

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

23 April 2017



Responsorial Psalm

**Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe".**

Alleluia

REFLECTION

The first disciples of Jesus had the rare privilege of knowing him whilst he walked the roads of Palestine. They saw what he did; they heard what he said; they touched him and were touched by him. Travelling around with Jesus they saw him at work: preaching, healing, forgiving, challenging, praying, eating, struggling, suffering and dying. During his public ministry Jesus was gradually revealing himself through everything he did, not just by what he said. Sometimes we imagine that everything must have been very clear to the disciples, but the Gospels remind us that many of the things Jesus did and said actually confused them. During Jesus' public ministry the disciples could not see for themselves the whole truth about Jesus: they came to that truth only after the resurrection when they received from Jesus the Spirit of truth. Jesus informs the disciples in John's Gospel: "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything to remind you of all I have said to you." It is only when the disciples receive the Holy Spirit that they can fully answer the question, "Who do people say that I am?"

When the disciples receive the Spirit this new experience opens up the significance of their past with Jesus. They can now remember and understand the mighty deeds and words of Jesus. They become the first witnesses who could testify from their experience to the truth about Jesus. As long as the early Christian community had the first followers of Jesus among them, the community's understanding of Jesus was rooted in those who knew him personally. But what happens when there are no more witnesses who knew Jesus first hand? Does the memory of Jesus fade away? How can the people of God speak about Jesus in a compelling way when no one can see him? This is precisely the problem that the evangelist John faces in today's Gospel. The apostle Thomas is absent when Jesus appears to the others, and he cannot believe that Jesus is risen because he cannot see him. This is a story for everyone who was not present with the disciples on Easter evening – and this obviously includes ourselves. Today's Gospel builds a bridge between those who have seen the Risen Jesus and those who have not: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe."

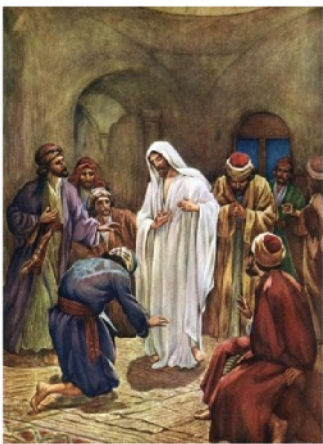
We know from experience that it isn't easy to believe in someone we cannot see for ourselves. But we also know that many people who DID see Jesus still did not believe in him. Seeing does not necessarily lead to believing. The apostles have a unique position in the Church because they saw and they believed, and they were commissioned to share that belief with others. If they did not believe would we have our faith today? So the sentiments expressed in the First Letter of Saint Peter are addressed to us: "You did not see him, yet you loved him." The fact that we gather at Mass is a sign of our belief and a declaration of our love. Future generations depend on us to hand on what we have received so that they too can have life through the name of Jesus. If we all do that, there will never be an end to Jesus' story.

**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

Teresa Cooney, Margaret Fleming, Tom & Betty Kennedy, Kieran Moss, Agnes Wilkinson,

WELCOME

We offer our prayers, congratulations and a warm welcome to Janice Andrew, Catherine Burgess and Connor Bates who were received into the Catholic Church at the Celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph's.

RED MISSION BOXES

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to the presbytery on Monday 24th April. Thank you.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

EASTER RAFFLE

There are still some unclaimed prizes from the raffle. Please check your tickets.

GARDENING DAY

We need help to keep our garden looking lovely. If you are able to help, please come along on Tuesday 25th at 10.00am. Your help is much appreciated.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Hour of Grace devotions will take place in Holy Family church today, Sunday 23rd April, beginning with Exposition and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3.00pm. Reconciliation will be available during the hour which will conclude with sung Benediction at 4.00pm.

ST GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

Sunday 23rd April at 2.00pm.

We welcome today the Uniformed Groups who will be holding their annual service at St Joseph's. All welcome.



He is Risen! Alleluia!



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Apr 20 - Since Christ is resurrected, we can look with new eyes and a new heart at every event of our lives, even the most negative ones.

Apr 19 - Let us meditate with wonder and gratitude on the great mystery of the Lord's Resurrection.

Apr 18 - During this week of Easter it would do us good every day to read a passage from the Gospel which speaks of the Resurrection of Christ.

Apr 17 - Yes, we are sure of it: Christ indeed from death is risen!

Apr 16 - Happy Easter! May you bring to all the joy and hope of the Risen Christ!

Apr 15 - Today is the celebration of our hope, the celebration of this truth: nothing and no one will ever be able to separate us from God's love.

