

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 25 December 2016



Responsorial Psalm

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.
Come, you nations, worship the Lord,
for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

REFLECTION

In the darkness of this night we gather again to celebrate the coming of the light. Like the shepherds of Bethlehem we hear again the song of the angels telling us of a child born for us, a Saviour. We hear those words that feature readily throughout the Gospels – “Do not be afraid”. There is Good News to tell, news that will always survive the evil and the bad that the world can bring our way. There is a joy meant for us, a reason to believe, a cause of happiness that we can know and share in. Saint Paul explains it in one of his letters. The coming of the child Jesus into the world is the revealing of God’s loving kindness for us all. It means that we now do not have to fend for ourselves as if our salvation depended on us alone. From now onwards we are called to one ambition, that of doing good everywhere and in every circumstance of life. We are being called again today to follow the Lord who was born for us. The child born this day calls us to be purified of all wickedness and selfish ways. He calls us again to belong to him, to cling to him, to follow him every day of our lives and to do so with one single ambition – to do good in this world to everyone and in every situation.

Here in the church, as in all churches throughout the world, we have prepared a Christmas crib, a tradition that originated with Saint Francis of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Not everyone can go to see the birthplace of the Lord in Bethlehem and so we recreate its presence among us by means of a simple crib. Some cribs can look very dramatic, with flowing water and many other features. Others are more simple and focus on the Holy Family themselves. During Christmas it can be a powerful focus for our attention and prayer. Cribs have a special attraction for children and indeed for the child inside each one of us. The mysteries of the Lord are hidden from the learned and the clever and are revealed to mere children. Gathered around the figures in the straw we see the beauty of the human person in the form and features of a newborn baby. This is the child who will be the Prince of Peace. The child that we see in the manger we will one day see nailed to a cross then laid in a tomb. After his rising we will recognize him in the breaking of bread, as we do now in the Christmas Mass. This same Lord tells us that we can also recognize him in one another – “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do to me.”

As we celebrate this wonderful feast of Christmas, let us pray that the child of Bethlehem may be born in us today. Let us pray that we may allow his light to shine through us and touch the lives of others so that they too may believe in and open up their hearts to Jesus, the Emmanuel, the Saviour who has come to bring us salvation. May this feast always remind us that God loves us SO MUCH that he gave us his only Son, not just at Christmas but every day of our lives.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**

In the beginning
was the
Word
and the
Word
was with
God
and the
Word
was
God
John 1:1

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Audrey Ashurst, Baby Daniel, Deceased Members of the Davey Family, James Frost, Julie Gallagher, Bernard Moore & Family, Steven Naylor, Deceased Members of the Naylor Family, Marlene O'Neill, Roy Parr, William & Alice Pennington, Maurice & Isabella Phillips, William & Sandra Phillips, Florence & Ronald Pierce, Frank & Martha Prescott, John Smith, Edith & Joseph Smith, Sheila Smith, Mary Sutton, Margaret Taylor, Eddie Trumble, Harry Wall, Sylvia Withington, Kathleen & Jack Withington,

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.

THANK YOU!

A very big Thank You to Mosses Nurseries for the beautiful Christmas Trees that they have donated to all our four churches. Thank you also for the plants that Mosses supply to St Joseph's throughout the year. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Keith Hindley for all the hard work he has done in the church grounds.

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.

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.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

On behalf of the 500 Club and Bonus Ball, a big thank you for your support through the year.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!



TWELVE APOSTLES

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Only 11 of the 27 prizes have been claimed so far! Please check your tickets: you might have won one of the three remaining hampers, or wine & chocolates, or selection boxes or sweets. The winning tickets are:-

BLUE 511-515, 731-735, 666-670, 111-115, 21-25, 191-195, 686-690, 391-395, 786-790 .

YELLOW 931-935, 326-330, 971-975, 786-790, 951-955, 421-425, 721-725.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 21 - Mercy gives rise to joy, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life.

Dec 20 - Mercy is the concrete action of God's love that, by forgiving, transforms and changes our lives.

Dec 19 - Nothing of what a repentant sinner places before God's mercy can be excluded from the embrace of his forgiveness.

