

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

2 April 2017



## Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

## Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

## REFLECTION

The Gospel story presents us with a scene which, alas, is all too familiar to us – people weeping over the death of a loved one. Of all the causes of tears, death is perhaps the worst culprit. Death is like winter, only worse. In nature's winter, despite appearances to the contrary, life does not cease. It merely goes underground. The outward dies, but not the core. But in the winter of death, life seems to cease altogether. Death seems to rob us of everything.

When the winter of death came for Lazarus, his sisters Martha and Mary, were plunged into grief. It is natural, right and healthy that people should grieve when death robs them of a friend or a family member. But Jesus didn't leave them alone in their grief. He came to them and shared their grief. He was so overcome with sorrow that he broke down. The very act of breaking down tells us more about his heartfelt sympathy than a thousand words could say. But he didn't leave it at that. He challenged them to have faith in him. He said to them, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even though they die, they will live ... do you believe this?" And Martha said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world." It can't have been easy for them to believe as all the evidence was against them. Nevertheless, they believed. Faith isn't always easy for us either. Our faith is so often tested to the full by our health, the health and the loss of loved ones and by so much more besides.

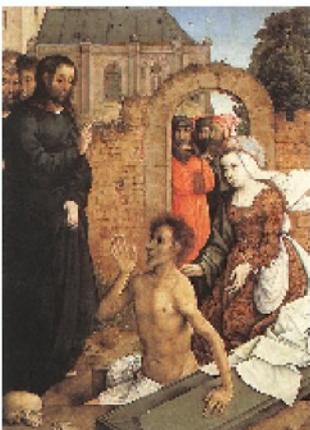
Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is one of the greatest statements in the whole of the Gospels. It means that Jesus holds the key to life and death. Though he himself experienced the winter of death, by rising from the dead in our mortal humanity, he broke the power of death forever. He entered the dark kingdom of death, and emerged victorious. Thus he has become a pathfinder for us. He has caused a new and invincible spring to dawn on all those who believe in him. We can sometimes feel sad at the onset of winter. And it's hard to believe in spring when we see the snow on the hills and feel a bitter wind on our faces. However, we must never be too despondent because we know that spring will eventually renew everything again. In the same way, we are sad when the winter of death claims the life of a loved one, and when we think of our own death one day. What must sustain us is our faith in Christ Jesus. Eternal life is not something that begins when we die. It begins the moment we hear the voice of Jesus and believe in him. Thus, even in the midst of winter, we know that spring is already quietly at work, though its full blossoming is still in the future.

**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

Stephen Barlow, Raymond Buck, Alf Case, Francis Joseph Lappin, Jimmy Maxwell, Albert Sankey, Nithy Thomas, Special Intention

### 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.

### MID WEEK MASS

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, Mass will be in the Green Room, The school's Easter presentation 'Moods of Easter' means that the stage will be up in front of the Altar. Friday will be back to normal.

**Moods of Easter Wednesday 6.00pm. All Welcome**

### TWELVE APOSTLES CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you to the ladies and gentleman that cleaned Twelve Apostles church last week, your efforts are much appreciated.

### 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.

#### CHURCH CLEANING

We are asking for help to clean our church on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. If you are able to help, please come along at 10am. Many hands make light work. Tea & biscuits will be provided.

### 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. Altar servers from all over the archdiocese are made welcome to serve at the cathedral. Bring your alb and your parents!



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Mar 30 - Prayer is powerful. Prayer conquers evil. Prayer brings peace.

Mar 29 - The peace that springs from faith is a gift: it is the grace of feeling that God loves us and that he is always beside us.

Mar 28 - If we learn to read everything in the light of the Holy Spirit, we realize that everything is grace!

Mar 27 - Caring for the sacred gift of all human life, from conception to death, is the best way of preventing every type of violence.

Mar 26 - Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Mar 25 - The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of bringing about the conversion of hearts.

Mar 24 - Let us remember our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering persecution for their faith. May we be united with them.

Mar 24 - Fasting is fruitful when accompanied by concrete expressions of love towards our neighbours, especially those in difficulty.

### EMERGENCY APPEAL

Hunger on a massive scale is looming across East Africa. Drought and conflict have left 16 million people on the brink of starvation. People are already dying in South Sudan and Somalia.

In Kenya, the government has declared a national emergency and Ethiopia is battling a new wave of drought following the strongest El Nino on record.

Women, children and older people are suffering the most; more than 800,000 children under five are severely malnourished. Without immediate treatment, they are at risk of starving to death.

DEC member charities are already delivering life-saving assistance in all affected countries.

Thank you for your generosity in last weeks emergency appeal for East Africa. £1,827.33 was raised.

The Lenten CAFOD Appeal will remain open until the end of Lent.



