

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

26 March 2017



## Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

## Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

## REFLECTION

In the ancient Jewish world, blindness was not just a physical ailment. In popular thought it carried a terrible stigma. This arose from a false interpretation of the Law of Moses, which stated that people who were blind or lame could not fight in the army of God's people. There was a good reason for this. Soldiers who cannot move fast or see the enemy are not going to be much help to their comrades. However, an extreme interpretation of the rule concluded wrongly that anyone who could not fight in God's army could never enter God's Kingdom. The next step was to class them as sinners and that in turn led to them being refused work and reduced to begging. This view was never officially endorsed, but its popular acceptance is seen when Jesus' disciples ask him a question about the blind man that he meets in today's Gospel. They ask him, was this man born blind because of a sin he committed before he was born – or was it because of his parent's sins? Jesus strongly denies of course that the man's blindness was caused by anyone's sin: on the contrary, this man will make visible the works of God.

The Gospel passage today is long and, in some places, complicated, but we hear of the formerly blind man who becomes increasingly full of life and who very soon teaches the Pharisees the ways of God. The miracle itself takes up only a couple of sentences in today's Gospel, the rest concerns the disciples' questions and the way in which the blind man takes a deeper step of faith whilst the Pharisees become even more closed to God's will. They wonder how a sinner could possibly open the eyes of a man born blind. They persist in questioning the man, so he repeats the story, and even asks them, the Pharisees if THEY want to become disciples of Jesus. They furiously insist that they are disciples of Moses.

As the man moves closer towards Jesus, the light of the world, the Pharisees move further away into deeper darkness. In the longer version of the Gospel the parents of the man born blind are questioned and try their best to remain non-committed. They are asked if this is their son, if he was born blind and, if so, how he can now see. They reply "Yes" to the first two questions, but refuse to comment on his new sight. "He is old enough. Let him speak for himself," they say, because they fear being expelled from the synagogue if they are perceived to be followers of Jesus. In the Gospels people either accept Jesus as the light, or they reject him, remaining in darkness. There is no middle road. Later, Jesus will insist that there is only one sign for those who claim to be his disciples, those who follow his light: they will love one another in the same way that he has loved us.

**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**



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

### MASSES

Tony Broster, Colette Allerton, Tony Barrow, Patricia Brandwood, Elizabeth Cleworth, Robert & Lily Farrimond, Hallinan Family, Ann Marsh, Ted O'Connor, Joseph Shovelton, Tony Shovelton, Successful Operation, Thanksgiving St Jude.

### 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.

### EASTER CARDS

Are now available in the card rack at the back of church.

### GIFT AID & OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Envelopes will again be distributed after both Masses this weekend.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### EASTER RAFFLE

If you wish to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, they are £1.50 each and will be placed on the Altar at Easter. Envelopes are at the back of church for your donation. Raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle will be on sale after Mass.

### SACRED HEART

#### REPOSITORY

Easter cards are now available in the shop and at the back of church.

### CHRISM MASS

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



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Mar 23 - May the certainty of faith be the engine of our lives.

Mar 22 - Even if we may be men and women of little faith, the Lord saves us. We must always have hope in the Lord!

Mar 21 - It is vital that we sow the seeds of goodness in order to cultivate justice, foster accord, and sustain integration, without growing weary.

Mar 19 - May St Joseph, Spouse of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church, bless you and watch over you. And best wishes to fathers!

Mar 18 - I invite you not to build walls but bridges, to conquer evil with good, offence with forgiveness, to live in peace with everyone.

Mar 17 - Fasting means not only abstaining from food, but also from any unhealthy attachment, and especially sin.



## 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 Parish this weekend - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



### HUNGER & JUSTICE

O God,  
To those who hunger, give bread,  
And to us who have bread,  
Give hunger for justice.



#### Reflect:

When we ask God for light, we are asking to know as God knows: good, bad, up, down, all of it. A good prayer is to ask the Father to let us know ourselves the way the Holy Spirit knows us, "for the Spirit searches the depths of everything, even the depths of God" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

God does everything to bring us light. In our turn, each of us must get ready to accept God's illumination. (Joseph Tetlow SJ)

#### Pray:

Lord of Light, let us not be blind to those we would rather not see - the destitute; the homeless; the hungry; the starving. Instead open our eyes to the needs of your people. Help us to recognise and cherish the uniqueness of each person, to see Christ in all people. We ask this through Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.

