

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

3 December 2017



## Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

In today's First Reading Isaiah bemoans the way the Lord has seemingly abandoned the people as they have distanced themselves from God through their waywardness. Since returning from exile, the people have had a tough time and, forgetting God's kindness to them, have reverted to pagan practices. The people feel like they have been abandoned by God and turn elsewhere. Yet, despite their sense of distance from God, the prophet acknowledges a desire for the Lord's presence to surround them, as he prays "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down."

Jesus in the Gospel speaks of the need to be prepared for God's coming. Referring specifically to his second coming, Jesus urges those around him to be attentive and vigilant. In effect we're called to remind ourselves to remain close to God our creator. One of the great images of God in the Old Testament is that of the potter, we being the clay. Staying awake spiritually is to ensure that, as the clay, we remain on the potter's wheel, a place of safety. We can hear the words of Paul encouraging us in this venture, as he reminds us that the Lord will keep us steady and blameless until the last day, if we just let the Lord hold on to us.

As we begin this season of Advent, the readings are an encouragement to us, even though they may sometimes sound rather stark. We're called to remember that God respects the choices we make and so, if we choose to distance ourselves from God, it becomes harder to hear God's voice. If we choose a path that obviously deviates from the one that God has set out for us, it can be difficult for us to see the signs that point us back to the right route. Advent is a wake-up call to bring us from potential slumber to a new alertness of the immediacy of God's presence. God is never distant from us. It's just that sometimes we don't allow God's closeness to be apparent to us. Advent can bring us back on track. Advent gives us the opportunity to be further shaped on the potter's wheel. God the potter will never discard us into the waste, even though we do at times find ourselves out of shape, or with fractures. Life itself and the choices we sometimes make do that to us.

In the production of pottery, the potter will sometimes use what is called "slip". Slip is a liquid mixture of clay suspended in water. It is often used to decorate pots, or to help join parts of a pot, or to cover up cracks. At the beginning of this special season of Advent, perhaps we can imagine God's grace being poured over us like the potter's slip. The Lord wants to pour his love out upon us, gently filling the imperfections and smoothing out the inconsistencies. God wants to join us where there is brokenness. Having an image of God like this, like the potter forming us in the palm of his hand, can really help us this Advent. God will never abandon us. Fired in a kiln of pure love, we are a delight in God's eyes.

**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**

[www.leighdeanery.co.uk](http://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

David Allinson, Peter & Margaret Cartledge, Kitty & Earnest Clarke, Margaret Coleman, Deceased Members of the Toher & Costello Family, Robert & Lily Farrimond, James Frost, Ellen Heaton, Terence Kevney, Winnie Southern,

### LITTLE CHURCH

Once again this year we are having our copper collection for CAFOD, to stand in solidarity with children from poor communities across the world.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

£335.00 was raised with the sale of Christmas Cards. Thank you to Sheila and Josephine for their hard work and to all who supported them.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our church will be decorated for Christmas in memory of loved ones. Forms are available in the church porch. Please complete and return along with your donation in an envelope marked Christmas Memorial to the priest's house. Closing date for names is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Any names received after the 17<sup>th</sup> will not be included.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are on sale at the back of church. Also available are Baptism gifts and cards.

#### COFFEE MORNING

No Coffee Morning today.

#### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Many thanks to all those who have donated to the Christmas Raffle, tickets are on sale, the draw takes place on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

### SACRED HEART

#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are still available in the shop and on the display table at the back of church, and now some small gifts.

#### CHRISTMAS DRAW

Raffle tickets will be on sale after Mass. Please support.

#### CHRISTMAS CRIB

Each year it gets harder to assemble our Christmas crib. There are less and less volunteers and we are all getting older! If you are willing to help and able to climb stairs carrying one of the figures, please put your name on the sign-up list at the back of church. If there are sufficient volunteers, the crib scene will be built after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 24 December.

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Many people like to plan ahead so here are the Mass times for St Margaret Clitherow & St Edmund Arrowsmith parishes.

#### Christmas Eve

XII Apostles at **5.30pm**

St Joseph's **Carol Service 5.30pm**, Mass **6.00pm**

Holy Family & St Richard's at **6.00pm**

St Ambrose Barlow at **8.00pm**

Sacred Heart & Holy Family at **11.30pm**

#### Christmas Day

St Joseph's at **8.30am**

Holy Family at **9.00am**

Sacred Heart & St Richard's at **9.30am**

St Joseph's at **10.30am**

Holy Family & St Ambrose Barlow at **11.00am**

Our Lady of the Rosary at **11.15am**

There will also be a special Mass to celebrate the arrival of 2018 in Our Lady of the Rosary church. This will take place at 12.00noon on New Year's Day. All welcome.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Nov 30 - The most holy name of God can never be invoked to justify hatred and violence against other human beings.

Nov 29 - The love of Christ is like a "spiritual GPS" that guides us unerringly towards God and towards the heart of our neighbor.

Nov 28 - I want my visit to embrace all the people of Myanmar and to encourage the building of an inclusive society.

Nov 26 - Let us look to Jesus today and say to Him in our hearts: "Remember me, Lord, now that you are in your Kingdom!"

Nov 25 - As I prepare to visit Myanmar and Bangladesh, I wish to send a message of greeting and friendship to everyone. I can't wait to meet you!

Nov 24 - There is also hope for those who have done wrong. Jesus came for this: it is possible to be reconciled with God and begin a new life.

### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at **2.00pm** in St Joseph's Presbytery. All mothers and grand mothers are welcome.

### ADVENT IS HERE ...

Be truly Christmas-ready by taking part in our Advent Reflections, 3.00pm in the Green Room at St Joseph's.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - We Just Don't Know

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December - Are We There Yet?

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December - Happy Days

### ACT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Archbishop Malcolm wishes to contact us to encourage us to speak out for Catholic Education. He writes:

"Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government NOT to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools."

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to all who organised and supported this year's Christmas Fayre. A total of £2,248.55 was made. Well done everyone and thank you for your hard work.

If you have tickets for the Patak Hamper nos.31 - 35, please contact the parish office, you have won the hamper.

### WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

*Walk With Me* booklets for Advent are now available from the church porch, please feel free to take one.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,895.96  
Animate Youth £ 392.00

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

### S.V.P.

At all masses on the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December the SVP will be having its annual Christmas collection. The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages who might struggle during the upcoming festive period. To supplement our collection a brief resume of our work over the past twelve months will be available at all masses of that weekend. Please be generous, as any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

Thank you, *the SVP*

### SICK

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

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-  
Matilda Nienajadly,

### DECEASED

Austin Arkwright, Kathleen Bore, Dennis Anthony Hatnbore  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation for children in the Sacramental Programme will take place at:

Twelve Apostles' church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 5.00pm  
Sacred Heart church on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm



#### Pray:

An Advent Prayer  
Come Lord Jesus, come  
and let your light shine through us  
so that through our actions  
We may be salt for the earth,  
A light in people's sight  
And that we might reach out to you  
In one another,  
Especially those in need.

Amen  
(CAFOD)

#### Act:

Consider ways in which you can prepare more meaningfully for Christmas. Try not to get caught up in the consumer race to buy, buy buy!

#### Challenge:

To cut down on plastics, buy loose fruit and vegetables at the market, greengrocers or supermarket. Use recycled plastic bags or paper or cloth bags to carry your produce in rather than buying items in a plastic tray wrapped in cling film.

### CAFOD POWER TO BE CAMPAIGN

Every child has the power in them to achieve great things. But with one in six people still living without electricity, the hopes of millions of the world's children are all too often a distant dream. Safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy is a major factor in more children living to their fifth birthday, more children completing primary school, increased literacy of 15 to 24 year olds. Please take a leaflet and prayer card from the porch, to see how you can help poor communities to access electricity.

## CAFOD FUN RUN

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December at Wavertree Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE. Arrive 12.00noon to register. £7 for individual, £15 for family. Prompt start at 1.00pm. Individuals and families are welcome to run, jog, walk, toddle, walk the dog or wheel the pram, from 2, 4 or 8 kms.