#### Reflect:

In the reading of the raising of Lazarus we are told that 'Jesus wept'. It is important that we recognise not only the Divinity of Jesus, but also his humanity. He was a man who was born as we are, suffered as we do, had the same emotions as we do. What would you do if you met him today, crying for someone whom he loved? What would you say to Jesus?

#### Pray:

Lord, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Help us to have the faith and courage

to walk your ways,

speaking your truths and

live the life you have given us

to the full

#### Act:

Each day on the news we see images of war torn countries, lands ravaged by hunger, camps for displaced persons, children suffering, parents in tears of frustration unable to make any difference to the horror that is the life forced on them by external forces. This week make a difference, even if it's only in a small way – donate to the CAFOD Emergency Appeal; buy fairtrade goods; support local producers of food, thereby reducing the food miles; reduce fuel consumption by turning your thermostat down, etc. Just a few simple actions which, when performed by many, can make a difference.....

#### Challenge:

What sort of person would I be if I reached the full human potential God wants for me? Would I like to become that person? If so, what changes do I need to make in my life to become that person?

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,810.14  
**CAFOD** £1,827.33

Thank you for your generosity.

## SICK

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

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Brenda O'Dwyer, Jill Mary Adams, Roy Gibbson.  
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? We have had very interesting meetings: do come for the last one.

## THE TRIDUUM

**Maundy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Our Lady of the Rosary 7.30pm Watching till 10.00pm  
St Joseph's 7.30pm Watching till 10.00pm

### Good Friday

St Joseph's	Morning Prayer	9.00am
	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
	Walk of Witness	11.00am
Sacred Heart	The Lord's Passion	3.00pm
St Joseph's	The Lord's Passion	3.00pm
St Joseph's	Meditation at the Cross	7.00pm

### Holy Saturday

Twelve Apostles	Easter Vigil	8.00pm
St Joseph's	Easter Vigil	7.30pm

## HOLY LAND EASTER CARDS

Eighty-one cards were sent last week to Jerusalem for onward transmission to the Church of the Visitation, Zababdeh and the Church of Our Lady, Woman of Valour, Tel Aviv. The airmail postage cost was £14.25. The cards from the Carmelite Monastery cost £35. Generous donations (£55.44) were received, leaving £6.19 for the CAFOD Emergency collection on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

## UNWANTED READING SPECTACLES

Many thanks for all those given for Afghan women refugees in Pakistan, who make a meagre living by sewing & embroidery.

## 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.



**LIVERPOOL  
LOURDES  
PILGRIMAGE**

## Lourdes - A Place for All

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes contact us (the Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association) in total confidence via our website or by calling 07484 911 623.

To volunteer for any of our support teams please visit our website at: [Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk](http://Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk)



The Three Towns Operatic Society  
proudly present

**H.M.S. Pinafore**

and

**Trial by Jury**

by Gilbert & Sullivan

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm

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

Two shows for the price of one! Tickets: £11 & £13  
Concessions available.

Contact 01942 676594, 01942 605369

or call in at The Baby Centre, 15 Queen Street, Leigh  
01942 665615

## 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 1 April

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

### Mon 3 April

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Ian Johnson R.I.P.

### Tue 4 April

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
SH 12.00noon MASS Fr James Haws R.I.P.

### Wed 5 April

#### Weekday of Lent

StAB 7.30am MASS  
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
12A NO MASS  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Desmond Fitzmartin  
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

### Thu 6 April

#### Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
StJ 9.00am MASS Steven Naylor Anni  
SH 12.00noon MASS Danny Smith (anniv.)  
followed by Stations of the Cross

### Fri 7 April

#### Weekday of Lent

HF 6.30am MASS  
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer  
(OLR) 10.00am MASS at MOSS BANK COURT Alice Sharkey (99<sup>th</sup> birthday)  
OLR 11.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Brenda O'Dwyer  
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Jill Mary Adams  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Ken & Betty Sroka RIP

### Sat 8 April

#### Weekday of Lent

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
OLR 12.00noon MASS Bertha & Thomas Hunter (birthday anniv.)  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 9 April

#### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS Anthony Sutton RIP  
SH 9.30am MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr. (anniv.)  
StJ 10.30am MASS James Winstanley Anni  
OLR 11.00am MASS Special Intention (J & A)  
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

**Sacred Heart Lottery** The numbers drawn on 24<sup>th</sup> March were 1, 10, 21. There was no winner of £56. The jackpot for 31<sup>st</sup> March was estimated at £84.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £50, 354, C & T Ellis; £10, 346, M Moore; £5, 015, S Wilkinson; £3, 266, N Flynn; £2, 156, J Evans.

**Bonus Ball** No. 28 T 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  
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