

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 8 October 2017



Responsorial Psalm

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel Matthew uses part of Isaiah's idea of the coming Messiah, and the rejection he would face at the hands of his own country and people. Jesus shares a parable about the vineyard. In the parable Israel is no longer the vineyard itself but the tenant farmers working for their landlord. Features of the parable reflect conditions of life in rural Galilee – it was common for land to be owned by absentee landlords, who would collect their rent in kind from the tenant farmers at harvest time. The lengthy absence of the landlords alongside the harsh economic climate of the country often led to difficulties between landlord and tenant, sometimes leading to assaults on the agents sent to collect the rent. In the parable the landlord plants a vineyard, leases it to tenants and entrusts them with the responsibility of caring for his estate and paying their dues. When vintage time comes the landlord sends his servants to collect what is due to him. When they are treated with brutality the landlord sends a larger number – but they meet with the same fate. If desperate situations demand daring remedies, the landlord follows these two catastrophes by sending his son, hoping his tenants will respect him. The landlord's hope is misplaced: the son is thrown out of the vineyard and killed.

Matthew clearly uses the parable, addressed to the chief priests and the elders, as a summary of salvation history. The landlord's servants represent the succession of prophets that God has sent to Israel, only to see them treated with disdain and violence. The son is clearly a figure of Jesus himself, dragged out of Jerusalem to be murdered. Jesus is not just another of the prophets, but God's own Son. The punishment of leasing the vineyard to other tenants clearly indicates Matthew's thought that the Kingdom of God will be granted to the Gentiles, in other words people from all over the world, and they will be more trusted to deliver the produce. The chief priests and elders react with hostility to the parable, but they cannot lay hands on Jesus without endangering their own position. In wanting to find Jesus, the leaders underline the truth of the parable, and it will only be a matter of time before they create the opportunity to harm him.

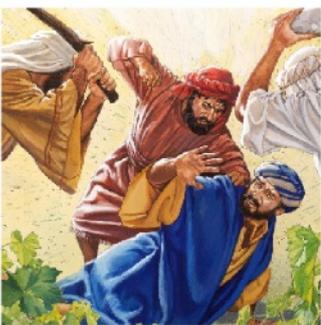
The parable speaks to us about the patience of God. when his servants – in this case prophets – are killed, he sends more and more in the hope that people will turn from their evil ways and turn back to him. Even when these are killed, he still hopes that his beloved Son will make his people change their ways. Jesus is God's last appeal, his final challenge. Depending on our response to him, judgement is then made. If we are now the tenants, then we are subject to God's expectation of us and subject to his judgement too. God looks to us for the fruits of faith and love and obedience. He also expects that, in the way we treat others, we will deliver forgiveness and mercy and justice. Today's parable has its own question addressed to each one of us: are these the fruits we produce in our lives each day?

**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

Maurice Gallagher, Vincent Ganley, Elizabeth Agnes & Laurence Gregory Palmer, Ken Sroka, Thanksgiving for Successful Operation

THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the Month of Our Lady and the Rosary will be said on Wednesdays and Fridays, **before** the 12 noon Mass and Mondays and Thursdays **after** the 9.00am Mass.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL HARVEST MASS

Friday 9.15am in church. All welcome.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the two families who have made donations towards the cost of the crib in memory of loved ones.

MISSION BOXES XII APOSTLES & ST JOSEPH'S

Will collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring the contents to St Joseph's Presbytery on Monday 30th October. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards will be sold before and after both Masses at St Joseph's, beginning on Sunday 15th October.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 10th October at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Tea and coffee after Mass today. Everyone welcome.

SACRED HEART

COFFEE MORNING

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

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 soon.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Oct 5 - The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful.

Oct 4 - Like Saint Francis of Assisi, let us be transformed by the love of Christ in order to live in simplicity and joy.

Oct 3 - Only in the silence of prayer can you learn to listen to the voice of God.