Dec 18 - I express my solidarity with migrants around the world and thank all those who help them: welcoming others means welcoming God in person!

Dec 18 - Our joy comes from the confidence we have that the Lord is close to us with his tenderness, mercy, forgiveness and love.

Dec 17 - I thank you all for your kindness. Please do not forget to pray for me.

Dec 16 - Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life.

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.

OUR ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It is very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of that first Christmas are all around us today and we don't have to look far to see them. Refugees in a strange land, homelessness, oppression, poverty, cold, hunger - all part of our world today. It would be easy and simplistic to say that nothing has changed, but it has: Jesus embraced our human condition in its entirety: born a refugee under an occupying power, born homeless and in poverty, cold and hungry. In so doing he brought us hope.

Christmas time is rightly a time of celebration but it's also a time of giving. We give presents, we share with others, we give our time, our food, our money, our goods, to help those in need in today's world. We open our hearts to others and in so doing open them to God as we do in prayer when we celebrate Mass at Christmas. In remembering the birth of the Christ child we hear his cry for those in need, not least in the land of his birth. I visited the Holy Land recently and saw at first hand a suffering people, I will pray for and with them at Mass this Christmas and for all at home.

In the darkest days of the year when we have a lot to worry about such as keeping warm, feeding our family, the effects of economic changes and Brexit, the true Light has come in our lives to give us real hope, not just wishful thinking. The Light of the world shows us the way out of the gloomy low point of the seasons to a brighter future ahead. It is our belief that the child born in the manger will guide us and support us, that makes all the festivities worthwhile.

Let us make the song of the angels our own: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to people of goodwill.'

*Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP
Archbishop of Liverpool*

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,965.94

Thank you for your generosity.

S.V.P.

Thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year. The total of our last collection was a fabulous £733.36. God bless & Happy Christmas.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Frank Davies, Mary Winifred Price, Margaret Taylor, Iris Valiant
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.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY MASS (Dec 26th)

Boxing Day is also the feast of St Stephen, who is the Patron Saint of **altar servers**. Tomorrow, 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.

CAFOD
just one world

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 Matinee 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

*Fr Colin & Fr Kieran
would like to wish everyone
A very Happy
& Holy Christmas*



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 24 December

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

Mon 26 December **FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

StJ	10.00am	MASS	Mark Prescott Anni
<i>At this Mass, ALL altar servers in St Edmund Arrowsmith parish are invited to attend & serve</i>			

Tue 27 December **FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

SH	10.00am	MASS	Maureen Sweeney L.D.
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Wed 28 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

StJ	12.00noon	MASS	Vincent Ganley
OLR	12.00noon	FUNERAL MASS	Mary Price

Thu 29 December **FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, (BECKET) BISHOP AND MARTYR**

SH	12.00noon	MASS	Setako Ephrem L.D.
SH	1.30pm	FUNERAL SERVICE	Iris Valiant

Fri 30 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

StJ	12.00noon	FUNERAL MASS	Margaret Taylor
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Sat 31 December **SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY**

SH	11.00am	Exposition & Reconciliation	
SH	12.00noon	MASS	Margaret Pye L.D.
12A	5.30pm	FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY	People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 1 January **SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

StJ	8.30am	MASS	Fred Cooper R.I.P.
SH	9.30am	MASS	Honora Pemberton L.D.
StJ	10.30am	MASS	James Clegg R.I.P.
OLR	11.15am	MASS	Peter Purcell L.D.
StR	6.30pm	SUNDAY EVENING MASS	in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on Friday 16th were 1, 7, 23. No winner of £303. The next jackpot was estimated at £350. 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 18th Dec £10, 335, N Jones; £5, 457, B Addi; £3, 139, N Flynn; £2, 483, M Moore.

25th Dec £50, 480, M Flannery; £10, 129, 2 Bettys; £5, 214, B Ellis; £3, 044, M Sanderson; £2, 335, N Jones.

Bonus Ball No. 8 A Simpson. The Bonus Ball for 25th Dec will be on 1st Jan.

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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