

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) 10 December 2017



Responsorial Psalm

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

Anyone who has ever lived in a large modern city knows the problems of transportation – the grind of the daily commute, when travelling even short distances can be a long and exasperating experience. Apart from the frustration caused by congestion, a poor infrastructure also damages the economy. London is reckoned to be the 5th most congested city in the world. To help improve travelling times, a new east-west railway – the “Elizabeth” line – is being constructed across and underneath the city. The 100 kilometre route includes 42 kilometres of tunnels and 10 new stations, all connecting up with existing rail and underground stations. The new line is Europe’s largest infrastructure project, costing nearly £15 billion and expected to serve two hundred million passengers per year. As well as improving travelling times for Londoners, it is estimated that the new line will add £42 billion to the UK economy.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of another plan to improve journey times – though here the prophet Isaiah is encouraging the people to construct a speedy route along which God’s very self can travel. And this “building project” is intended not simply to take the frustration out of life or improve the economic situation, but to set God’s people free after years of living in the misery of exile. Isaiah announces that the time of suffering and captivity is over – the Lord is coming and the people need to prepare a straight highway for God across the desert, a way for the Lord through the wilderness of their exile. So obstacles need to be removed, valleys filled in and hills flattened, to prepare for the Lord’s coming.

It is with this vivid image that Mark chooses to begin his Gospel and to describe the coming of Jesus, God’s Son and the anointed One. Isaiah’s ancient prophecy is being fulfilled in a new way: one more powerful than John the Baptist is coming to lead God’s people home, to set them free from the tyranny of sin, to live in the homeland of God’s Kingdom, which, Jesus proclaims, is breaking into the world. Symbolically, John goes out into the wilderness to call the people together for his arrival. They are to build a highway in the desert of their lives – smoothing the way for the Lord to come and enter into their hearts. The building work is “repentance”, which involves a complete change of mind and heart so that they are to live in a very different way.

The new line in London was started in 2009 and is due for completion in 2018. The “building work” of repentance – of flattening out the hills and filling in the valleys of our own lives so that the Lord can come into our hearts – can take a whole lifetime, possibly the whole of eternity. But in case we feel daunted by the immensity of the task, it is comforting to remember the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero that “we are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs”. We are not expected to save ourselves. The very first words of Mark’s Gospel spells it out for us – the Good News is that Jesus Christ IS the Messiah. He is the powerful one who is at work in us and for us. He blesses us with his Spirit. And, as Peter reminds us, God is in no hurry. God is patient because he does not want to lose anyone. The timeless message of Advent is that our patient God is the God who comes not just at Jesus’ birth, and not just at the end of time. God comes to us in our time of need, our time of exile, whenever we are lost in the wilderness of sin, fear or suffering. Advent is our chance to turn back to him and allow him to set us free through the person of Jesus.

**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

Annie Butterwoth, John & Annie Carroll, Jim & Dorothy Donohue, Michael Fallon, Terry Fallon, Joan & Vincent Ganley, Bill Green, Betty Gregory, Molly & Fred Griffiths, Ellen Heaton, Nora Heaton, Peter Lythgoe, The Mullowney Family, Mary & John Murray, Maurice & Joseph O'Connell, Mark Prescott, Albert Sankey, Tyler Ryan Yates.

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 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 next Sunday, 17th December. Any names received after the 17th will not be included.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CHURCH CLEANING

Many thanks to all those who braved the cold to help clean our church. It was nice to see new faces and make new friends. Special thanks to Tom & Brian.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas Raffle will take place on 17th December.

SACRED HEART

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are still available in the shop and on the display table at the back of church, also 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 24th December.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Here are the Mass times for both St Margaret Clitherow and 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

Dec 7 - We all possess God-given talents. No one can claim to be so poor that they have nothing to offer others.

Dec 6 - No child of God can be discarded in His eyes. He entrusts a mission to each one of us.

Dec 5 - We are all beggars before the love of God, a love that gives meaning to our existence and that offers us eternal life.

Dec 4 - Faith becomes tangible when it finds its expression in love and, especially, in the service of our brothers and sisters in difficulty.

Dec 3 - Every person is unique and unrepeatable. Let us ensure the disabled are always welcomed by the communities in which they live.

Dec 2 - Dear friends in Myanmar and Bangladesh, thank you for your welcome! Upon you I invoke divine blessings of harmony and peace.

Dec 2 - May the wisdom of God help us to know how to welcome and accept those who think & act differently from us.

Dec 1 - How much openness is needed to welcome people who feel alone and confused as they search for a meaning in life!

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.



