

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) 18 September 2016



## Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

The vast majority of criminal cases in the USA are now settled by plea-bargaining rather than jury trial. A plea-bargain is an agreement between the prosecutor and defendant whereby the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a particular charge in return for some concession. It may mean that the defendant will plead guilty to a less serious charge, or to one of several charges, in order to get a more lenient sentence. Some countries ban plea-bargaining as they feel it puts unfair pressure on both guilty and innocent parties. What is clear from research is that innocent parties are less likely to take advantage of plea-bargaining than guilty people and therefore suffer more if found guilty, especially as those who contest charges are generally given harsher sentences than those who accept at least some guilt to start with. Recent research shows an increased likelihood for innocent people to plead guilty if it means avoiding jail or getting a swifter trial. There is also a sense that true justice goes missing in the transactions that take place. The guilty escape proper punishment and the innocent are encouraged to give up all their integrity, all for the sake of speed and economy.

One of the stranger elements of the parables of Jesus is that they can seem, at times, to be encouraging behaviour that might not be in line with the Gospel message of love and mercy. Kings are harsh, their stewards are deceitful. The content is not necessarily moral as such. They are stories that highlight certain choices and predicaments, with a sting in the tail. The end of today's parable, for example, shows the rich man praising his steward for his astuteness. He has managed to get himself out of a sticky situation by getting his master's debtors on his side. He may have done this by cutting back on his own commission or he may have reduced what was owed to his master. What matters is his cleverness in avoiding the full consequences of his actions. Is he the first known example of plea-bargaining? Jesus does get exasperated at times with his followers. He wants them to be more imaginative, and more adventurous in following him. Why can't they be as inventive and able in what they believe as those who pursue a more worldly existence?

What is Jesus asking us to do? He is not asking us to be deceitful as the steward, because he goes on to say that you have to choose to be the servant of God OR of money. Nor would he be happy to see us forsaking our innocence for the sake of an easier life. His own life provides us with a clear framework of the courage and honesty he asks of us, whatever the trials put in our way. The main quality that Jesus highlights, something the unjust steward is certainly not an example of, is trustworthiness. He also asks for freedom from greed and from a devotion to riches and money, again the opposite of the unjust steward. After a brief exchange with the Pharisees, who laugh at him for his attitude to money, Jesus will go on to tell the parable of the rich man who ignores the poor man, Lazarus, at his gates (next Sunday's Gospel). It is those who are poor, not those who are rich, who are the specially chosen friends of God. Ultimately, Jesus uses the example of the steward to turn the world upside-down and calls us to defend with the same energy and passion his new option for those who are poor. Let us not be taken in by the world of the steward in today's Gospel. Rather, let us use all our gifts and skills to promote the values of the Gospel and the recognition of those who are vulnerable and weak in the eyes of the world.

**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**  
[www.leighdeanery.co.uk](http://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

Winifred & John Buckley, Agnes Coleman, Fred Gregory, Marlene O'Neill, William Whelan, Veronica Worrall, Special Intention.

#### 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.

#### 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.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September the Coffee Morning will be held in the Mather Room.

#### SCHOOL WELCOME MASSES

The 10.30am Mass next week, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September is a special welcome Mass for the Reception children from St Joseph's School. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October there will be a Welcome Mass for the Children in Year 7 at St Mary's.

#### 'WITH YOU ALWAYS'

We will begin the Sacramental Programme 'With You Always' this week for baptised children in Year 4. Session 1 'Come to the Water' will take place at the following times:

- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 4.30pm in Twelve Apostles church
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 4.30pm in Sacred Heart church

If your child is in Year 4 and does not attend Twelve Apostles or Sacred Heart schools, has been baptised (proof needed) and wishes to make their first confession and Holy Communion, or if your child has not been baptised please contact Fr Kieran on 01942 731679.

#### CREATION TIME

A series of meetings / discussion groups focusing on Pope Francis' letter "*Laudato Si': On Care of our Common Home*" continues on Wednesday. The Creation Time sessions in our Deanery are at St Richard's, Atherton on Wednesdays September 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10.00am, after Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 9.00am-9.45am. Each of the five sessions, in the Parish House for an hour, 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. All welcome.



#### Pope Francis @Pontifex

Sep 14 - The Church's forgiveness must be every bit as broad as that offered by Jesus on the Cross and by Mary at his feet.

Sep 13 - Let us ask for a faith that allows us to have trust in God no matter what the circumstances of life.

Sep 12 - Greetings to all the athletes participating in the Paralympics: Sport is an opportunity for growth and friendship.

