

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

27 November 2016



Responsorial Psalm

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to God’s house.”

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In the Gospel Jesus draws upon the story of Noah and the flood to warn his disciples that they must be on their guard for the coming of the Son of Man. This may seem like a harsh judgement: were all the people of Jesus’ time as wicked as the people of Noah’s generation? In the days of Noah everyone is busy going about their daily business. But in the midst of all this normal business there is an old eccentric who is busy with his family building a boat - in spite of the fact that there is nowhere in sight to sail it. In the end Noah is the one who is ready to face the elements because he is alert to something others are doing nothing about - the coming catastrophe. In the tale of Noah we are not being advised to run out and build a boat, or buy a parachute, or construct an air-raid shelter. We are being asked to listen to the Lord so that, as Isaiah says, “He may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths.” Whilst the modern day equivalent of the Flood might be nuclear war, or some other kind of disaster, the story of the Flood reminds us to be ready, to be prepared for whatever change may come our way. The Season of Advent reminds us of this every time we hear the readings. This is why we have to pay attention to the Word of the Lord. As Paul writes in today’s Second Reading, “You know the time has come: you must wake up now.” He tells the Christians in Rome to avoid drunkenness and wrangling and jealousies. None of this makes them alert to the kind of time they were living in; it just numbs their spiritual sensitivity to the world beyond their own flesh. When people are engaged full-time in satisfying their own desires, they are not very well disposed to facing reality and taking responsibility for the world in which they live.

So it is that Jesus talks about the future coming of the Son of God to encourage people to take responsibility for the present time. The only way to be ready for an unpredictable event is to make the present time a time of fidelity to God and oneness with those around us. Then, if we can live by faith, there can be nothing to fear. In the Gospel Jesus gives this advice before his Passion on the Cross. It is as though he himself is aware that he doesn’t have all the time in the world. He must be ready for the time of pain ahead and he uses the present time to prepare himself. The only way to secure the future is to care about the present. We are all responsible for the world in which we live. If we do nothing ourselves, how can we accuse others? Peace never comes about because people are not bothered. It takes modern day prophets - people who speak up for what they believe in - to make a difference in the world today. So, as we begin this wonderful season of Advent, let us pray that we may be ready for the coming of the Lord. And, by being prepared for his arrival in our lives, may he make us strong and ready for any challenges and changes that we may have to face. If we can be people of prayer then our relationship with him will remain strong and steadfast and, as Saint Paul writes, if we place our hope in him, then ultimately all will be well.

**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

Phillip John Aldred, Anne Anderson, Norah Devlin, Maurice Gallagher, Susan & Stephen Jones & Family, Eileen & Jimmy Keavney, Robert Agnes Kedward, John Lucas, James & Ann Marsh, Rev Dcn Alan Mee, Kevin O'Loughlin, Peter Purcell, Freddie George Taylor.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our church will be decorated for Christmas in memory of loved ones. Forms are available in the church porch. Please complete and return along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Memorial to the priest's house. Closing date for names is Friday 16th December.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The rota is now ready for collection from the sacristy.

LITTLE CHURCH

Advent is here and once again we will be collecting coppers for charities we have supported in the past, CAFOD or the Street Children. Please send your coins into Little Church, so that we can help children not as fortunate as our own.

SACRED HEART

PIETY SHOP

There is a little shop, open on Sundays, just near the confessional on the right hand aisle in Sacred Heart church. **Christmas cards** are now in stock as well as many other religious cards and items. "Thank you" to Margaret who has made a donation of some beautiful, hand-made cards to our shop.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are now on sale at Our Lady's church.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Christmas Raffle will be drawn next Sunday after Mass. There will be a list at the back of church with the winning numbers.

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.

TAKE A BREAK - ADVENT HOLY HOUR

Do you need an antidote to the Christmas songs in the shops, the TV adverts for toys etc? If so, come along to the Green Room at St Joseph's on the four Sundays of Advent at 3pm - 4pm for time to pray and reflect on the real meaning of Advent and the Christmas season.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This year's Christmas Fayre is a joint effort from all four churches. It is being held today. Sunday 27th November, at St Joseph's Hall, 12.30pm. Cakes and pastries can still be brought to St Joseph's Hall today, Sunday 27th November.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are on sale before and after Mass in all our churches.

WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOKLETS

Booklets are available free of charge in all our churches.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Today is the last opportunity for you to support churches in the Holy Land by sending a Christmas card. Cards are available today at Sacred Heart and Our Lady's churches.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

These people have done no wrong; they stand for justice against evil and merit our support. Information about each one is available at Sacred Heart church rear and cards are available for you today, only (because of posting for Christmas) at Sacred Heart and Our Lady's churches. Your envelope will be posted for you to a prisoner of conscience.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Nov 23 - May the Holy Spirit help us to be patient when enduring, and to be humble and simple when advising.

Nov 22 - How much I desire that the years to come will be full of mercy, so that every person can experience the goodness and tenderness of God!

Nov 21 - Let us remember with gratitude the cloistered and monastic religious who pray for the Church and the world.

Nov 20 - We entrust the life of the Church, all humanity, and the entire cosmos to the Lord, asking him to pour out his mercy upon us.

