

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

18 December 2016



Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

REFLECTION

The Gospel Reading this weekend reminds us of the importance of Joseph. Joseph was a man of deep faith who listened to the voice of God. He struggled to make sense of the message that Mary had given him – that she was to become the mother of God's only Son. Sometimes Joseph heard God speak to him through his dreams, at other times in a moment of quiet prayer, sometimes at the end of each day when he looked over the events of work, relationships and family. He knew that God is a God of mystery and that in history God always called people to take risks and live with the unpredictable nature of life. Joseph would have been very aware of the story of Abraham and how Abraham had left his home and then found that Sarah his wife, in her old age, conceived mysteriously through the power of God. He would have also known that David had been an unlikely choice for a king. The prophets too were often surprising choices of God.

Despite all this Joseph sometimes would have wondered why God was testing his faith. He thought that the easiest thing would be to abandon Mary and start again. However, he loved her and knew deep down that she was honest, true and had great integrity. In the turmoil of his mind, he wondered what God wanted him to do. He asked himself why life was so complicated, just when all had seemed to be going so very good as he prepared to marry Mary. He struggled with God in prayer during the night and eventually went to sleep. Next morning he awoke from his dream and understood the words the angel had spoken – God had conceived his Son in Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph needed to accept this for himself. As he did so he went on to care for Mary and support her during this strange but wonderful time.

We often face difficult situations in our relationships and in our lives as a whole. Whatever problems we have to face can disrupt and disturb our familiar patterns of life. We ask God why they have happened and sometimes our faith in God is questioned. The example of Joseph teaches us that it is in these times that we are called to pray even more and seek the power of the Holy Spirit to help us trust more deeply in God. Like Joseph, we are asked to accompany people in their struggles and support them with love and care. A loving and caring Parish Community can be a real help to those who face difficulties of any kind in their lives at the moment. It wasn't easy for Joseph. Life is never easy for any of us. However, as we approach Christmas, we can be confident that if our hearts are open to God, God will help us to shoulder the burden and carry the load.

**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

Phyllis Bailey, Alf Case, Alan Clancy, Fred Cooper, Joe Fox, The Gainor Family, Julie Gallagher, Maurice Gallagher, Terence Keavney, Lee Marsh, Tony Martin, Desmond O'Rielly, Martha Prescott, Joseph Walmesley, Warner Family, Thanksgiving St Jude, 80th Birthday Thanksgiving

We are sorry we are not able to accommodate everyone who has requested a Mass at Christmas. The Masses will be said as soon as possible in the New Year. Thank you for your understanding.

ST JOSEPH'S MISSION BOXES

The amount raised from Mission Boxes at St Joseph's church for 2016 was £6,730.00. Many thanks go to all our dedicated box holders, donators and collectors for achieving this total. We are still hoping for more households to take a Red Mission Box or be a regular donator. We also need people to volunteer to be a collector for the Missions, no more than ten boxes opened every three months. Please contact the Parish Office on 673517 or a team member on 679368 if you would like to help or be a box holder.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

On Wednesday of this coming week our schools finish for their Christmas break. We wish all our children and staff a happy and restful holiday. We also say goodbye to Mr Ackers, the head teacher of St Joseph's, who starts a new appointment in January. We wish him all the best at his new school. We are holding a special thanksgiving Mass for Mr Ackers tomorrow, Monday 19th December at 2.00pm, here in church. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Good luck Mr Ackers!

THANK YOU

St Joseph's choir would like to thank one of our parishioners, Fred Tuttle, for the gift of a beautiful, acoustic, twelve string guitar, which belonged to his late son Michael. Fr Colin and members of the choir were very moved by his generosity and we can assure Fred that the guitar will be cherished and put to good use in Michael's memory.

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.

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.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next Support Group Meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th January. The main agenda item for the meeting is to discuss the Christmas Fair.

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.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas Draw raised £512.00. Thank you to all who bought and sold tickets and gave prizes. It was a wonderful draw, we had 14 prizes. All prizes have been claimed except Yellow 316-320, Yellow 631-635 and White 326-330. These were sold at church: please check your tickets.

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.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 15 - The love of God, which can look into the heart of each person and see the deepest desire hidden there, must take primacy over all else.

Dec 14 - Now is the time to unleash the creativity of mercy, to bring about new undertakings, the fruit of grace.

Dec 13 - Today I would like each of us to reflect on his and her own past and the gifts received from the Lord.

Dec 12 - On this Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, let us entrust to her the American peoples and the mission of the Church on that continent.

Dec 11 - May Advent be a time of hope. We go to encounter the Lord who comes to encounter us.

