

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

11 December 2016



Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

REFLECTION

As we heard in last weekend's readings, John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. He believed that Jesus was that Messiah. But now, locked up in a dark dungeon with the threat of death hanging over him, it seems that he began to have doubts about Jesus and what he was doing. John's idea of a Messiah was that of a stern, uncompromising judge who would execute a fiery judgement. But Jesus wasn't living up to this image. Instead of acting like a judge he was acting like a Saviour. His radiant friendliness contrasted sharply with the severe judge that John had in mind. John always lived apart from the people. He had distance between himself and them. But Jesus mixed with the people, eating and drinking with them, especially the sinners. John prophesied the judgement of God. Jesus promised the salvation of God. Knowing that his life was in danger, John wanted to know for sure who Jesus really was, so he sent two of his own disciples to question him. When the two asked Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?", Jesus might have replied with a straightforward "Yes, I am." But he didn't. There is a well-known saying: actions speak louder than words. So, instead of trying to convince John's messengers with words, Jesus pointed to the work he was doing. These works were precisely the kind Isaiah had predicted for the messianic times – "the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life again and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor." Jesus was quite happy to let his deeds speak for him.

Once, a group of salesmen were attending a sales convention. They had assured their families that they would be home in time for dinner. But the meeting ran over time so they had to run for the train. Ticket in hand, they dashed along the platform. One of them knocked over a table supporting a basket of apples. The apples spilled all over the platform, but neither he nor any of his companions stopped to help the young boy who owned the apple stall to pick them up. They all reached the train and boarded it with a sigh of relief. But then one of them felt a huge twinge of compassion for the boy whose apple stall had been overturned. He immediately decided to do something about it. Saying goodbye to his companions, he returned to the scene of the accident and helped the boy pick up all the apples. He was so glad that he did, because he discovered that the boy was blind. As he helped the boy he noticed that some of the apples were ruined. He took out his wallet and handing the boy some money he said, "Here, take this for the damage we did. I hope we didn't spoil your day." As he started to walk away, the bewildered boy called to him, "Are you Jesus?"

Are you Jesus? In a sense, he was because he acted like Jesus. The story reminds us that we are called to be Jesus to each other in the way we act and the way we care. Where is Jesus to be found today? As we continue our journey of faith through Advent let us pray that the Saviour who we welcome into our hearts and lives at Christmas may work in us and through us to make our world a better place. We may only be able to do this in very small ways but at least, in our own lives, if we continue to be people of prayer, God can work through us to make the presence of his Son a reality in the lives of those around us.

**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, Annie Butterworth, Maurice Gallagher, Joan Ganley, Lilly Farrimond, Christine Hession, Peter Jevons, Elaine Mulray, Mark Prescott, Alan Ratcliffe, Albert Sankey, Joseph Walmsley, Special Intention.

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.

THANK YOU

Audrey Gallagher & family would like to say a very big thank you for all the Mass cards and expressions of sympathy that have been shown to them during this very sad time. Your compassion has been of great support to them.

PARTY PIECES

A very big thank you to Gemma and Party Pieces, who held a concert in St Joseph's church and have donated £50 towards the upkeep of the church.

STAMPS FOR THE JESUITS

Once again the staff at the Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and good wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas season to the many kind parishioners who have saved and donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of income for the Mission causes overseas.

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

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

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.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

1st Prize C Marshall 1592, 2nd Prize D Kedward 2127
3rd Prize F Blackburn 2325 4th Prize F Barnes 2049
5th Prize A McCardue 1804 5th Prize Mrs Cartledge 0759
Thank you to all who bought tickets. A total of £532.50 was raised.

DIRECTORIES

Archdiocesan Directories are now on sale in our churches, price £3.50.

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.

COFFEE TIME

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.30am Mass today in Sacred Heart church. Have a chat after Mass with a hot drink and watch the Christmas Raffle being drawn.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Many thanks to all who donated to our Christmas Raffle. The amount raised was £440. There is a list at the back of church with the winning numbers.

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 this weekend of 10th /11th December the SVP will be having its annual Christmas collection. Please be generous, as any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for children in the Sacramental Programme will take place at Twelve Apostles church this Wednesday, 14th December at 5.00pm.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 7 - The Church does not grow through proselytism, but by attraction.

