

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 12 February 2017



## Responsorial Psalm

They are happy who follow God's law!

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

All of us are subject to the law. Jesus himself too was subject to the law in his day. As he grew up he obeyed Joseph and Mary. He obeyed the law of the land. And of course he obeyed the law of God. In today's Gospel passage it is Jesus' attitude to the law that concerns us. He encounters the Scribes and Pharisees who, over the pages of the Gospels, throw many different questions at him in an attempt to catch him out and find out where his true colours lie. After seeing the Scribes and Pharisees he addresses his disciples and warns them not to be like these so-called "men of God". He warns them that, "If your virtue goes no deeper than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven." Strong words indeed. Jesus found no fault with the law itself. His problem lay with the way it was interpreted and applied by the religious leaders of the day. For them it was the letter of the law that mattered. Once you fulfilled that you were OK. But for Jesus it was the spirit of the law that really mattered. The important thing was not how many commandments we obey, but the spirit in which we obey them.

The Pharisees looked only at the outward act. But God sees what is in the heart, which is much more important. So Jesus said that we have to look, not just at our actions, but at our thoughts and desires, even though they may never actually lead to any acts. We may not have done certain evil deeds, but we may have thought of doing them. Again, Jesus saw that the commandments were interpreted in a very negative way by the Scribes and Pharisees. This often led to minimalism, in other words, doing the bare minimum. Jesus, however, interpreted them in a positive way. For example, the fifth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill". But Jesus said something more positive, "You must love your neighbour as yourself." The seventh commandment states, "Thou shalt not steal." But Jesus said, "You must share your goods with your neighbours when they are in need."

He also saw that obedience was often rooted in fear. He wanted obedience to God to be rooted in love. His whole relationship with his Heavenly Father was based on love. When you really love someone, you would avoid anything to hurt them, in fact, the love you have for them would inspire you to do anything for them. Where there is love, there is really no need for law. But the most significant thing of all that Jesus did was this – he brought in a new and more exacting law, the law of love. Far from contradicting or abolishing the old law, the new law goes beyond it, and so brings it to perfection. He said that all of God's laws could be reduced to two: love of God and love for others. In truth, there is only one law – the law of love.

**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**

**Matters  
of the  
Law**

**Matthew 5:17-20**

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

### MASSES

Boone & Campbell Families, Monica Davies, Kathleen & Francis James Duffy, Walter Evans, Frank, Mary Green, Teresa & Margaret Grogan, Frances & Daren Hilton, Frances Hilton, Sheila Houlton, Mandy Jolly, Albert Sankey, Kath Trundle, Joyce Worden, Deceased Members of the Yates Family,

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### BONUS BALL

There are numbers on our Bonus Ball. If anyone would like to join, please see Margaret at the back of Our Lady's church.

### SACRED HEART

#### REPOSITORY

Our range of cards now includes First Communion cards, ready for the forthcoming celebrations.

#### COFFEE TIME

Tea and coffee will be available after 9.30am Mass today 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.

### TWELVE APOSTLES

#### WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

Would those going on the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, departing Easter Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and who have not yet paid their remaining balance, please do so as soon as possible. Payments are accepted by Margaret Harkins, Therese Thompson or The Flower Shop, Atherton.

### RCIA CLASSES

For those wanting to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter, or for anyone wanting to know more about the Catholic Faith, classes will continue today after 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's. The classes will continue through the season of Lent, after which we will welcome our new members at the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Please keep our catechumens in your prayers.



### ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon invites you to join him in celebrating the Annual Marriage and Family Life Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, today Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 11.00am. All are welcome to attend, refreshments will be served in the Gibberd Room.



#### Pope Francis @Pontifex

Feb 9 - Hope opens new horizons and enables us to dream of what is not even imaginable.

Feb 8 - Those who traffic human beings are ultimately accountable to God. Let us pray for the conversion of hearts.

@M\_RSection

Feb 7 - Let us hear the cry of the many children who are enslaved. No one must remain indifferent to their sorrow.

@M\_RSection

Feb 6 - Being a believer means learning how to see with eyes of faith.

Feb 5 - Those who do not believe in or search for God have perhaps never been challenged by a testimony of faith.

Feb 4 - Take action! Live life to the full! And when others see the witness you give, they may ask: why do you live this way?

Feb 3 - Let us never forget to pray for each another. Prayer is our greatest strength.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

#### *The gift of the Philippines*

St Paul's church, Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NW. will host this service for all our Leigh area on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm. All most welcome. All persons of any age who enjoy singing are invited to the singers' practices on Mondays 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 to 8.30pm in St Paul's church. If items from the Philippines could be loaned for a display in the church, they would be cared for and returned to you promptly after the service. A Scales of Justice, wood/brass, is required. Please ask your friends. Please ring 01942 676962.



### JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The next meeting takes place at St Richard's Parish House on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm. All are welcome to contribute *Live Simply* ideas.



## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £2,044.51

Thank you for your generosity.

### SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Heneghan, Arthur Lowe, Mary Sutton, Edna McLoughlin (née Higgins)

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Hilda Mullery  
Eternal rest grant unto her ...



### RECOVERING AND MOVING ON AFTER DIVORCE

A series of meetings to support divorced and separated Catholics will start mid February 2017 for Catholics and other Christians who are divorced or separated (recently or in the past) or who are experiencing the breakdown of a marriage or a long term relationship.

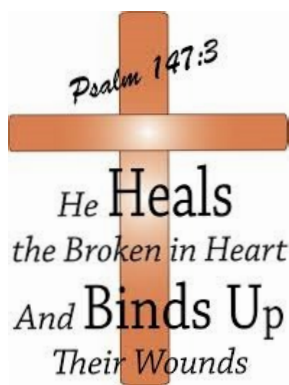
Small confidential groups. No charge, but booking is essential  
Meetings include:-

- A chance to meet and talk together
- Information about practical matters, sources of help, the positions of divorced Catholics in the Church, annulment
- Reflection, discussion, prayer

A one day meeting is held for people who find evening meetings inconvenient.

Individual support is available for those who do not wish to join a group

or further information or to make a booking please contact Frances Trotman 0151 727 2195



### ORDINARY TIME WINTER

During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; The Unemployed.

Racial Justice Day	Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Day for Victims of Trafficking	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb
World Day for the Sick	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Day of the Unemployed	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb

Ash Wednesday will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March this year and the First Sunday of Lent will be on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## CAFOD

We have received a letter from CAFOD, thanking the parish for the Yemen Crisis Appeal, which raised £1,262.92 .

The war in Yemen has left millions of people in desperate need of humanitarian aid. The UN estimates that half the country, 14 million people, are suffering from hunger and 370,000 children are severely malnourished, with numbers rising. Our donation will help Cafod's partner in Yemen to provide food, clean water and medicines to some of the most vulnerable communities.

Cafod's director, Chris Bain, said "when a family receives a food parcel, hygiene kit or medical attention, dignity and a sense of hope is restored."

Chris Funnell, Supporter Donations Manager says "On behalf of CAFOD's family worldwide, please pass on our thanks to everyone in your parish for making a difference.

For more information about CAFOD's work, please visit their website [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)



### ST PATRICK'S NIGHT AT SACRED HEART CLUB, HINDSFORD

There will be an evening of Irish and Country songs at Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford to help the Parish celebrate St Patrick's Day on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, from 8.00pm till closing time. Live music from *The Cambridge Crew* plus guest singers/guitarists from the local *Streetlifers* group. Admission free.



**THE GOOD OLD DAYS**  
WITH THE BRILLIANT AND POPULAR  
**GEORGE FORMBY TRIBUTE BAND**  
St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St. Leigh WN7 2PR

**100**  
(Fancy Dress Optional (war time theme))

Friday 24th February doors open at 12-15pm

Tickets £6 including Hot-pot

Available from Pensioners Link Office 01942 261753

Or Pauline on 01942 604603

BAR, TOMBOLA, (Fund raising event)

## 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 11 February

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson

### Sun 12 February

#### SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

##### *Racial Justice Day*

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice Gallagher RIP  
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Dcn. Alan Mee Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Eileen & Les Peacock

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

### Mon 13 February

#### *Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 6)*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ NO MASS

### Tue 14 February

#### FEAST OF SAINTS CYRIL, Monk, and METHODIUS, Bishop, PATRONS OF EUROPE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS B & S Fletcher S.I.

### Wed 15 February

#### *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am MASS Bridget Diffley L.D.

StJ 12.00noon MASS Brian Ashton Birthday Memorial

### Thu 16 February

#### *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Monica Davies Anni

SH 12.00noon MASS Julie Gallagher R.I.P.

### Fri 17 February

#### *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Hilda Mullery

StJ 12.00noon MASS Kathleen Greensmith Anni

### Sat 18 February

#### *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon MASS Bill Burke Anni

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 19 February

#### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice Gallagher RIP

SH 9.30am MASS Caitlin Bradbury Get Well!

StJ 10.30am MASS Robert & Agnes Kedward Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Peter Purcell

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** The numbers drawn on 3<sup>rd</sup> January were 1, 20, 25. There was no winner of £26. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £52. The lottery is taking a half-term holiday so, after the draw this Friday, the tickets on sale will be dated for the next draw on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10 No. 001 M Flannery, £5 No. 418 N Jones, £3 No. 129 2 Betty's, £2 No. 226 a Simpson

**Bonus Ball** No. 22 K Jones

### 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)

