

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7 May 2017



Responsorial Psalm

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.**

Alleluia

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Jesus gives a warning about people who have no care for others except to take advantage of them and exploit them for their own selfish purposes. He says anyone who gets into the sheepfold and does not use the gate is up to no good. The gate is the open entrance into the fold where the sheep safely graze. The gate is a pathway of honest approach. If we approach people in a sly manner we can be accused of being up to no good and people would have every reason to mistrust us. A true shepherd uses the gate. The sheep see the shepherd and know they are safe. The shepherd's voice is familiar and to be trusted and the sheep feel secure. Every good parent or guardian knows this. Children look to those who care for them. Those who feel vulnerable look to those closest to them or those who care for them most to feel secure and free from harm. They stay close to them for guidance and encouragement.

The story Jesus uses in today's Gospel is suited for anyone in positions of pastoral care. Sometimes we can be career people, working for ourselves with no real care for anyone else. Everything that applies to bishops, priests or deacons in the Church applies equally to all of us who have roles of responsibility towards others in life. Jesus sometimes had occasion to remark on the way of the religious leaders of his day, whose only interest was in taking the best seats in the synagogues and in being greeted "obsequiously" in the market place. They liked to wear the finest clothes yet they had no time to help the poor and needy.

Jesus, who is our great shepherd today, is also the innocent lamb who was led to the slaughter. Speaking about this, Saint Peter describes to us how the Lord in his suffering left us an example to follow. He never lied. He never returned any insults. He never threatened anyone, even when he was being tortured. The Lamb of God went to his death teaching us to be wise and gentle with one another. His wounds heal our ills.

Peter's call to us today is stark in its message: "Save yourselves from this perverse generation." Every age has its evils and the exploitation of the innocents has raised its ugly features in our time, in our world and even, sadly, in our Church. Peter told the people to "repent of your sins and be converted to the Lord once more". If we do, the Holy Spirit will come upon us and we will become shepherds of the sheep. The Spirit can help us become more like Jesus in our own world, and in our most magnificent vocation in loving and caring for others. As we try our very best to do this let us pray that we may listen to the one voice of our Good Shepherd calling us to follow him. May the Good Shepherd help us to direct others in the footsteps of the Lord.

**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

Caitlin Bradbury, Mary Evans, Thomas Farlington, Alice Flannery, Eleanor Heaton, Frances Hilton, Kieran Moss, Alan Ratcliffe, Benjamin & David Robinson, Deceased Members of the Yates Family

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On Saturday 13th May our Year 4 children will be celebrating their First Holy Communion at a special Mass at 10.00 am. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

MAY PROCESSION

This year's May Procession will be held on Sunday 14th May at 12.00 noon, after the 10.30am Mass. Please come along to hour of Our Lady. You are invited to bring a small bunch of flowers to place at her Altar.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th May at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

PIETY STALL

There are First Communion cards and a few rosary beads available in the card rack at the back of church.

GARDENING DAY

Our next Gardening Day will be on Saturday 20th May at 10.00am. Please come along if you are able to and help to keep our gardens lovely.

THE HOLY ROSARY

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

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

COFFEE MORNING

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

PIETY STALL

There is a collection of gifts and cards available for First Holy Communion on the Piety Stall.

SACRED HEART

The second Sunday of the month is our regular time for tea and coffee after Mass. Please stay next week and greet friends old and new.

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed before Mass on Tuesdays during May.

FIRST COMMUNION

During the month of May our Year 4 children will make their First Holy Communion. We welcome them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith. Please note that the first few benches at the front of the church will be reserved for our children and their families.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

May 4 - Let us allow ourselves to be surprised by the newness that Christ alone can give. May his tenderness and love guide our steps.

May 3 - May our attitude be gentle and humble, attentive to caring for the poor.

May 2 - Let's work together to increase solidarity and sharing. Cooperation helps to build better and more peaceful societies.

May 1 - May Saint Joseph give young people the ability to dream, to take risks for big tasks, the things that God dreams for us.

Apr 30 - By his resurrection, Jesus Christ has set us free from the slavery of sin and death, and has opened before us the way to eternal life.

Apr 29 - The presence of Jesus can be communicated through our lives and the language of gratuitous and concrete love.

Apr 28 - May the Lord today grant us to set out together as pilgrims of communion and messengers of peace.

Apr 28 - We are called to walk together, in the conviction that the future also depends on the encounter of religions and cultures.

Or lives simply

Reflect:

The fourth Sunday after Easter is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' or 'Vocation Sunday'. In Jesus's time and even now, in the Middle East a shepherd does not use dogs, but walks ahead of the flock and the sheep follow him. The sheep rely on the shepherd to feed them, protect them, they recognise his voice. The shepherd is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep - he is totally committed to them.

This Sunday is also 'Vocations Sunday'. Whilst there is a critical shortage of priests and religious, each of us is called in our own particular way to a life lived in Christ. For most of us our vocation is probably what we are doing now. But do we ever consider if this is our true vocation, or a role we have wandered into? How is what I am doing giving witness to my Christian faith on a daily basis?

Pray:

I become still and take time to reflect on the presence of God all around me, within me. I listen intently: Among the many voices speaking to me in my heart, do I recognise his voice calling me? I look at the path he is showing me, inviting me to follow him, and offering me the protection of his arms. What response do I make? Finally, I bring my prayer to a close and give glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act:

Take time to recognise the vocation you live and ask yourself - How am I a shepherd for others in my life? Do I feed those who are hungry, protect those in need of protection, reveal God's word to those who are searching? To what extent am I a spreader of truth, of love, of justice, of freedom, of tolerance and acceptance...?

Challenge:

What keeps me from following Christ? Have the courage to change this.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,783.41

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

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joan Ganley, Caitlin Bradbury, Peter Roderick Smith,

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.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations Sunday 7 May
World Communications Day Sunday 28 May
The Church especially at Pentecost Sunday 4 June

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.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Along with the newsletter this week please take a copy of the Archbishop's letter, with the statistics highlighting the number of priests currently serving in our Archdiocese.
The Archbishop has asked for all Deaneries, clergy and people, to meet to discuss the way forward. The meeting for our Deanery will take place on Wednesday 24th May, 7.45pm at St Joseph's Main Hall.



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.

Marian Prayer for the Easter Season

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia,
For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen, as he foretold, alleluia;
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.

God our Father, you give joy to the world by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of His Mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.



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 6 May

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

Mon 8 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Don McGrail R.I.P.

Tue 9 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Deceased members Minister family

Wed 10 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Peter Smith

Thu 11 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00 noon FUNERAL MASS Joan Ganley
SH 12.00noon MASS Edna McLoughlin L.D.

Fri 12 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR NO MASS
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Caitlin Bradbury

Sat 13 May

FEAST OF DEDICATION OF LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING

OLR **NO Exposition & Reconciliation**

OLR **NO MASS**
StJ 10.00am FIRST COMMUNION MASS Benjamin & David Robinson Anni.

StJ 12.00noon MASS

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 14 May

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Tom & Betty Kennedy Birthday Memorial
SH 9.30am MASS Marian Woodward R.I.P.
StJ 10.30am MASS Reginald Squires Anni.
OLR **11.15am** MASS Peter Purcell
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

N.B. The gates of the Mather Room Car Park will be open for all three of the funerals this week

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 28th April were 2, 11, 15. There was no winner of £136. Last Friday's jackpot was estimated at £170.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 335 N Jones; £5, 493, J Waterfiels, £3, 20, 2, C Baker, £2, 269, C & T Ellis.

Bonus Ball No. 7 Luke

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

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

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