Dec 6 - Jesus gives meaning to my life here on earth and hope for the life to come.

Dec 5 - Jesus teaches us always to go to the essentials and to take on our own mission with responsibility.

Dec 4 - Advent is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Christ, our Saviour and hope.

Dec 3 - We are all called to go out as missionaries and bring the message of God's love to every person in every area of life.

Dec 2 - I call on all people of goodwill to take action against human trafficking and new forms of slavery.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND

Forty-nine greetings cards, including some from Sacred Heart school, have been sent by airmail (£9.50) to Jerusalem, destined for the people of the Church of the Visitation at Zababdeh, where much of their land has been taken and there are 2,000 exiles forced from their homes.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WORLDWIDE

Thirty-eight greetings cards have been sent by airmail, (£44.38) to those from the 2016 list received from *Action by Christians against Torture*. May our efforts bear fruit. A total of £49.90 was donated for postage.

CAFOD FUN RUN, walk/jog/etc.

Bank Holiday Tuesday, 27th December at Wavertree Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE. Arrive by 12.15pm to register. People & families are welcome to run, jog, walk, toddle, walk the dog or wheel the pram, from 2 to 7 km. Sponsorship will go to *Ethiopia Food Crisis Appeal*, where 10.2 million people are in dire need of water and food.



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 £1,939.63

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Derek Boyle, Gerard Edward Brennan, Edward Hodson, Francis Malee. Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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 Carol Service | 5.30pm |
| St Joseph's | 6.00pm |
| Our Lady of the Rosary Carol Service | 11.30pm |
| 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 |

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thank you to everyone involved with the Christmas Fair. A total of £2,766.68 was raised.

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

A festive graphic with a red background and white snowflakes. It features a white star, a white snowflake, and a white Christmas tree. The text is in white and yellow.

**Dementia Friendly
Christmas Carol Service**

with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Wednesday 14th 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

A poster for St Joseph's Players' production of Robinson Crusoe. It features a cartoon illustration of Robinson Crusoe on the right and a small illustration of a character on the left. The text is in blue, black, and green.

**St Joseph's Players
ROBINSON CRUSOE**

18th January to 28th January

Evenings Comm. at 7-15pm Matinees 21st 22nd & 27 January Comm. 2pm

SPECIAL OFFER 18th & 19th ALL TICKETS £4

Tickets available from our BOX OFFICE Stones Carpets
Chapel St. Leigh (Opposite Church)

Opening Times: MONDAY to SATURDAY 9am to 5pm.
and SUNDAYS 11am to 4pm

BOX OFFICE CLOSED FROM 22nd DEC TO 2nd JAN

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 10 December

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

Mon 12 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ NO MASS

Tue 13 December Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Derek Boyle
SH 12.00noon MASS Vincent Johnson R.I.P.

Wed 14 December Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 10.00am MASS Des West L.D.
StJ 12.00noon MASS Eddie Unsworth (Anni)

Thu 15 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Fred Cooper R.I.P.
SH 12.00noon MASS Alf Case R.I.P.
12A 1.45pm FUNERAL SERVICE Gerard Edward Brennan

Fri 16 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Christine Hession R.I.P.
SH 11.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Edward Hodson
StJ 12.00noon MASS Ellen Squires (Birthday memorial)
StJ 1.45pm FUNERAL SERVICE Francis Malee

Sat 17 December Weekday of Advent II

StJ 10.00am Exposition & Reconciliation (*Confessathon* 10.00am - 2.30pm interrupted by noon Mass)
StJ 12.00noon MASS Catherine Bailey (Anni)
2.30pm end time of Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Deceased members of the McArt family

Sun 18 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Phillip John Aldred (Birthday Memorial)
SH 9.30am MASS William & Betty Landers
StJ 10.30am MASS George Gibbon R.I.P.
OLR 11.00am MASS William & Ethel Wilkinson (anniv.)
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 2nd were 5, 9, 22. No winner of £221. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £270. The last draw before Xmas will be on 16th December and the next draw after that will be on 13th January.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 063, M Sanderson; £5, 341, R Ellis; £3, 044, M Sanderson; £2, 470, B & H Edwards. **Bonus Ball** 31, J Evans. Please note, on 18th 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 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
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