

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

1 January 2017



Responsorial Psalm

O God, be gracious and bless us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past, and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

“The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger.”

From the very start, the discovery of Jesus involves his mother. Mary was a human parent and, since she was human, Jesus must have looked something like her. If she was such a young woman when Jesus was born – it is a commonly held belief that she was about fourteen when she was visited by an angel – perhaps, later in Jesus’ life, strangers mistook them for brother and sister. Everything that was human and embraceable about Jesus had its origin in Mary. He must have picked up her way of living, her way of speaking and shared in her beliefs, especially as a young boy looking up to his parents. Mary, along with Joseph of course, was always a very central figure in Jesus’ life.

Very often, when Pope Francis celebrates Mass in St. Peter’s, at the end he will go straight to the image of Mary and, after pausing in prayer, he reaches out almost timidly to touch her cloak. It may seem strange to some of us, but maybe this is the best way to approach her. Mary is the mother of Jesus and our Mother too. She is there to bring us comfort, as any earthly mother or father should want to do for their children. As we lift our prayers to God, we often ask for Mary’s prayers too, especially when we say the “Hail Mary”. She is our Mother in Heaven who can intercede on our behalf and pray for us too. She is also our role model, the person we should copy perhaps more than anyone else. How do we, in our lives today, say “Yes” to the will of God in the way that she did? How would our salvation story continue if she did not say “Yes” to the message of the angel who asked her to become the Mother of God?

So today isn’t just New Year’s Day, or the rounding off of our Christmas feasting. It’s the feast of Mary’s motherhood. Salvation begins with her “Yes” to God, as she brings forth to the world the sacred body that will be stretched on the cross and raised from the tomb. Over the centuries Catholic, and Orthodox artists especially, have produced wonderful works of art – mosaics icons, paintings, hymns and chants – to express a love for Mary that is deeper than just affection. Admittedly, not all works of art are of the same quality, and sometimes the product has not been worthy of the subject. And the origin of some of the feasts of Our Lady may seem nothing less than alarming, since they have been inaugurated to celebrate military victories on land and triumphs at sea. For whatever reason over the centuries Kings and rulers have often enlisted the prayers of Mary as they go to battle.

For ourselves today she is a mother, a friend, a fellow disciple of Jesus and the perfect role model of how to live the Christian life. She is someone who, like the perfect mother, understands and accepts our limitations, who adopts us as her own because her own Son has incorporated us into his Body, which is the Church. As we begin this New Year, and celebrate Mary’s feast, let us pray that we may follow in her footsteps more closely so that we may follow the light that is her Son, Jesus.

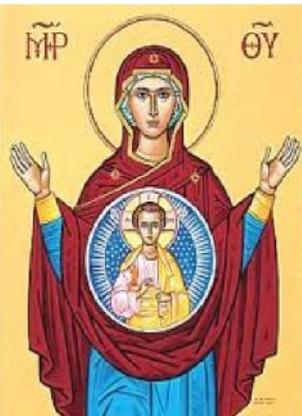
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

**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

Margaret Brown, Bill Burke, Carolyn Burke, Ann Callan, Bridget Fox, Gerald Gibbons, May, John & Christine Gillbanks, Olivia, Ken & Stephen Hartnell, Rose Higgins, Vivienne Holland, Annie & Bob Johnson, Michael Lydon, James Owen McDermott, James & Annie McDermott, Terrance Quinn, Margaret Raikes, Pauline & Kathleen Reynolds, Tony Sutton, Margaret Taylor, Birthday Blessings,

THANK YOU

Thank you to the family of Rose Higson, who gave a donation in her memory. May she rest in peace.

PARTY PIECES

Thank you to Gemma and Party Pieces, who put on a wonderful musical show a few weeks ago in St Joseph's church. They have given a donation of £50 towards the upkeep of the Church.

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.

COFFEE MORNING

This week's Coffee Morning has been cancelled. Normal service will resume next week in the Mather Room.

SACRED HEART

CAFOD FUN RUN/WALK

For the starving in Ethiopia, thanks to God, two runners and three walkers from Sacred Heart completed this in Wavertree Park (Liverpool) last Tuesday. Many thanks to those who have already given. Further donations gratefully received.

CAFOD are appealing for £3 million, as more than 10.2 million people across the country are in dire need of food, clean water and basic sanitation.

"Ethiopia faces a food shortage that has left millions hungry. The funding will allow us to escalate our on-going emergency response with our local partners, who are already on the frontline getting assistance to where it is needed most."

