

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

4 December 2016



## Responsorial Psalm

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

The Advent readings glitter with bright promises – promises of the wonderful things that would accompany the coming of the Messiah. Mountains would be levelled out, valleys filled in, winding roads made straight, the desert would bloom, the poor will see justice done, the weak would no longer be exploited, war would vanish from the face of the earth. Christ Jesus came as our Messiah yet little seems to have changed. So we might well ask, what has become of these great promises? Look at the state of the world. None of these promises seem to have materialized.

Astronauts were the first human beings to see the earth from outside. As they gazed down on earth from space, they realized as never before that we are one family, with spaceship Earth as our common home. One of them said later, "The first day in space, we all pointed to our own countries. The second day, we pointed to our continents. By the third day, we were aware of only one Earth." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah who we listen to during Advent, had the same kind of high and wide vision, a vision of how things could be. But how real is that vision? When we read history books, or just the daily newspapers, we hear of wars, injustice, plagues, famine throughout the history of our planet. Sometimes it is difficult for us to see the hand of God in all this. Yet the prophets themselves lived in the real world, and were just as dismayed by its horrors and injustices as we are today. Yet they had a dream of a new world, a world free from injustice and war. Through faith in God they were able to rise above the horrors and see the face of God. What saved them from despair was their vision of a God who wants to save his people. There is always a way back with God.

The central theme of Advent is that of the faithfulness of God. In spite of the infidelities of his people, God did not forget the covenant he made with their father, Abraham. The Advent liturgy makes us aware of God's faithful love for us, and the wonderful gift he has given to us in Jesus. The wonderful promises of the prophets, therefore, are not just promises. The message of Advent should awaken us to the presence among us of our Saviour. It reveals his true identity and the nature of his mission, which is to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. And we have a vital part to play in making this Kingdom a reality. Advent provides us with a great opportunity to commit ourselves anew to Jesus and his Kingdom. But we cannot wait for these promises to fall from the sky. God calls us to be his prophets here in the world today and announce his Kingdom by making a difference and campaigning against the evil and darkness that this world so often brings. Isaiah's vision lives on as a task for us today and a promise for tomorrow.

**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

Ashton & Moylan Families, Maurice Gallagher, Deceased Members of the Mannion & Phillips Families.

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### COFFEE TIME

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.30am Mass next Sunday in Sacred Heart church - just a chance to have a chat after Mass with a hot drink. This is a regular event on the second Sunday of every month.

## OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

### COFFEE MORNING

Tea & coffee will be served after Mass today.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Christmas Raffle will be drawn today 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.

## ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SVP

At all masses on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> /11<sup>th</sup> December the SVP will be having its annual Christmas collection. The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages who might struggle during the upcoming festive period. To supplement our collection a brief resume of our work over the past 12 months will be available at all masses of that weekend. Please be generous, as any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

*Thank you,  
the SVP.*

## FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for children in the Sacramental Programme will take place at:  
Sacred Heart Church on Tuesday 6th December at 6.00pm  
Twelve Apostles' Church on Wednesday 14th December 5.00pm

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who helped to organise the Christmas Fair and to all those who donated and attended.

## WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOKLETS

Booklets are available free of charge in all our churches.



### Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 1 - Today we remember Blessed Charles de Foucauld who said, faith calls us to see Jesus in every human being.

Nov 30 - On this feast of Saint Andrew, with fraternal affection I am close to Patriarch Bartholomew and pray for him and the Church entrusted to him.

Nov 29 - Jesus calls us to be bearers of joy and consolation as his merciful witnesses.

Nov 28 - Mercy is not a parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, making tangible the profound truths of the Gospel.

Nov 27 - Advent is a time when we journey towards Jesus and his Kingdom of justice and peace.

Nov 26 - With the close of the Jubilee, we look ahead at how to continue to experience with joy, fidelity and enthusiasm the richness of God's mercy.

Nov 25 - So many women are overwhelmed with the burdens of life and the drama of violence! The Lord wants them to be free and their dignity respected

Nov 24 - We have to break out of ourselves to encounter others. If we don't, even we Christians can suffer from division.

## 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.

[www.artofdyingwell.org](http://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** £ 1,921.04

### SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Sutton

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Jean Rowson  
Eternal rest grant unto her...

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to:  
Mayah Eve Bowers, Lydia Yvonne Trew.

## 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.

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Christmas Eve

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Twelve Apostles        | 5.30pm      |
| St Joseph's            | 6.00pm      |
| Our Lady of the Rosary | 12 midnight |

### Christmas Day

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| St Joseph's            | 8.30am  |
| Sacred Heart           | 9.30am  |
| St Joseph's            | 10.30am |
| Our Lady of the Rosary | 11.15am |

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Bring 2017 in at a fantastic dance at St Joseph's (large hall), Mather Lane, Leigh on 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND AND PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE CARDS

Thanks to all those who signed cards. All have been posted.

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:northappeals@nspcc.org.uk)



**Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service**

with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 2.00pm

Featuring the students from St Teresa of Lisieux, Norris Green, English Martyrs, Litherland and Great Crosby Primary Schools plus the "Songs We Remember" choir and the Metropolitan Cathedral Junior Choir.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room and everyone is most welcome.

For further information please contact the Pastoral Formation Department 0151 522 1046 or [m.knight@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:m.knight@rcaol.co.uk)

*Advent*  
A Season of Hope & Expectation

## 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 3 December

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Deceased members Murnan family

### Sun 4 December

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

##### *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

### Mon 5 December

#### *Memorial of Saint John Almond, Priest and Martyr*

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Terry Malley (B'day Memorial)

12A 2.15pm

ADVENT MASS IN SCHOOL (all are welcome)

### Tue 6 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon

MASS Peter & Susan Jones

### Wed 7 December

#### *Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor*

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am

Deceased members of the McArt family

StJ 12.00noon

MASS St Joseph's School Governing Body

### Thu 8 December

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS John Lucas (RIP)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Catherine Bellfield

SH 1.30pm

FUNERAL MASS Jean Rowson

### Fri 9 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH

NO MASS

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Margaret Aitcheson (RIP)

### Sat 10 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

OLR 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon

MASS Joseph Parr

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY James Maxwell

### Sun 11 December

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

##### *Gaudete Sunday*

StJ 8.30am

MASS Maurice & Joseph O'Connell (anni)

SH 9.30am

MASS William Thomas Kelly (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS James & Ann Marsh (B'day Memorial)

OLR 11.00am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

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 25<sup>th</sup> were 6, 8, 24. No winner of £179. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £220. The last draw before Xmas will be on 16<sup>th</sup> December and the next draw after that will be on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 027, E Joyce; £5, 305, N Jones; £3, 435, B Woods; £2, 318, K Jones.

**Bonus Ball** No. 17 B Woods. Please note, on 18<sup>th</sup> December we will be collecting two weeks 500 Club & Bonus Ball.

### 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  
Tel: 0161 790 2390  
Email: [frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com](mailto:frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com)  
Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey  
Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280  
Email: [stjosephs@live.com](mailto:stjosephs@live.com)  
Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon  
Tel: 01942 883395  
Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