Oct 2 - Our guardian angel is a friend we do not see, but whose presence we feel. He accompanies us on our earthly journey to heaven.

Oct 1 - Like Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, let us learn from the humility of God who became small for us.

Sep 30 - In our times we need to pray so much – Christians, Jews, and Muslims – for peace.

Sep 29 - I have chosen this theme for World Communications Day 2018: "The truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32). Fake news and journalism for peace.

Sep 29 - Today is the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Let us call on them so that we are always reminded of God's presence.

PARISH SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting for the Christmas Fair will be held on Tuesday 17th October, 7.30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery.



Reflect:

We can read this week's Gospel in the context of humankind's treatment of the earth and its gifts.

In Laudato Si Pope Francis reminds us that the climate is a common good and yet due to our lack of respect or care 'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth' #21

This is brought about 'by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed [the earth]. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life'. #2

Just as the workers in the vineyard murdered the owner's son, so humankind is gradually destroying the earth. Nor is it those who inflict the worst damages on the environment, those who live in the developed countries, that suffer the most. The brunt of climate change is felt most by the poor, those who live on the land and are dependant on its gifts for their day to day survival

Pray:

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 earth and not
prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.

Extract from 'A prayer for our earth', Laudato Si'

Act:

How do my actions show that I love my neighbour, especially those who are living in poverty?

Challenge:

Do I strive to cherish and protect creation, remembering that God is the creator of all? In what ways do I do this?

M.P. CORRESPONDENTS WANTED

Will you connect the poor with the powerful? CAFOD is looking for Catholics to share their faith with their MP. The task is to write three or four times a year on a topical issue to support those living in poverty around the world. No experience is needed as information will be provided. Contact Justine on 01942 518933.

"Love is civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world." – Pope Francis

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

The retiring collection today is in support of CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. If you forgot your envelope please bring it next week.

SICK

Colette Allerston, David Belshaw, Eileen Boardman, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Haisley, Mary Heneghan, Alan & Doreen Lowe, Margaret Quinn.

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Poppy-Alice Faulkner,

DECEASED

Thomas Briars
Eternal rest give unto him

PRISONERS' SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER

A day of Prayer and action.

It is a day to direct our thoughts and prayers to prisoners, their families and their children. Prisoners' Sunday offers an important opportunity to open our hearts to those members of our community who may be in crisis and to be there for those who most need our support.

Pact is the only charity solely dedicated to tackling the issues that arise from having a loved one in prison and who actively work to minimise the harm caused by imprisonment on prisoners, families and the community. This year our focus is "We Press On - Together, In Hope". Please take a leaflet from the porch and join in the week of prayer.

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.

Blessed Oscar Romero regularly preached how "God wants a society where we share the good things that God has given for all of us". Archbishop Romero also pleaded for us "not to tire of preaching love; as love is the force that will overcome the world".

Love is to think of other people's interests before our own, just as Oscar Romero did, giving up his life for others. Let us open our hearts, to God, and to others.

Please use one of the CAFOD Envelopes for your donation and Gift Aid if you are a tax payer. Thank you.



FATIMA HOLY HOUR

Please try your best to come along to Holy Hour to celebrate the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima. This will take place

this Tuesday, October 10th at 7.00pm in St Richard's church, Atherton.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

Every Saturday the Padre Pio Prayer Group meets to pray together on Saturday morning in St Ambrose Barlow church at 10.00am. Next weekend, to mark the centenary of the apparitions in Fatima, they are going to have a special time of prayer which will include the Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Please come along and join them in prayer.

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.

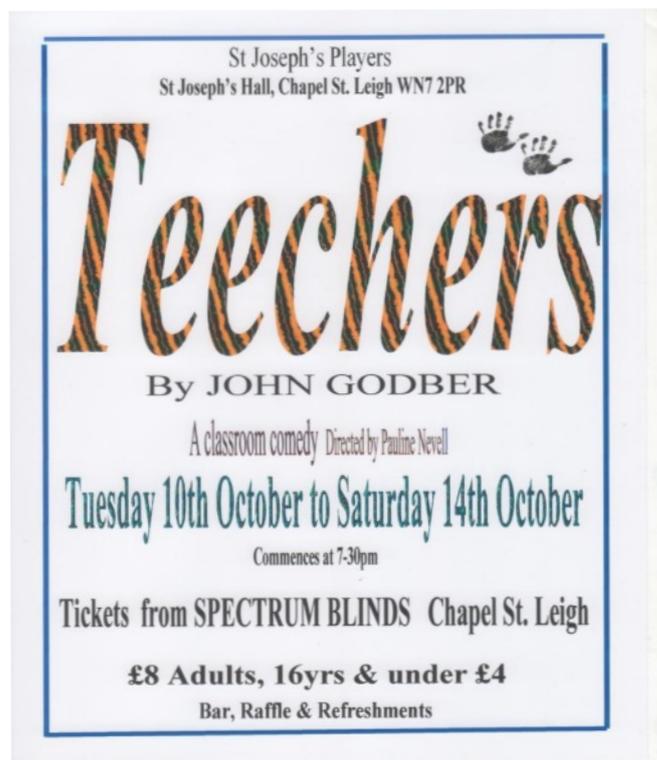
For more information or to book a place, please visit www.embrace-liverpool.org.uk

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.

Mozart's Requiem: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, 7pm, 15th November 2017.

Concluding the Metropolitan Cathedral's jubilee celebrations the choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral will join together to sing Mozart's Requiem. The choirs will be joined by the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra and local soloists. The joint choirs and orchestra singing the Requiem will be conducted by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Christopher McElroy. Tickets for the concert (available on a first come, first served basis) are £20 for premium seats/£15 for standard seats and are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lpoolmetmusic or the Cathedral Shop on 0151 707 3525.



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 7 October

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Henry

Sun 8 October

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents - starts Prisons Week

StJ 8.30am

MASS David Brown L.D.

SH 9.30am

MASS Barry Scotson anniv.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Joe Roberts (Birthday memorial)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Maria Ashbrook R.I.P.

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 9 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 27)

StJ 9.00am

MASS Norah Hurst R.I.P.

Tue 10 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 12.00noon

MASS Caitlin Bradbury L.D.

Wed 11 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Thomas Briars

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Alice Flannery R.I.P.

Thu 12 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 9.00am

MASS Caitlin Bradbury R.I.P.

SH 12.00noon

MASS Aidan Newill

Fri 13 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

OLR

NO MASS

StJ 9.15am

St Joseph's School HARVEST MASS David Brown R.I.P.

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Peter Smith R.I.P.

Sat 14 October

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Jeff Buller R.I.P.

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Vinnie Johnson

Sun 15 October

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

StJ 8.30am

MASS Kieran Moss R.I.P.

SH 9.30am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am

MASS Betty Kennedy (Anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

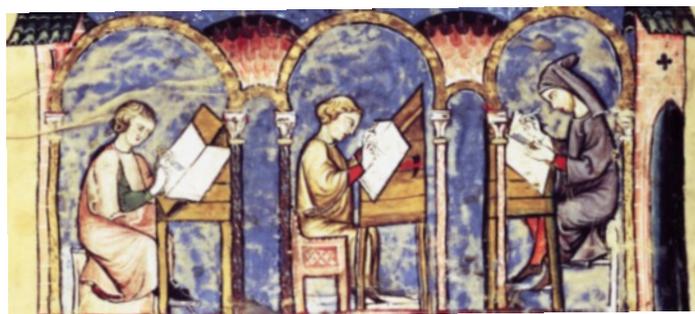
MASS Joe Devlin L.D.

StR 6.30pm

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 485 D Hindley, £5 No. 092 B Addi, £3 No. 492 B Ryan, £2 No. 246 N Flynn

Bonus Ball No. 20 K 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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Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

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