 15 September Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 8.30am MASS James Vincent & Lucy Jones (Anni)
SH NO MASS

Fri 16 September Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop Martyrs

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.15am MASS of Welcome for Twelve Apostles school
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Ronald Clayton
StJ 12.00noon MASS Alan Ratcliffe (RIP)

Sat 17 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
StJ 12.00noon MASS Ellen Squires (Birthday memorial)
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Karol Gredecki

Sun 18 September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

Home Mission day

StJ 8.30am MASS James Hurst (Anni)
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StJ 10.30am MASS Jack Parr (RIP)
OLR 11.00am MASS Jean Ramsdale anniv.
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 393 T Ellis, £5 No. 300 C Ellis, £3 No. 441 B Woods, £2 No. 045 B Woods
Bonus Ball No. 37 C Ellis

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



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