

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

30 April 2017



Responsorial Psalm

Show us Lord, the path of life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel two disciples are struggling to make sense of a recent event: the death of Jesus. They leave Jerusalem as the place where their hopes met with defeat. When a stranger joins them on the road, they tell their story of disappointment. Jesus, the only one they had hoped would set Israel free, is now dead. In their story it becomes clear that they cannot hold two things together: their hope in Jesus and his death. The death of Jesus has cancelled out their hope. They feel hopeless and helpless. They cannot understand how the death of Jesus can be seen as anything more than a tragic end to a life of great promise. Like most people they believe that if you haven't achieved what you set out to do before your death, you will never achieve it in death itself. When you are dead, it's too late for anything. Death, for the two disciples, is the end of the road of promise. So the disciples mourn not only the death of Jesus but the death of their relationship with him. Now they are ex-disciples of a dead prophet.

Only when they have finished their own story does the stranger begin his own. He invites them to look at the past again, this time in the light of scripture. He gives a wholly different interpretation of the same event as he sees the death of Jesus as something which was essential for the salvation of all people. According to the stranger, the death of Jesus was the achievement of his mission, not the end of it! As the stranger helps the two disciples to make sense of the past in a new light, they respond by inviting him to stay with them. When they go to table they break bread together. The stranger reveals himself as he breaks bread. He is the Risen Jesus, and he leaves them with hearts that burn and with eyes that see. Not only does he help them to interpret the past in the new experience of him as Lord, he gives them a new future. They can now face Jerusalem in the dark, and they return there to share their story with the others.

In their experience of Jesus as Lord, the disciples' past is changed. They can now revisit the past with the new light and the new love that they have experienced. They take the light of Easter Sunday back into the darkness of Good Friday, and everything looks different now. Only the Risen Jesus makes sense of everything that went before. In his Word and in the breaking of the bread the past is brought up to date. The past is now interpreted in the light of the great truth that Jesus is risen and Jesus is Lord. When we gather for the Eucharist we too listen to the Word of God and break bread together. Jesus comes among us not as the stranger; rather, he comes to us in word and sacrament to give us new hope to face the future with faith in him. Our own stories may now sound very different from the two disciples journeying to Emmaus. Our own lives may be full of disappointment. We too may have a past that makes little sense to us. But we are invited to tell our stories to the Lord, to listen to him as he speaks his Word, and to recognize him in the breaking of bread and in each other. Only then can we look with understanding at the past, and with hope look to the future.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



MASSES

Brian Ashton, The Byrne Family, Deceased Members of the Cunningham Family, Pauline Francis, Edel Quinn, Peter Smith, Agnes Wilkinson,

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed after Mass each weekday during the month of May.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

EASTER RAFFLE

There are still some unclaimed prizes from the raffle, the numbers are: 444, 554, 555 & 588 Please check your tickets.

COFFEE MORNING

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass next Sunday. Everyone welcome.

THANK YOU

Fr Kieran and Fr Colin would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts over Easter, they are very much appreciated.

A very big thank you also to all those who helped to prepare the churches for Easter and who are involved in the life of our parish. Your support throughout the year and especially at Easter is much needed and welcomed.

God bless

Fr Kieran & Fr Colin



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Apr 27 - Please pray for my journey tomorrow as a pilgrim of peace to Egypt.

Apr 26 - Let's promote friendship and respect between men and women of different religious traditions in order to build a world of peace.

Apr 25 - He died, He was buried, He rose and He appeared. Jesus is alive! This is the heart of the Christian message.

Apr 24 - If we had God's Word always in our heart, no temptation could separate us from God.

Apr 23 - Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father's mercy and bringing it to the world.

Apr 23 - God's mercy is forever; it never ends, it never runs out, it never gives up when faced with closed doors, and it never tires.

Apr 22 - Lord, bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Apr 21 - When we have reached the lowest point of our misery and our weakness, the Risen Christ gives us the strength to rise again.