Nov 20 - May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!

Nov 20 - Today we close the Holy Door thanking God for having granted us this extraordinary time of grace.

Nov 20 - May the Jubilee of Mercy, which concludes today, continue to bear fruit in the hearts and works of believers.

Nov 19 - God's mercy toward us is linked to our mercy toward our neighbour.

Nov 18 - If you want a heart full of love, be merciful!

THE ART OF DYING WELL

The Art of Dying Well is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. The site is for those who are dying, their friends and family, for carers and makes a contribution to the national debate. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. It launches this month - the traditional month of remembering and praying for the dead.

www.artofdyingwell.org

Prayer cards are available at the back of church.

DIRECTORIES

Archdiocesan Directories are now on sale in all our churches, price £3.30.



Once again this year we have **CAFOD** World Gift Catalogues available in all our churches. Please take one and see how you can make a difference to someone's life by buying a World Gift for a loved one.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£ 1,612.64
Animate Youth	£ 369.06

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maurice Gallagher, Peter Purcell

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to:
Freddie George Taylor, Sienna Louise Austin.

ADVENT SERVICES

For those of you wishing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent, please check the newsletter for times of confessions. There will be an Advent Reconciliation Service in Holy Family church this Wednesday, November 30th at 7.00pm – this will be a service of prayer and reflection followed by individual Confession. There will also be a “Confessathon” in Saint Joseph’s church on Saturday December 17th between 10.00am - 2.30pm.

Abbey Funerals



are hosting a
Christmas Supper

on

Friday 2nd December

5pm – 8pm

At Saint Joseph’s Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh

Free Admission by Ticket only
Tickets available from
Abbey Funeral Service,
Chapel Street, Leigh
Or Contact Gemma Evans
on 01942 261936.



RESPONDING TO THE CALL VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUP

To support those exploring Vocations to the Priesthood in our diocese, a monthly day of recollection has been organised for the first Saturday of each month. These days will help men who feel called to ordained ministry to discover more about diocesan priesthood and meet others discerning a call to priesthood. There will be an opportunity to talk with and hear from priests who minister in the diocese, and also a time for prayer and discussion. The next day of recollection will take place on Saturday 3rd December at St. Charles’ Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool.

For further information, please contact Fr James Preston, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, at frjamespreston@gmail.com or telephone: 0151 727 2493. Regular updates will be posted on our Facebook page: Archdiocese of Liverpool Vocations.

ADVENT ROSARY

Please Pray For World Peace
Join us at Liverpool City Centre Crib
in Clayton Square
Friday 2nd December 2,00pm
**Your Prayerful Presence will be
Greatly Appreciated**

NUGENT CRIB APPEAL 2016



“In switching on the lights of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christmas to be in us. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib.”

Pope Francis

Please help us continue the work of our founder, Fr James Nugent, by giving your support to our 2016 Crib Appeal. All proceeds will be used to help children and adults in need across the Archdiocese.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Bring 2017 in at a fantastic dance at St Joseph’s (large hall), Mather Lane, Leigh on 31st December from 7.00pm till late. Entertainment by country artist Pete Redfern. There will be a bar and tea/coffee will be available for 50p (bring a cup). Tickets cost £8 and are available from Theresa on 01942 792293. Book early. It was a sell-out last year.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral
Tuesday 13th December 2016

Doors open 7pm, performance starts 7.30pm
A festive concert of carols and choir performances in aid of the NSPCC

Tickets £8 - adults, £5 - concessions,
accompanied children under 16 - free

To book your tickets telephone 01138 871120 or email
northappeals@nspcc.org.uk



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 26 November

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Norah & John Devaney

Sun 27 November **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)**

StJ 8.30am MASS Alicia & Alan Cox
SH 9.30am MASS Nora & Jack Pearson and all departed loved ones
StJ 10.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
OLR 11.00am MASS William & Catherine Flynn (anniv.)
StJ 3.00pm ADVENT HOLY HOUR (in the Green Room)
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Mon 28 November **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Catherine & Daniel Porter

Tue 29 November **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Mrs Shirley L.D.

Wed 30 November **FEAST OF SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Peter Purcell
StJ 12.00noon MASS Peter Lythgoe (Anni)

Thu 1 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Ann Fealey (Anni)
SH 12.00noon MASS Peter Cosgrave

Fri 2 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Liam Gibbons L.D.
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Maurice Gallagher

Sat 3 December **Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, priest**

Day of special prayer for migrants

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
SH 12.00noon MASS Marjorie McGee L.D.
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Deceased members Murnan family

Sun 4 December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Bible Sunday

StJ 8.30am MASS Ronald Gore (Anni)
SH 9.30am MASS John Heneghan
StJ 10.30am MASS Alan Ratcliffe(RIP)
OLR 11.00am MASS Susan L.D.
StJ 3.00pm ADVENT HOLY HOUR (in the Green Room)
StR 6.30pm MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on Friday 18th were 14, 19, 27. No winner of £143. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £180.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 016 Dawber, £5 No. M C Ellis, £3 No. 236 D Quinn, £2 No 037 D Hindley
Bonus Ball No. 40 B Woods

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

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

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