"I can't remember when we all last ate three meals in the day", says mother of two Rahel. "The best I can do is for us to drink coffee and to munch on small pieces of bread." Rahel and her daughters, eight and six years of age, live in the village of Sebeya, in Ethiopia's Tigray region. She relies on the farming community for her casual labour, and one of the effects of her loss of income is that she isn't able to buy basic food. Rahel has really struggled over the last year. "This last year has been the worst ever. I have little money or no money coming into the house. There has been no rain, no harvest; the ground has remained a desert, offering us nothing to collect." As the female head of her household, Rahel was identified by our local partner, the Catholic Diocese of Adigrat - ADCS - as

someone who would benefit from a 'cash for work' scheme, through which she would be paid to do work that suited her skills and ability. Rahel has spent the last month preparing a small local dam, which will collect water from the mountain for her community to use. Rahel uses her wages to buy food for her family. "It is better to do this work; I can't keep asking neighbours and friends for help. It is also useful, preparing the dam to collect the rain water from the mountain, it will mean in future we won't struggle so much to have water during difficult times." The Catholic community at the helm of our Ethiopia Food Crisis Appeal Ordinary men, women and children in England and Wales are out working, supporting, fundraising, praying for the communities in Ethiopia. Because of this, we will be able to get more emergency aid to our partners quickly. They understand the communities they serve, and will be reaching the most vulnerable families."

For information about CAFOD's work visit cafod.org.uk

GIFT AID

We are pleased to report that the sum of £16,758.68 has now been received from the Inland Revenue in respect of the tax refund due on the total St Edmund Arrowsmith Gift Aided Donations for the Tax Year ended 5th April 2016.

The Gift Aid Scheme is a n excellent way of raising much needed funds for our Parish and at no extra cost to parishioners as we are simply reclaiming from the Inland Revenue Income Tax you have already paid on the money you contribute.

Thank you to those already in the scheme. If you are a taxpayer, and not in the scheme, please think of joining. There is one form to sign, containing just your full name and address. For recording purposes you can then use a set of the specially numbered Offertory Envelopes or, if you prefer, by Standing Order from your Bank.

For more information please leave your name, address and telephone number with the Parish Office and a member of the Gift Aid Team will contact you.

Thank you.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 28 - God, who is in love with us, draws us to himself with his tenderness, by being born poor and frail in our midst, as one of us.

Dec 27 - Christmas has above all a taste of hope because, for all the darkness in our lives, God's light shines forth.

Dec 26 - On today's Feast of Saint Stephen let us remember the martyrs of today and yesterday. May we overcome evil with good and hatred with love.

Dec 25 - Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!

Dec 24 - Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too, with eyes full of amazement and wonder, gaze upon the Child Jesus, the Son of God.

Dec 23 - The Lord becomes man to journey with us in our everyday lives.

Dec 22 - The birthday of Jesus, who took on the burden of our human weakness, is drawing closer.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £

The Christmas Collection will be announced next week.

Thank you for your generosity.

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Frank Davies
Eternal rest grant unto him...

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.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

On 1st January each year the Church celebrates World Day of 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.



God of joy

*God of joy,
remind me to rejoice.
Wrapped up in my Christmas gifts,
tied down in my debts,
I have forgotten.
God of peace,
remind me of your calm.
In my anxiety
and in my haste
I have forgotten.
God of all,
remind me
of the true light of Christmas,
of your gift shared.
In my own wants
and in my own needs
I have forgotten.
Wrapped up in my little world,
remind me of your world.
God of joy, remind me
to rejoice.*

Linda Jones/CAFOD



*We wish you all a very
Happy & Peaceful
New Year*

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 31 December

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 11.00am

MASS Peter Purcell L.D.

OLR 1.00pm

HOLY HOUR OF PRAYER FOR PEACE, Exposition, Rosary, quiet prayer.

StR

Today, **NO SUNDAY EVENING MASS** in our Pastoral Area

Mon 2 January

Memorial of St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 10.00am

MASS Delia Riley (Anni)

Tue 3 January

Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

SH

NO MASS

Wed 4 January

Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

12A

NO MASS

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Tony Sutton (Anni)

Thu 5 January

Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am

MASS Agnes & George Hayes (Birthday Memorials)

SH 12.00noon

MASS John Kenyon

Fri 6 January

Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 8.30am

Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Joe Fox (Anni)

Sat 7 January

Weekday of Christmas Time

OLR 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon

MASS Stella Burgess L.D.

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Allen & Agnes Newton

Sun 8 January

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am

MASS Marie Fitzsimons (RIP)

SH 9.30am

MASS Joseph Rynn L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Terence Keavney (Anni)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Johnnie Fahy

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery 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

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