Apr 14 - O Cross of Christ, teach us that the rising of the sun is more powerful than the darkness of night, and God's eternal love wins always.

Apr 13 - It is good for us to break out of our set ways, because it is proper to the Heart of God to overflow with tenderness, with ever more to give.

Lives simply

Lives simply

'God, our Father, is continually drawing each of us to Himself in and through Christ. We experience his action in our feelings, moods, impulses and desires.' *Father George Aschenbrenner.*

This week we take time to consider the ways in which we respond to our place in creation by asking ourselves a series of questions and meditating on our response to them.

Ecological Examen by: Joseph Carver, S.J.

All creation reflects the beauty and blessing of God's image. Where was I most aware of this today?

Can I identify and pin-point how I made a conscious effort to care for God's creation during this day?

What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?

How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation, in my unspoken sense of superiority?

As I imagine tomorrow, I ask for the grace to see the Incarnate Christ in the dynamic interconnections of all Creation.

Conclude with the Prayer of Jesus

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ Not yet available
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

Justyna Shacherbatiuk, Frances Shortis, Agnes Wilkinson, Jean Newgent, James Kieran Francis Moss,

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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.

ARC Renewal Conference/Gathering

5th –12th August 2017
Bewerley Park, North Yorkshire HG3 5JB

"I realise now how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"
Acts 10:34-35

A relaxed conference catering for all
Established for 34 years, we offer; daily talks, children's groups, Youth groups, Mass, worship and many opportunities to share in community life.
Excellent facilities on site - low cost camping and residential (some en suite) disabled (en suite) places available.

Contact Caroline Shevelan or Chris Rolfe-Moore
07769680259 crolfemoore@hotmail.co

NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

Visiting Lindisfarne, Seahouses and Durham, Monday 18th to Thursday 21st September 2017, led by Fr Ron Johnson. £295 per person. Please call 0151 733 5492 for further information.

EASTER

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:
New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

St Joseph the Worker	Monday 1 May
World Day of Prayer for Vocations	Sunday 7 May
World Communications Day	Sunday 28 May
The Church especially at Pentecost	Sunday 4 June



The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present
H.M.S. Pinafore
and

Trial by Jury
by Gilbert & Sullivan

Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th 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
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 25th April to Saturday 29th April
Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets adults £8 16yrs and under £4
Box Office Spectrum Blinds (Stones Carpets) Chapel St.
Bar Raffle & Refreshments

April 29th - Fête du Vin

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall
At 7.30pm £10.00 per person
Come along to an evening of wine tasting
Bread and cheese included to help soak it up
Spare bottles of wine will be auctioned
Sponsored by the Catenian Association
Please contact Des (07973 114365)
or Eamonn (01942 892967) for tickets

Animate Youth Ministries

LIFE & SOUL +

A night of Adoration and Praise and Worship
STARTS AT 7:00PM TO 8:00PM
VENUE & DATE
St John's, 13 Powell Street, Wigan, WN1 1XD
Wednesday, 26th April 2017

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

Sat 22 April

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Joan Glover

Sun 23 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DAY OF DIVINE MERCY

StJ 8.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

SH 9.30am MASS Caitlin Bradbury (get well)

StJ 10.30am MASS Jack Parr Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Anne Devlin anniv.

StR NO Sunday evening Masses in our Pastoral Area today

Mon 24 April

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT GEORGE, MARTYR, PATRON OF ENGLAND

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Margaret Brown (nee Davies) R.I.P.

SH 1.00pm FUNERAL MASS Justyna Shacherbatiuk

Tue 25 April

FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Frances Shortis

Wed 26 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OLR 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Agnes Wilkinson

StJ 7.00pm MASS Elizabeth Frost Anni

Thu 27 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Julie Locke Birthday memorial

SH 12.00noon MASS Our Lady & St Jude

12A 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Jean Newgent

Fri 28 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OLR 10.00am MASS Ann Burford

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS James Kieran Francis Moss

Sat 29 April

FEAST OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN & DOCTOR PATRON OF EUROPE

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon MASS John Robinson

12A 5.30pm MASS Brian Keavney

Sun 30 April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Margaret Fleming Anni

SH 9.30am MASS 18th Birthday (J.S.)

StJ 10.30am MASS Alf Case Anni

OLR 11.00am MASS Terry Jones (anniv.)

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 21st April are on display on the porch notice board.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 080 M& D Flannery £5 No. 302 M Moore, £3 No. 458 K Jones, £2 No. 170 M Roach

Bonus Ball No. 48 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 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
Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280
Email: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk