

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

19 March 2017



Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice:
“Harden not your hearts.”

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;
give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

REFLECTION

We never hear her name, but the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel has the longest conversation recorded between Jesus and any other person. It was noon on a hot day. Jesus chose a rest stop – Jacob's well, outside the town of Sychar – while waiting for his disciples to bring some food. The woman who joined him at the well was an outcast, looked down upon by her own people. She came along to draw water from the community well when, during Biblical times, drawing water and chatting at the well were perhaps the highlight of many people's day. But this woman was ostracized and marked as immoral, an unmarried woman living openly with the sixth in a series of men. When this unnamed woman appeared with clay jar in hand, Jesus made a simple request: “Give me a drink.” But Jews were not supposed to speak to Samaritans, especially women. Men were simply not allowed to speak to women unless their husbands were present. And Rabbis certainly had no business speaking to a woman like the one in today's Gospel. Jesus was willing to ignore the rules, but the woman reminded him, “You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?": she focused on the laws of respectable society. Jesus focused on love, acceptance and grace. Jesus let her know that he was aware of the suffering in her life. And then, to this woman, Jesus revealed that he was the Messiah, offering her living water. She forgot about her own need to fetch water, and ran to tell the others about Jesus. She became a powerful evangelist.

Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche community throughout the world, which reaches out to vulnerable people, suggests that we can all learn a lot from the Samaritan woman in today's Gospel. In a sense she represents each and every one of us. Jean Vanier says, “We are all this Samaritan woman for we are all wounded in some way in love, and have a history of broken friendships.” Whenever we feel left out, mistreated, passed over, not chosen, rejected, unsafe, whenever we feel judged, condemned, or bad about ourselves, then Jesus comes to us to give us hope and encouragement. Jesus' ministering to the outcasts of Jewish society reveals that all people are valuable to God and that Jesus desires that we demonstrate love to everyone in a similar way, including our so-called enemies. Jesus' mission to those who are lost is a radical commission – it means leaving our comfort zone and making ourselves vulnerable in order to love people who are different. And great insights can come from those on the margins of society, who receive God's message with humility, trust and joy. The story of the woman at the well teaches us that God loves every one of us, especially those of us who feel undervalued and even worthless. God values us all enough to actively seek us and engage with us. The Samaritan woman understood what this means – to be wanted, to be cared for when no one, not even herself, could see anything there of value. As we continue our journey through Lent let us pray that we may always value others and know that we are valuable to God, for we are his daughters and sons.

**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

Fred Cooper, Canon Cowel, Maureen Gallagher, John Patrick Graine, Alan Hargreaves, Vincent Higgins, Edith Smith, Successful Operation.

FLOWERS

Although there will not be any flowers in church during Lent, we desperately need more help for Easter. Please contact the parish office if you feel you can help, 01942 673517. Thank you.

GIFT AID & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Envelopes will be distributed after both Mass this weekend and next.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

EASTER RAFFLE

We are now asking for donations for our Easter Raffle, and would appreciate chocolates, Easter Eggs, bottles and Gifts.

SACRED HEART

A big thank you to Nicola Ratcliffe and her team from the Prince's Trust who have done a great job in cleaning out and cutting back the overgrown garden areas around the church and presbytery. They worked tirelessly over a two week period and have greatly improved the areas, especially Fr McCarthy's Memorial Garden, as you can see. The team also planted a willow tree in the garden in memory of their team member and friend Keith, who has sadly passed away. If anyone is interested in keeping the garden areas tidy and maintaining them, please contact Joe and Pat on 677645. This project was initiated by *Leigh Neighbours* as part of their clean-up campaign which is designed to improve the area.

WITH YOU ALWAYS

The next meeting of the With You Always Programme will be: Twelve Apostles Wednesday 22nd March, 4.30pm in School Sacred Heart Thursday 23rd March, 4.30pm in the Church Hall

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Support Group on Wednesday at 7.00pm at St Joseph's Presbytery. All welcome.

CHRISM MASS

If you wish to go to the Chrism Mass on Wednesday 12th April, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. Thank you.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Mar 16 - The Church wishes to be close to each person with the love, compassion and consolation that come from Christ.

Mar 15 - The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable.

Mar 14 - Let us pray for one another so that we may open our doors to the weak and poor.

Mar 13 - May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word.

Mar 12 - Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour.

Mar 11 - The road from love to hate is easy. The one from hate to love is more difficult, but brings peace.

Mar 10 - Let us strive to fast during Lent with a smile, rather than a long face.

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY FAMINE IN AFRICA

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) have been in touch asking us to hold an emergency appeal to help all those affected by drought and famine in Africa and the Middle East. As we have seen and heard on the television and radio these past few weeks, 16 million people in East Africa are on the brink of starvation and urgently need food, water and medical treatment. We are holding a special collection in the four churches of St Edmund Arrowsmith's Parish next weekend - Sunday 26th March to support the DEC appeal. Please be as generous as you can to offer support to our brothers and sisters at this time of great need. Thank you.



A Prayer of Pope Paul VI

Make us worthy, Lord,
To serve our brothers and sisters
Throughout the world
Who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them by our hands
This day their daily bread,
And by our understanding love
Give peace and joy. Amen

CAFOD
just one world

lives simply

Reflect:

Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well tells us of her recognition of her need for someone to forgive her, to understand her. Despite past sin, Jesus engages us, as he engaged the woman, in a conversation about our deepest need. At times we live restless lives, hardly knowing what will satisfy and quench our nameless longing - the longing for God who is waiting for us to recognise him each day, in all things, in all people we encounter on our journey through life.

Pray:

Father of love, you pour out your abundant love in the waters of Baptism. Help me to grow in your love as your child. May I be a witness for you to all I meet.

Act:

In the sacramental life of the Church, the water of Baptism is our entry into the family of God. Acknowledge this each time you enter the church by dipping your fingers in the holy water font and praying the Sign of the Cross.

Challenge:

How do we use water in this bountiful country we live in? Be aware of the amount of water you consume each day. Consider where you can cut back. Limit your shower to 2 minutes; make sure you have a full load before you put on the washer; buy a water butt for the garden - these are just a few ways of conserving water.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,664.57

Thank you for your generosity.

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH'S S.V.P.

At all Masses on this weekend of 18th/19th March 2017 the SVP will be having its quarterly collection. The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages who might struggle during the upcoming months. Please continue to be generous, our collection at Christmas was over £700, and any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

Thank you, the SVP.

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Heneghan, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Mary Sutton, Pat Windyk

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to: Blu Ivy Worthington.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Norah Liptrot

Eternal rest grant unto her...



LENT

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:
Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.
Candidates for the Sacraments - especially on Sundays

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

Tuesdays, 7.00pm at Saint Richard's,
Wednesdays, 7.00pm at Saint Joseph's
Thursdays, after 12.00noon Mass at Sacred Heart
Fridays 7.00pm at Saint Ambrose Barlow.

***Please note Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's are now at 7.00pm**

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

St Richard's church 7.00pm on Thursday 23rd March, Deanery Service of Reconciliation with private Confession.

LENT REFLECTIONS

Care of our common home

Fridays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March & 7th April, 12.30- 1.30pm.
Meet in the Green Room in St Joseph's house after Mass. Are the Sunday readings relevant? What does the Pope say?



LEGION OF MARY

Frank Duff founded the L.O.M. on 7th September 1921 and he died on 7th November 1980. The cause for his beatification is underway and there are prayer leaflets at the back of all churches. We invite you to take a leaflet and pray for this cause. Should you be granted any favours through his intercession, please let the legion of Mary (Lynne Burgess) 01942 607868 or the parish office know and we can pass this on. The Legion of Mary visit the bereaved, sick and housebound to have a chat and pray with the person they are visiting. Please let us know if you would like a visit or if you know someone who would. Thank you.

UNWANTED READING GLASSES

(No cases wanted), please put in the box at the back of church today Sunday, 19th March, to be sent by air to Afghan women refugees in Pakistan, who make a meagre living from sewing & embroidery.

***God of Love, Maker of all,
transform my heart
through my Lenten journey
of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.***

***Help me to see the dignity
in all my sisters and brothers,
made in your image and likeness.***

***Inspire me to share the fruits of your creation
so that all your people can become artisans
of their own destiny.***

***Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.***

HOLY LAND EASTER CARDS

To encourage our suffering Christian sisters and brothers, you are invited to write an Easter card this weekend. Please choose from a variety of cards which have been purchased from the Carmelites. Contributions towards costs are most welcome (Air Mail postage for 20 grams costs £1.33).

SILENT RETREAT

April 1st 2017

Weekend of the 5th Sunday of Lent

"Unbind him and let him go"

St Stephen's Astley, Manchester Rd Astley M29 7BT

The day will be led by Br. David Rutledge OSF, a Franciscan friar in Pennsylvania, USA.

9.00am Coffee and exploring the space

9.30am day begins until 4.00pm

No charge, please bring some lunch to share.



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary
StR = St Richard, Atherton, StAB = Saint Ambrose Barlow, Astley, HF = Holy Family, Boothstown

Sat 18 March

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Margaret Grimes L.D.

Sun 19 March

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Marie Fitzsimons (Birthday memorial)

SH 9.30am MASS Norah Heneghan

StJ 10.30am MASS Sylvia Withington (Anni)

OLR 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 20 March

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Pat Montague R.I.P.

Tue 21 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Julia Gallagher L.D.

Wed 22 March

Weekday of Lent

StAB 7.30am MASS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson

StJ 12.00noon MASS Francis Gallagher Anni

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 23 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Maureen Gallagher Anni

SH 12.00noon MASS Heather Taylor

followed by Stations of the Cross

StR 7.00pm Deanery Service of Reconciliation with private Confession

Fri 24 March

Weekday of Lent

HF 6.30am MASS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OLR 10.00am MASS Kevin Sutton L.D.

StJ 12.00noon MASS John Patrick Graineey Sick

Sat 25 March

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS John McAnn

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 26 March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS John & Agnes Coan Anni

SH 9.30am MASS Francis Shortis

StJ 10.30am MASS Kevin Quinn Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Lee Jones (birthday anniversary)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 10th March were 8, 12, 18. There was one winner of £150. The jackpot for 17th March was estimated at £30.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10

Bonus Ball No.

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

Tel: 01942 673517/01942 731679

Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

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