

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

21 May 2017



Responsorial Psalm

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him."

Alleluia

REFLECTION

The parting of friends is never easy. But some partings are harder than others. The most painful parting of all happens when someone dies. It is the finality which makes this parting so painful, and the fact that we can do nothing about it. On the night before he died Jesus talked openly to his disciples about his own death. Except that he didn't speak of death in the way we would usually do. He spoke of death as a kind of "going away", of "going to the Father". But all the disciples heard was that he was leaving them. He wasn't abandoning them, which is what they could well have thought. He was not rejecting them, as people sometimes do when they "leave" someone. There is a "leaving" which is necessary because it is for the good of the one leaving. For example, a person leaving to return home or leaving to take up a better job somewhere else. Jesus' leaving is, to some extent, for his own good for he is returning to the Father in Heaven. However his leaving is also for the good of the disciples. He will leave them to their own gifts and talents and send them the gift of the Holy Spirit which will transform them. Perhaps this may not have happened had Jesus stayed with them. So his departure would not leave them unsupported and unguided, as they feared. He said to them, "I will not leave you orphans."

There is another promise that would bring the disciples great consolation as Jesus left them. Even as he spoke about leaving them, he spoke about coming back to them. He would come to them through the Spirit, and he would come to them himself. They did encounter him after the resurrection. And even though after the ascension they would see him no more, he assured them that he would still be with them, even to the very end of time. Jesus did not leave his disciples orphaned or desolate. By their faith they were able to "see" him, and through their obedience to his commandments, they were drawn into a loving communion with him. Jesus does not leave us orphaned. We too are called to his presence and to the gifts of the Holy Spirit just like the first disciples. Jesus is not meant to be present as a vague memory of a person who lived long ago, but as a real, life-giving presence who transforms our lives each day. Nowhere do we feel so close to him as when we receive him in the Eucharist. The food of the Eucharist gives us the strength to live out his Word, to live as his disciples each day and to recognize him in each other.

**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

Brian Ashton, Birthday, Frances & James Clarke, Kathryn Hourigan, Examination Successes, Brenda Taylor, Agnes Wilkinson,

THE HOLY ROSARY

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

THANK YOU

The family of Joan Ganley would like to thank all who attended her funeral Mass and for the many Mass cards, prayers cards, messages of sympathy and generous donations to Wigan & Leigh Hospice and the Priests' Training Fund.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

PIETY STALL

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

GARDENING DAY

Many thanks to all who help with the garden. We go every Tuesday at 10.00am, weather permitting. Please come along, even if you only have an hour to spare.

SACRED HEART

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed before Mass on Tuesday or Thursday 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.

REPOSITORY

Communion cards and small gifts are available in the little shop and in the baptistery at the back of church.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

May 18 - God makes His most beautiful flowers grow among the driest stones.

May 17 - Our hope is the Lord Jesus whom we recognize as living and present in us and in our brothers and sisters.

May 16 - Jesus asks to be looked in the eye, to be acknowledged, to be loved.

May 15 - Let us ask for the grace to follow Jesus faithfully, not in words but in deeds, and to have the patience to carry our own cross.

May 14 - Let us all ask for the gift to understand God's word.

May 13 - Fatima is more than anything this mantle of Light where we take refuge when we ask the Virgin Mary: "show unto us Jesus".

May 13 - Whenever we look to Mary, we come to believe once again in the revolutionary nature of love and tenderness.

May 12 - Here in Fatima, I give praise to Christ, our peace, and I implore for the world concord among all peoples.

May 12 - I ask everyone to join me as pilgrims of hope and peace: may your hands in prayer continue to support mine.

Or lives simply

Reflect:

Today's Gospel message can be summed up in the sentence "If you love me you will keep my commandments". What does this mean to me?

"Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others. There is an energy of love which is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. There are times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others.

Many of us do not realise that in this way we have been Christ-bearers. In listening to another, in care of all sorts, in putting ourselves out for the other, in working for justice and for peace the Spirit of God is alive and people are touched by God's love through the co-operation of ordinary men and women.

Lord, make our love cheerful and kind. Let us know always that human love reflects your love."

Donal Neary SJ

St Teresa's prayer

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks, with compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, you are his eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes through which he looks, with compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Act:

Acknowledge the presence of the people in your life. Show them you care by taking time to be with them, talk with them, listen to them; perform an act of kindness for them. Thank them for the things they do to make your life special that show you how much you are loved.

Challenge:

It's easy to show our love for those who surround us every day, our families, our friends and acquaintances. But what about those whom we do not know - those who are struggling to make ends meet; the sick and housebound; the mentally impaired; the friendless; those on the margins of society; the homeless person in the street; refugees seeking to escape the terrors of their own country?

