

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 24 September 2017



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

The story of today's Gospel about the men being employed to work in the fields may seem very unfair. Here is another story that might help us to understand Jesus' thinking.

The final of the 10,000 metres was in progress. The runners stayed bunched together until halfway round the last lap. Then the eventual winner eased himself into the lead. As he did so another man fell back into last place in a desperate effort to keep up. The other runners were strung out in between. As the leader, a local man, came into the home straight, the spectators rose to their feet to applaud him. He set a new world record, and enjoyed his lap of honour, as the others continued to finish the race, and he even signed lucrative contracts with sponsors which eventually earned him lots of money.

A VIP had been invited to perform the prize-giving ceremony. The first three runners were waiting, all smiles, to take their places on the victory podium. The first sign that something unusual was about to happen was when the VIP said he wanted all the runners present at the ceremony. He called the man who came in last and gave the gold medal to him. He gave the silver medal to the man who had finished second last and the bronze medal to the man who had finished third last. There were gasps of astonishment from the crowd, and sighs of embarrassment from the organisers. The mistake was pointed out to him. But he said, "This is the way I want it." Then he proceeded to give a warm handshake to each of the other runners right down to the man who came first. Of course, this runner was angry. "It's not fair!" he said. "I won the race so I deserve to get the gold medal."

The VIP said to him, "My friend, haven't you got enough already? You've had the satisfaction of winning the race. You've had the applause of the crowd and the attention of the media. You've even had lucrative contracts offered to you. The man who came last finished the race too. Would it be fairer if you got everything while he got nothing?" With that the victor was reduced to silence. Still fuming, he turned and went away. The aim of this story is not to down-play the achievement of the winner but to make a point. It seems wrong that one person should get everything, while another gets nothing. This seems to happen in our world all the time. The winner takes all.

Some might still say that the story is an outrageous one. But is it any more outrageous than Jesus' story about the workers in the vineyard? The key to understanding the story is contained in the phrase, "Are you envious because I am generous?" The story is not about justice. It is about generosity, a generosity unlike any we have known, the generosity of God. The generosity of God should be a great comfort to us, but it should also be a great challenge because we are called to imitate it in our lives each day, especially in the way we make our ways of dealing with one another more like God's way of dealing with us. Which of us would like to be treated by God according to strict justice? Do we not long for mercy rather than judgement? We can't put God in our debt. But we don't need to. God is generous to a degree that far outstrips human generosity. All we have to do is open our hearts to God's generosity. And having experienced this great love, let it serve as a model for the way we treat others.

**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

Stephen Aspden, Josephine Dempsey, John Hankinson, Marion Higgins, Maria McCoy, Bernard McCud, Steven Naylor, Kathy Rigby, Sylvia Withington,

LITTLE CHURCH

A very big thank you to Mrs Ratcliffe, who gave some money to Little Church in memory of her late husband, Alan. Some new liturgy books have been purchased and a new Banner for Little Church has been made by Carole Hudson, and there is still some money in the kitty for extra resources.

CRIB

We are in desperate need of a new crib. We have had this crib for many many years and over the last few years several repairs have taken place, The baby Jesus and Our Lady being the most damaged and now beyond repair. Unfortunately, new crib figures are expensive, so if any anyone has any good fundraising ideas, can you please let Fr Colin know.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Unclaimed Raffle Prizes No. 348 & 459

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of our Pastoral Area J & P group has been arranged for Wednesday 27th September, 7.30pm in Saint Richard's House.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The next meeting to organise the Christmas Faire will be held on Wednesday 4th October at 7.30pm In the Green Room at St Joseph's.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC

If you are interested, or know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please contact the parish office, or speak to one of the priests after Mass. Instruction meetings will be starting in September.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Sep 21 - I appeal for peace and disarmament: in this world wounded by violence, we need fraternity among peoples.

Sep 20 - Hope is the virtue of a heart that does not close itself in darkness or remain locked in the past, but looks towards the future.

Sep 19 - Let us work together to find concrete solutions to help the poor, refugees, victims of modern forms of slavery, in order to promote peace.

Sep 18 - Let us find the courage to purify our hearts by removing the rocks and thorns which choke the Word of God.

Sep 17 - The more Jesus occupies the centre of our lives, the more He allows us to come out of ourselves and brings us closer to others.

Sep 16 - Global action is needed in order to reduce pollution and at the same time promote development in poorer countries.

Sep 15 - The Lord does not leave us orphans: we have a Mother, the same one as Jesus. Mary takes care of us and always defends us.

Sep 14 - In the Cross our hope is reborn. Hope born of the Cross is different from that of the world, because it is born of the love of Jesus.



Reflect:

The immediate reaction to today's Gospel is that it doesn't seem very fair to the labourers who have been working all day. If the same situation arose the following day, might the labourers only turn up for work at the end of the day? The point we are missing though is that the whole community is interdependent on one another to ensure the success of the vineyard. It keeps all of them alive and it is the responsibility of all of them to care for it.

Pray:

For our earth....

All-powerful God,

you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,

that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live

as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned

and forgotten of this earth,

so precious in your eyes.

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.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace

(Laudato Si)

Act:

The labourer is worth his hire (Lk 10:7) – are we prepared to pay more for better working conditions for producers?

Challenge:

Take efforts this week to use your power as a consumer for the good of others.

CREATION TIME

1st September – 4th October 2017

Reflection sessions continue in the Green Room at Saint Joseph's, every Friday during September, beginning at 12.30pm after 12.00noon Mass.