### NUGENT CARE CRIB APPEAL

*"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it"* Pope Francis

As Advent approaches our thoughts turn to those who are vulnerable, isolated and living in poverty. Nugent works at the heart of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, supporting children, adults and families. The birth of our Saviour brings Hope and the dawn of a new beginning. Please support the Nugent Crib Appeal when you visit our crib over the Christmas period. You will be making a difference to so many people living in poverty across the Archdiocese. Thank you.

### FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St Mary's Catholic High School currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. If you are interested in becoming a Foundation governor please can you send a short resume of your particular skills and how you would contribute to our school Governing Body (250 words max). Please send your expressions of interest into school for the attention of the Chair of the Governing Body no later than Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017. For further information on the role of a Foundation Governor and the credentials required, please check out the Archdiocese website

[www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools)

or contact the Clerk to Governors (Mrs Pat Lloyd) by telephone on 01942 766906 or email

[p.lloyd@admin.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:p.lloyd@admin.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk)

In the event of multiple applicants the Chair alongside a member of the clergy will shortlist and assess the skills offered.

### CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

Hosted by Abby Funerals on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm - 2.30pm. St Joseph's Hall Chapel St. Admission Free by ticket only available from Abbeys Funeral Service or Contact Gemma Evans on 01942-261936.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME

With **SILHOUETTE**. St Joseph's Parish Hall, Chapel St, Leigh Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 12.00 noon. Tickets £8 available from Spectrum Blinds (inside Stones Carpets) or Pensioners Link. All proceeds to Pensioners Link.  
Grand Raffle & Bar

### St Mary's Christmas Party

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 noon - 2.00pm  
St Mary's 6<sup>th</sup> Form would like to invite senior members of the parish to their annual Christmas Party.  
Refreshments and entertainment, raffle and bingo  
Please sign up at the back of church if you would like to go

### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE WORLDWIDE

Sixty-nine greetings cards have been sent (by airmail, £81.65) from the 2017 list received from ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture). Many were sent to Mrs Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in Evin Prison, Tehran, Iran. May our efforts bear fruit. A total of £81.15 was donated for postage. OLR cards donations received, £11.15, nine cards posted at £1.17 each (£10.53). Cost of cards 62p.

## 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 2 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Nora & John Devaney

### Sun 3 December

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

##### *Day of special prayer for Migrants*

StJ 8.30am MASS Gerrald Warren (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration)  
 SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area  
 StJ 10.30am MASS Rev. Dcn. Alan Mee (anniv.)  
 OLR 11.00am MASS Teresa & John Ryder  
 StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

### Mon 4 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 9.00am MASS Margaret Coleman (Birthday)

### Tue 5 December

#### *Memorial of Saint John Almond, priest*

SH 7.00pm MASS (in day chapel) Deceased Members, Legion of Mary

### Wed 6 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

StJ 12.00noon MASS Norman Hewitt (RIP)  
 (12A) 9.00am MASS (in XII Apostles School Hall) Maria McCoy L.D.  
 StJ 6.30pm St Joseph's School K.S. 2 Advent Presentation

### Thu 7 December

#### *Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor*

StJ 9.00am MASS Ellen Heaton L.D.  
 SH 12.00noon MASS Julia Gallagher

### Fri 8 December

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.

OLR 12.00noon MASS Special Intention (AO)  
 StJ 9.00am MASS Maurice & Joseph O'Connell (R.I.P.)  
 StJ 11.00am FUNERAL SERVICE Dennis Anthony Hatnbore

### Sat 9 December

#### *Weekday of Advent*

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation  
 OLR 12.00noon MASS Anthony Freeman  
 12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 10 December

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

##### *Bible Sunday*

StJ 8.30am MASS Jimmy Maxwell (anniv.)  
 SH 9.30am MASS Norah & Jack Pearson and departed loved ones  
 StJ 10.30am MASS Frank & Madeline Davies  
 OLR 11.00am MASS William & Ethel Wilkinson  
 StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 313, B Edwards; £5, 286, A Sharkie; £3, 198, M Moore; £2, 392, C Ellis  
**Bonus Ball** No. 8 A Simpson



### 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](mailto: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  
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 Priest: Fr. Paul Grady  
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 Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

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