What practical thing can I do this week to express my solidarity with those less fortunate than myself?

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,682.00
Priests' Training Fund £ total not yet received
S.V.P. £ 350.00
Next weekend there will be a retiring collection in all our churches for the purpose of World Communications.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2017

... is celebrated on Sunday 28th May. The theme is 'Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time' and its inspiration comes from Scripture - Isaiah 43:5 "Fear not, for I am with you."

SICK

Colette Allerston, Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Mary Heneghan, Bernadette Higgins, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Josie & Aiden Newill.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Pat Windyke, Joseph Devlin, Harry Darby, Kathleen Denise Rowson, Nora Hurst, Angela Bailey.

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 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.

RESPONSE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER

As mentioned at all the Masses last weekend, we will be having a Deanery Open Meeting in Saint Joseph's Parish Hall on Wednesday May 24th at 7.45pm. This is in response to the Archbishop's letter concerning the shortage of priests and the numbers of people attending Mass - if you did not get a letter then there should still be some available at the back of church. The initial meeting on the 24th is to reflect on the Archbishop's letter and reflect together on the way ahead. All welcome.

Marian Prayers

Miraculous Medal Prayer

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee, and for those who do not have recourse to thee, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to thee. Amen.

Morning Offering

Dear Lord, I do not know what will happen to me today. I only know that nothing will happen that was not foreseen by You, and directed to my greater good from all eternity. I adore Your holy and unfathomable plans, and submit to them with all my heart for love of You, the Pope, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.



FR NEIL RITCHIE

Fr. Neil, former Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary and Twelve Apostles, will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination on Saturday, 3rd June at St Philip Neri church, 30 Catharine Street, Liverpool, L8 7NL, with Mass at 12 noon followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome. If there are quite a few people who want to go, a coach will be hired. There is a list at the back of church for people to sign.

JUSTICE AND PEACE

Next meeting at Saint Richard's (house), 7.30pm on Wednesday, 31st May. All welcome.

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Sunday 18th June 2017, 10.30am to 4.00pm is for boys in Years 2 and 4,
Sunday 25th June 2017 10.30am - 4.00pm is for girls in Year 5

Be a Chorister for a Day is for children who like singing, hard work and having fun.

Spend the day at the Metropolitan Cathedral with the choristers singing, playing, eating and exploring. This is an opportunity to find out what being a chorister is all about. For more details and to registers you place contact the Cathedral Music Office 0151 708 7283 music@metcathedral.org.uk

St Stephen's presents its Summer Concert

Spanish Connection

Salva Contreras Gila (Clarinet)

+

Javier Navascues (Cello)

10th June 2017

7.00 for 7.30pm Admission £10.00

Wine Bar + Raffle

St Stephen's, Manchester Rd Astley

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 20 May

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Timothy Stott

Sun 21 May

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Marie Fitzsimons
SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
StJ 10.30am MASS Eddie Trumble (Anni)
OLR 11.15am MASS Brenda O'Dwyer
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 22 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Ellenor Heaton Anni

Tue 23 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 7.00pm MASS Margaret Martin R.I.P.

Wed 24 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A NO MASS
OLR 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Joseph Devlin
StJ 12.00noon MASS Alan Ratcliffe Anni
StJ 7.45pm **Deanery Open Meeting in the Parish Hall**

Thu 25 May

Memorial of Saint Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Brenda Taylor R.I.P.
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Harry Darby
OLR 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Kathleen Denise Rowson

Fri 26 May

Memorial of Saint Philip Neri, Priest

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 10.00am MASS Monica Davies
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Pat Windyke

Sat 27 May

FEAST OF SAINT AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 12.00noon MASS Winifred Robinson
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 28 May

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

World Communications Day

StJ 8.30am MASS Terence & John Donohue Anni
SH 9.30am MASS James Flanagan L.D.
StJ 10.30am MASS Patricia Brandwood Anni
OLR 11.15am MASS Ann Harman (anniv.)
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 12th May were 3, 5, 7. There was one winner of £204. Last Friday's jackpot was estimated at £30.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club 7th May £10 No. 037 D Hinley, £5 No. 371 1 Betty, £3 No. 403 J Waterfield, £2 No. 207 B Ryan **Bonus Ball** No. 30 J Riley

14th May £10 No. 373 A Gree, £5 No. 249 N Flynn, £3 No. 333 Michael, £2 No. 392 C Ellis

Bonus Ball No. 52 J Atherton

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

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