Sep 11 - The Word of God can revive a hardened heart.

Sep 10 - Mercy can truly contribute to the building up of a more humane world.

Sep 9 - The Lord presents himself each day and knocks at the door of our heart.

Sep 8 - To offer today's world the witness of mercy is a task from which none of us can feel exempted.

Sep 7 - God is always moved to compassion whenever we repent.

#### 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](http://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

#### HARVEST FAST DAY FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

This year CAFOD are asking us to do something a little bit different. They are asking us to stand along side the people of Altiplano and go on a journey with them from poverty to abundant harvest. There is a lot of work to do but the people of Altiplano are willing to work hard, but they do need support from us. This year CAFOD would like us, if possible, to make a regular donation of £5 each month. The money will provide the vital seeds, skills and training needed to try and overcome the extreme conditions that the people of Altiplano live in. If you are not able to give £5 a month, anything you are able to give on Harvest Fast Day is greatly appreciated and will support CAFOD's work.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	£ 1,765.53
Catholic Education Service	£ 424.14

Thank you for your continuing generosity

This weekend there will be retiring collections at all our churches to support the Home Missions.

### HOME MISSION SUNDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/hms16)

### SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Kevin Martin O'Rourke, Albert Stridgeon.

Eternal rest give unto them ...

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to Layla Mia Shepherd, Chloe Grace Dickinson

### THE LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary is a lay catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. The first meeting of the Legion of Mary took place in Myra House, Francis Street, Dublin, Ireland, on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1921. This meeting was to have very beneficial consequences for the mission of the Catholic Church and, in a special way, for millions of members of Christ's lay faithful who would serve in the Legion and for those who would be served by the legionary apostolate. Many persons outside the Catholic Church would also benefit from that apostolate. With the approval and support of the Popes and a great many Bishops, Priests and Religious, as well as the prayers and efforts of legionaries, the Legion, by the grace of God, has grown into a worldwide organisation with several million members. Drawing its inspiration from the True Devotion to Mary, as taught by St. Louis Marie de Montfort, and which had a profound influence on the Founder of the Legion, the Servant of God, Frank Duff, the Legion is at the disposal of the Bishops and Priests for use in the mission of the Church.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the work of the Legion you are very welcome to attend their meetings. There are meetings at Sacred Heart church on Thursdays at 10.00am and St Joseph's on Mondays at 9.45am or ring Lynn on 01942 607868.

### COME AND SEE DAY

Organized by the Irenaeus Project, this year's "Come & See" Day will take place on (*correction*) **Saturday**, October 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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, Preston on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.carmelite.net)

### REBUILDING ENGLAND'S NAZARETH

On the 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

Thank you for your generosity.

Mgr. John Armitage Rector

### TAIZE EVENINGS

Please try your very best to come along and join us for an hour of Taizé Prayer. The first Taizé Prayer evening will take place in Saint Richard's church on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm. Why not come along and enjoy the silence and the music and the prayer of Taizé?

### "DANCE NIGHT"

**St Richards Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### LEIGH MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION 2016

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

10.00am - 5.00pm Admission £5 under  
(15s Free when accompanied by an adult)

11 Working Layouts

10 Trade Stands including local Societies & Crafts  
Refreshments available



## 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 17 September

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

### Mon 19 September Weekday in Ordinary Time (Y II, W 25)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Patrick & Deirdre Costello (Anni)  
SH 12.00noon MASS Glynis Hindley

### Tue 20 September Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest & Martyr and Companions Martyrs

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Kevin O'Rourke

### Wed 21 September FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 10.00am MASS Vinny Johnson LD  
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Albert Stridgeon

### Thu 22 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Vincent Ganley  
SH 9.15am MASS of Welcome for school  
SH 12.00noon MASS John Brown

### Fri 23 September Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Special Intention (Successful operation)

### Sat 24 September Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
12A 12.00noon MASS Patrick Ingham  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 25 September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)

*Day of Special Prayer in Thanksgiving for Harvest and/or fruits of Human Work*

StJ 8.30am MASS William Fairclough  
SH 9.30am MASS Ellen Tollit  
StJ 10.30am MASS Alan Ratcliffe  
OLR 11.00am MASS Thanks for a successful operation (PH)  
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** numbers drawn on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> will be on the porch notice-board now, and here next week.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 447, Alice Sharkie; £5, 361, T Ellis; £3, 240, Anita; £2, 329, K Jones.

**Bonus Ball** No. 2, C Houghton

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kjmogrady@hotmail.com)

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady  
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