Sessions are also being held at:-

Saint Ambrose Barlow's Hall, every Tuesday during September and the first Tuesday in October at 11.00am followed by a shared lunch.

St Richard's House every Wednesday during September and the first Wednesday in October at 10.00am, following Exposition.

Please come along to whichever of the above is most convenient for you. You will be most welcome.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,836.69

Catholic Education Service £ 391.41

Home Missions £ 407.63

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

Colette Allerston, Eileen Boardman, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Haisley, Mary Heneghan, Alan & Do-reen Lowe, Arthur Lowe, Margaret Quinn.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-

Logan Joe Fishwick, Katie Grace Featherstone, Callie Marie Radford

RECENTLY DECEASED

Joyce Ogden, Francis Nolan

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to James Joseph Fenton & Laura Leanne Cobb, who were married at St Joseph's on Friday 15th September.



If you are struggling to find an imaginative present for someone who already has everything they need, then the World Gifts catalogue could be just what you need to solve your shopping dilemmas this Christmas. Plus you will be helping the poorest people in the world. Please take a catalogue and be inspired.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Friday 6 October 2017

This Harvest Fast Day, we are standing with Edelmira, a farmer in El Salvador, as she works to sustain her family with good crops and harvests. With your help, CAFOD is giving her fruit trees, training, and strong seeds.

Edelmira and Martir are farmers. They live on and depend on their land. The harvest they reap is used to put food on the table, and sold to buy essential items such as clothes and medicine.

Our partner, Solidaridad CVX, are working with farmers like Edelmira and Martir to provide training and reintroduce native seeds that were used generations ago. These seeds are strong and able to grow in the warm, rainy climate, ensuring that farmers are able to harvest crops, and with that, the surety that they will be able to provide for their families.

Why is it so important to Gift Aid? When you donate to CAFOD and fill in a Gift Aid form, you can increase the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 you give – at no extra cost to you! This extra 25 percent makes a big difference and means that we are able to support our partners with additional funding. In the last year alone, we've raised over £2.6 million through Gift Aid donations from communities like yours. Just think of all the lives that money has changed. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope, fast this Friday and give what you can.



A SEED OF LOVE

Sunday 1st October 2017, 3.00pm

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ The King
A celebration Mass for people living with a disability
Principal Celebrant Archbishop Malcolm McMahon
All welcome

For more information contact Mary Beatham:
07341 864180 Mary.beatham@nugentcare.org

"FATIMA AT HOME" DAY

Unfortunately the Fatima at Home Day has had to be postponed. We are hoping to hold one in the Spring next year. Fr Paul will have a Fatima Evening to commemorate the centenary later in October.

Thank you for your understanding.

EMBRACE LIVERPOOL

Saturday 25th November 2017 9.30am - 6.00pm

Embrace is a one day, Catholic Youth Conference aimed at young people ages 14 - 25. It is a vibrant and exciting day of talks, workshops, praise and worship, times of prayer, Adoration and opportunity for reconciliation, with the day culminating with the celebration of Mass with Archbishop Malcolm, other bishops and priests.

For more information or to book a place, please visit www.embrace-liverpool.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

Just a reminder that if you would like a loved one to be prayed on a particular date especially at one of the Sunday Masses, can you please try and give a couple of months notice rather than just a couple of weeks, this is to avoid disappointment on your behalf.

A poster for the play "Teechers" by John Godber. The poster is framed in blue and contains the following text: "St Joseph's Players", "St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St. Leigh WN7 2PR", "Teechers" in large, stylized, orange and black striped letters, "By JOHN GODBER", "A classroom comedy Directed by Pauline Nevell", "Tuesday 10th October to Saturday 14th October", "Commences at 7.30pm", "Tickets from SPECTRUM BLINDS Chapel St. Leigh", "£8 Adults, 16yrs & under £4", and "Bar, Raffle & Refreshments". There is a small graphic of two hands in the top right corner.

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 23 September

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Henry

Sun 24 September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Day of Special Prayer in Thanksgiving for Harvest and/or fruits of Human Work

StJ 8.30am MASS Christine Newport R.I.P.
SH 9.30am MASS Joe O'Neil
StJ 10.30am MASS Kevin Quinn (Birthday Memorial)
OLR 11.00am MASS Aiden Newill L.D.
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 25 September Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 25)

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Joyce Ogden

Tue 26 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 12.00noon MASS Caitlin Bradbury L.D.

Wed 27 September Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul

12A NO MASS
StJ 12.00noon MASS Teresa Higgins (Birthday Memorial)

Thu 28 September Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ NO MASS
SH 12.00noon MASS Naill Dearnaley R.I.P.
OLR 2.30pm FUNERAL MASS Francis Nolan

Fri 29 September FEAST OF SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

OLR NO MASS
StJ NO MASS

Sat 30 September Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor

NO Exposition & Reconciliation
NO MASS
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Allen and Agnes Newton

Sun 1 October TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Rosary Sunday

StJ 8.30am MASS Kathleen Heavey (L.D.)
SH 9.30am MASS Eileen Gerard L.D.
StJ 10.30am MASS Nithy Thomas (Anniv.)
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 15th September were 2, 8, 16. There was one lucky winner of £196.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 466 A Wilkinson, £5 No. 280 M & D Flannery, £3 No. 156 J Evans, £2 No. 399 J Waterfield

Bonus Ball No. 38 C Ackers



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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