Reflect:

Many people find the Emmaus story really helps at times when they are at a low point in their lives. As in the case of the disciples, Jesus may not be visibly present in our difficulties and then somehow we know he IS there for us, we know he is raised and his loving presence accompanies us in a dark journey of life.

Jesus went to his disciples. Somehow he knew that his followers were in darkness and maybe despair. This is the call of the church today – to be with each other in prayer, community and service always. And especially for those who are on what Pope Francis calls 'the peripheries of life'. Most of us spend some time there, and appreciate the help of love and faith.

Pray:

Meet us, Lord, on the road to Emmaus,
Guide us on the path toward our destination,
and renew our strength as we continue to walk
and commune with you.

Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your presence around us;

Open our hearts, so we may receive your peace and love;
and empower us to pass on to others
the grace you have shared with us so freely.

Act:

The disciples told their story of Jesus in the here and now. Not reminiscing on what things were once like in Galilee. Notice this week where the Lord is present - in love, in care, in creation, in an uplift of joy, in prayer and in the Eucharist.

Challenge:

The disciples immediately felt the need to tell the story of how they were changed. Faith grows in sharing it. If we are honest and open with each other in faith, the faith of everyone grows. Every journey of life can be an Emmaus journey where we meet the Lord. Every altar can be the altar of Emmaus, and indeed every meal can be a time of friendship, care and nourishment for body and for soul.

Is there an opportunity this week to share with others what you believe?

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

May is the month when Catholics traditionally focus on Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The practice dates back at least 700 years and is still observed around the world today. May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary, who brought life into the world.

MAY DEVOTIONS

This month of devotions in the Church's calendar is characterised by special hymns and the use of flowers, which bring nature into the church. There are several Marian feast days in May, including Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The celebration of May as a holy month for Mary has been ratified by several popes through the ages. Pope Benedict XV ordered a prayer for peace in 1915 during World War I and Pope Pius XII called for May devotions in 1939, at the start of World War II.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	16/04/2017	£ 3,310.57
	23/04/2017	£ 2,074.14

Thank you for your generosity.
The retiring collection at all our churches next weekend will be on behalf of the Priest's Training Fund.

SICK

Colette Allerston, 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:
James Tobias Little, Zachary Patrick Neylon, Cooper Causby.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Vera Greyson, Joan Arrowsmith, Peter Roderick Smith, Derrick Morris, Caitlin Bradbury.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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

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

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 6th May 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.

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.



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

Stevie Williams and the Most Wanted Band:

COOL music by this blisteringly good band! Come and listen to a hugely enjoyable programme of music that ranges from vintage blues; Country; modern and classic Americana all with sheer class.

At St Stephen's Church, Astley - Saturday 6th May 7.00 for 7.30pm.

Tickets - Adults £10 Children FREE. Raffle and Wine Bar. Pay on the door.



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 29 April

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY 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

Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Nithy Thomas Anni

Tue 2 May

Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Julia Gallagher L.D.

SH 1.30pm FUNERAL SERVICE Vera Gregson

Wed 3 May

FEAST OF SAINTS PHILIP & JAMES, APOSTLES

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 10.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Joan Arrowsmith

12A 10.15am MASS Winifred Robinson

StJ 12.00noon MASS Lucy Jones Anni

Thu 4 May

FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Successful Operation (PF)

SH 12.00noon MASS Margaret Davey (anniv.)

Fri 5 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

(OLR) 10.00am MASS at MOSS BANK COURT Special Intention (CB)

StJ 12.00noon MASS Don McGrail R.I.P.

Sat 6 May

Weekday of Easter

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Frank & Martha Prescott (birthday anniv.)

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Margaret Jackson L.D.

Sun 7 May

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Day of Special Prayer for Vocations

StJ 8.30am MASS Winifred Langford Anni

SH 9.30am MASS Frances Shortis L.D.

StJ 10.30am MASS Jessica McSorley R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 21st April were 15, 16, 26. There was no winner of £102. Last Friday's jackpot was estimated at £130.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 222, K Jones; £5, 477, J Evans; £3, 300, c Ellis; £2, 134, C Ackers.

Bonus Ball No. 24 N 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
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Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

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