#### Act:

The same Jesus who passed by Bartimaeus is alive. The Good News is that no matter what has happened in our past, Jesus walks into the dusty streets of our lives this day. We simply need the eyes of living faith to see Him and a renewed heart to follow Him on the way. Prayer is the fuel which keeps living faith alive and keeps our eyes open to see.

Make extra time this week to open our hearts to Jesus revealing himself to us in our prayer and through our encounters with others. Where is Jesus passing through our own lives? He always shows up for those who have their spiritual eyes opened to see Him. Is He in our workplace? How about in our relationships? What about in our families?

#### Challenge:

Take time each day to pause and consider how God reveals himself to us in the beauty that surrounds us: in the song of birds; in the new growth bursting forth from our abundant earth; in the gentle breeze which refreshes us; in the stunning vastness of the night sky; in the face of those we meet as our paths converge on our journey through life.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	£1,735.25
<b>S.V.P.</b>	£ 548.62
<b>CAFOD</b>	£ 883.16

Thank you for your generosity.

## SICK

Colette Allerson, 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: Sophie Marie Bennett and Adam James Bennett, Isabelle Rebecca Marie Hather, Nathaniel Vincent Ganley

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Jill Mary Adams, Roy Gibson

Eternal rest grant unto them ...



## 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.

## LENT REFLECTIONS

### Care of our common home

Fridays 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March & 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> September 1921 and he died on 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SILENT RETREAT

April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

Weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Responding to the Call

### Vocation Discernment Group

To support those exploring Vocations to the Priesthood in our diocese, a monthly day of recollection has been organised for the first Saturday of each month. These days will help men who feel called to ordained ministry to discover more about diocesan priesthood and meet others discerning a call to priesthood. There will be an opportunity to talk with and hear from priests who minister in the diocese, and also a time for prayer and discussion.

The next day of recollection will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St. Charles' Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool. For further information, please contact Fr James Preston, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, at frjamespreston@gmail.com or telephone: 0151 727 2493. Regular updates will be posted on our Facebook page: Archdiocese of Liverpool Vocations.

## ST JOSEPH'S PLAYERS

Present

*Agatha Christie's*

## GO BACK FOR MURDER

Produced by Donna Wood

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh, WN7 2PR

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets adults £8 16yrs and under £4

Box Office Spectrum Blinds (Stones Carpets) Chapel St.

Bar Raffle & Refreshments



## 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 25 March

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Robinson

### Sun 26 March

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Laetare Sunday)**

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

### Mon 27 March

#### **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Eileen & John Tyrer Anni

### Tue 28 March

#### **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Tom, Terence & Bernard Ward (anniv.)

### Wed 29 March

#### **Weekday of Lent**

StAB 7.30am MASS  
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Edith Smith Anni  
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

### Thu 30 March

#### **Weekday of Lent**

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Successful Operation  
SH 12.00noon MASS Jack Travis (sick)  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Fri 31 March

#### **Weekday of Lent**

HF 6.30am MASS  
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
OLR 10.00am MASS Brian Downes L.D.  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Ellen Squires Anni

### Sat 1 April

#### **Weekday of Lent**

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
SH 12.00noon MASS Catherine Hoy (anniv.)  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary & Karol Gredecki

### Sun 2 April

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

StJ 8.30am MASS Mr Crompton R.I.P.  
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area  
StJ 10.30am MASS Alan Ratcliffe Birthday memorial  
OLR 11.00am MASS Margaret Atherton  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** The numbers drawn on 17<sup>th</sup> March were 19, 26, 29. There was no winner of £28. The jackpot for 17<sup>th</sup> March was estimated at £55.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 004, J Waterfield; £5, 064, D Davies; £3, 213, M Collins; £2, 191, M Collins.

**Bonus Ball** No. 43, F Rasburn

### 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)