Dec 10 - Let us all work decisively so that no one is excluded from the effective recognition of their fundamental human rights.

Dec 9 - Let us pray for all the victims of genocide and work together so that this crime never happens again in the world.

Dec 8 - Let us learn from the Blessed Mother how to have a humble heart capable of receiving God's gifts.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,743.46

Thank you for your generosity.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Margaret Taylor, Desmond Fitzmartin, Mary Higson, Julie Gallagher.

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	Mass 5.30pm
St. Joseph's	Carol Service 5.30pm Mass 6.00pm
Our Lady's	Carol Service 11.30pm Mass 12.00 midnight

Christmas Day

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

ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS (Dec 26th)

Boxing Day is also the feast of St Stephen, who is the Patron Saint of **altar servers**. This coming Boxing Day, there will be only one Mass celebrated in the parish, at St Joseph's church at 10.00am. **All altar servers** within the parish of St Edmund Arrowsmith are invited to attend this Mass and serve on their Patron Saint's feast day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

On 1st January each year the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Peace. It is also the day on which we honour the motherhood of Mary. So, on 1st January all are welcome to attend a special Holy Hour at Our Lady of the Rosary church beginning at 1.00pm. There will be the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection before the Blessed Sacrament and we will also pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary together offering it for peace within our world. Please try to join us as we begin the New Year of 2017 by praying for peace.

YEMEN EMERGENCY APPEAL

More than seven million people are suffering from severe hunger in Yemen, and children are dying from malnutrition and preventable diseases. CAFOD and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) have launched an appeal to help, and our partner is on the ground making sure aid reaches those who need it most.

Giovanna Reda, CAFOD's Head of Humanitarian Programmes for the Middle East, said:

"A staggering seven million people are starving in Yemen this December – the combined population of Northern Ireland and Scotland. The ongoing conflict and humanitarian crisis in Yemen has been largely ignored up until now, but millions are suffering who need our help."

"Our partner is working to provide nutrition services to mothers and babies, food aid to vulnerable families, water and sanitation services to communities, and to deliver essential drugs and medical supplies through mobile clinics"

"We are unable to name our partner on the ground because of security reasons – but they have already conducted rapid needs assessments to identify the most vulnerable families and are getting the emergency aid they urgently need to them. With your help, we can reach even more people".

The retiring collection on Sunday 1st January will be in aid of CAFOD's emergency appeal. Please be as generous as you can.

"I shall break the bow and the sword and warfare, and banish them from the country, and I will let them sleep secure."
Hosea 2:20

God of peace,

Show us how to put away the weapons of war and help us destroy the tools of destruction.

Teach us to follow the ways of justice and walk with us the paths of truth.

Challenge the weapons of war, and banish hatred and division, so that all your children may sleep secure.

God of peace, may your kingdom come.

Amen

Linda Jones/CAFOD



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. Bar and tea/coffee available for 50p (bring a cup). Tickets cost £8 and are available from Theresa on 01942 792293.

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 17 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Deceased members of the McArt family

Sun 18 December **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

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

Mon 19 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS John Byrne

Tue 20 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Voldemar (Val) Stradins (anniv.)
StJ 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE Desmond Fitzmartin

Wed 21 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.15am MASS IN SCHOOL end of term ALL WELCOME. Mary Langan & Langan family members
StJ 12.00noon MASS Cath Rigby & Marion Higgins (Anni)

Thu 22 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Ward Family & Friends
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Julie Gallagher

Fri 23 December **Weekday of Advent II**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Mary Higson
OLR 10.00am MASS Mary Taylor
StJ 12.00noon MASS Robert Farrimon

Sat 24 December **Weekday of Advent II**

NO Exposition & Reconciliation or mid-day Mass today
12A 5.30pm MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY John Thompson
StJ 5.30pm Carol Service
StJ 6.00pm MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY Brian Crawley
OLR 11.30pm Carol Service
OLR 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS Ann Fealey

Sun 25 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

(CHRISTMAS) Holyday of Obligation

StJ 8.30am MASS Marie Fitzsimons RIP
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StJ 10.30am MASS Andrea Jane Southern RIP
OLR 11.15am MASS Austin Woods
StR 6.30pm NO EVENING MASS TODAY in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on Friday 9th were 6, 7, 15. No winner of £259. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £300. The last draw before Xmas was on 16th December and the next draw will be on 13th January.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 260, J Ramsdale; £5, 489, 2 Bettys; £3, 407, N James; £2, 258, J Ramsdale.

Bonus Ball No. 20 K Jones Please note, today 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

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