Reflect: 'Prepare a way for the Lord!' How can we prepare a way for the Lord this Advent, in our hearts and in our communities? How can we help to sow signs of hope which reflect the kingdom of God in the way we live our lives and act towards others and towards God's creation?

Pray: We long for your coming. The prophets of old longed for the coming of Jesus into the world. We, too, long for your special coming at this time in the hope that it may bring joy to all who are suffering and the light of faith to all who do not know you.

Amen. *Sr Bridgetta Rooney/CAFOD*

Act: Have a look in the parish newsletter for various simple opportunities to support different charities during Advent.

Challenge: Have a Green Christmas this year by being less wasteful as a show of respect for our environment and the occasion.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Green-Christmas> or http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm for some simple ideas enabling you to do this.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£
HCPT	£1,592.07

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

S.V.P.

At all masses on this weekend, 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. A brief resume of our work over the past twelve months is available at all masses. 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.

DECEASED

Michael Stephen Green, Nora Heneghan, Agnes Manfredi.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

FIRST RECONCILIATION

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

Sacred Heart church on Tuesday 12th December at 6.00pm
St Joseph's Wednesday 13th December at 6.30pm

CAFOD FUN RUN

Wednesday, 27th 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 km.

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

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. You will be making a difference to so many people living in poverty across the Archdiocese. Thank you.

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 3rd December - We Just Don't Know
- Sunday 10th December - Are We There Yet?
- Sunday 17th December - Happy Days

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 send a short resume of your particular skills and how you would contribute to our school Governing Body (250 words max), into school for the attention of the Chair of the Governing Body no later than **this Friday** 15th 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 or contact the Clerk to Governors (Mrs Pat Lloyd) by telephone on 01942 766906 or email 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 Abbey Funerals **this Wednesday** 13th 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.

St Mary's Christmas Party

This Tuesday 12th December 12.00 noon - 2.00pm
St Mary's 6th 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

ST MARY'S ADVENT SERVICE

St Mary's High School would like to invite you to an Advent Service on Thursday, December 21st at 7.30pm in the school hall. Pupils in Years 7 to 13 are all invited to attend from 6.15pm for social time and refreshments before the service. Parents and any siblings who attend our local primary schools are very welcome to attend the 30 minute service at 7.00pm. If you need any further information please contact the school.

6.30pm SUNDAY MASS

We have made the difficult decision to end our celebration of the 6.30pm Mass at St Richard's on Sunday evenings. It was difficult but necessary and the numbers of people attending the Mass have decreased quite a lot over the years. The last 6.30pm Mass will take place on Sunday December 17th

Prayer in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress 2018 and for Synod 2020

Archbishop Malcolm has asked that this prayer be said at every Mass in December. There are prayer cards in all churches, please take one and say the prayer at home also.

*We thank you Father
for the love you have shown us
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.
Keep us grateful each day
for the blessings that surround us.*

*As we are fed by you,
so now send us out
to share what we have received
with our hungry brothers and sisters.*

*We humbly ask your help to become the Church
that you are calling us to be:
a community that listens, that trusts,
that lives with courage
and that puts out its nets into new waters.*

*May the gentle presence of Christ in our hearts
be a source of healing, of new life
and of a deeper trust in you.
We ask this in faith
through Jesus 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 9 December

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

Mon 11 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 9.00am MASS Maurice & Joseph O'Connell (anniv.)
 SH 12.00noon MASS Eileen West L.D.

Tue 12 December Weekday of Advent

SH 12.00noon MASS Caitlin Bradbury

Wed 13 December Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

StJ 12.00noon MASS Winnie Southern (Birthday)

Thu 14 December Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

StJ 9.00am MASS Peter Lythgoe (anniv.)

Fri 15 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 12.00noon MASS Norman Hewitt R.I.P.
 SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Nora Heneghan

Sat 16 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 10.00am Exposition & Reconciliation "Confessathon" until 1.30pm interrupted by midday Mass
 StJ 12.00noon MASS Terence Keavney
 12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Mary Price (1st anniversary of death)

Sun 17 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

StJ 8.30am MASS Joan & Gerald Noon (anniv.)
 SH 9.30am MASS William & Betty Landers
 StJ 10.30am MASS Alan Ratcliffe (Birthday memorial)
 OLR 11.00am MASS John McCabe 80th Birthday
 StR 6.30pm (last) SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 358, M Moore; £5, 236, D Quinn; £3, 196, C Ellis; £2, 228, A Simpson.

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

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady Tel: 01942 673517/01942 731679 Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com	Priest Fr. Colin Fealey Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280 Email: stjosephs@live.com
Priest: Fr. Paul Grady Tel: 0161 790 2390 Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com	Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon Tel: 01942 883395 Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk
Deacons: Revv. Tony Arrowsmith, Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint	

