

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B) 17 December 2017



Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In a lengthy interview the year before he died, the great sculptor Henry Moore reflected on how his early works in a Yorkshire mining village influenced his later work. The scenes of the pits and the slag heaps, like mountains, were everywhere and dominated the landscape. It always seemed to be foggy and the sun could only just manage to break through the fog and the mist caused by the mining. His father, a miner, was very fond of baked apples and little Henry had to go to their dank, dark cellar to collect them. He was frightened of the dark, so he used to go down the steps sideways, always with one eye on the lighted doorway. Later when he was carving deep into his sculpture he said he always felt he wanted to find a way out, remembering that cellar. Many of Moore's massive sculptured forms have holes in them, but for the holes have their own significance. What appears essential to the sculpture is left out. The holes are there to let the light in. In the mining village where he grew up there was always competition between the sun and the fog, between the daylight and the pitch black of the mines. In his work the light always wins and the slag heaps change into human form.

Today's Gospel begins with the absence of light. John the Baptist speaks for the light that is to come. John is the rugged figure whose task is described by the evangelists as laying low mountains and hills, shaping a path through the wasteland. He is God's sculptor, giving shape and form to an indeterminate mass of people, insisting always on the essential place of the light. When he faces critical opposition, he points away from himself to his work in preparing for the one to come. John keeps declaring "I am not" in order to point to the one who can say "I am". The identity of the one coming after John is unknown, but John is clear in his own mind that he is NOT the light. He must make way for the light, create a space for the light to shine through. And when the people see the light, his own task is finished. John's role can be appreciated fully only when the light does come in the person of Jesus. Only then can people realize the true measure of John's worth and the unique place this enigmatic man has in Christianity.

Like John we are asked to make way for the light. None of us is the light on our own: our role is to allow the light to shine through the darkness of our human landscape. This can be a mountainous task. Our own abilities and commitment look so small. Who are we to compete with the darkness of this world? Advent challenges us to make whatever contribution we can. Like Henry Moore carving through stone until he comes to the light, we have to keep working our way towards the light that is Christ Jesus. Our work may appear fruitless at times or just odd to those who witness our efforts, but the space we create is significant. Holiness is the constant struggle of letting Christ be the light that shines through everything we do. This is our Advent task. May it help us, like John to share the Good News with 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

The Batchegalup Family, Carolyn Burke, Fred Cooper, Brian Crawley, Barbara Gallagher, Norah Heneghan, Agnes Manfredi, Michael, Martin, Margaret McCarthy, Thanksgiving

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

THE JESUIT MISSIONS

The Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas season to the many kind parishioners who have donated their used postage stamps throughout the year. The stamps are sold and provide a valuable source of income for the Mission causes overseas.

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who donated money last year to help Joe Shevelan raise enough funds to spend a short time in Nepal last year. Your generous donations, which amounted to over 500 pounds, have helped to refurbish a school in the mountains of Nepal. Joe had the experience of a lifetime, loving both Kathmandu and the people of the mountains. He particularly mentioned how friendly and welcoming everyone was in the village and how much dancing was involved! He also enjoyed spending time with the Sherpas. Thanks once again for all your help in making this possible.

RED MISSION BOXES

The amounts collected by the Red Mission Boxes during 2017 are:-

St Joseph's £6,529.00

XII Apostles £ 336.00

Many thanks to all our box holders, donators and collectors. If any boxes have not been emptied during the year, please inform the parish office.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas Raffle will take place **today**, 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 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.

"Do I have to go to Mass twice on Christmas Eve this year?"

There seems to be some confusion about Christmas Eve Mass this year. The Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is the first Mass of Christmas and only fulfils your Christmas obligation. If you only go to that Mass you have not fulfilled your Sunday obligation. You need to go either to the Saturday Vigil Mass or a Sunday morning Mass to fulfil your obligation for Sunday.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 14 - I encourage all of you to live the joy of your mission by witnessing to the Gospel wherever you are called to live and work.

Dec 13 - Christians are called to work concretely in the realities of this world, illuminating them with the light that comes from God.

Dec 12 - Thank you for following @Pontifex which turns five years old today. May social media always be spaces that are rich in humanity!

Dec 11 - We ask for the grace to make our faith more and more operative through acts of charity.

Dec 10 - Political activity must truly be conducted at the service of the human person, with respect for creation and for the common good.

Dec 9 - We must fight corruption with determination. It is an evil based on the worship of money and it offends human dignity.

Dec 8 - May the Virgin Mary always be our refuge, our consolation, and the way that leads to Christ.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,694.19
S.V.P. £ 693.01

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

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

DECEASED

Agnes Manfredi

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

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

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 today, Sunday December 17th.

ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic High School are currently consulting on a change to their Admissions Criteria; further details can be found on the St Mary's School website or via the following link <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/schools/Admissions-Consultations>

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.*

Live simply

Reflect:

The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice. Although Advent is a penitential season, it still has a real note of joy about it, this is the joy of anticipating the birth of Christ. In today's Epistle, St Paul summarises what is vital for the Christian life. Do good, shun evil, listen to the spirit, discern. He includes being joyful and thankful. How do we live out these vital parts of the Christian life in our own lives?

Sometimes thanksgiving and joy just come to us without any effort. At other times we find it difficult to find joy in our lives. Take time to listen to what the Spirit is saying to us about ways in which we might bring more joy and thankfulness into our lives.

Adapted from 'Pray As You Go' - <https://pray-as-you-go.org/prayer/?uid=6529>

Pray:

Psalm 100

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
Come before him, singing for joy!
Know that he, the Lord, is God,
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Enter his gates giving thanks
enter his courts with songs of praise,
give thanks to him and bless his name!
Indeed the Lord is good
His love is everlasting
He is faithful from age to age.

Act:

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people – the sick or housebound, the elderly, the bereaved. Make an effort to help those who are suffering by visiting or offering your support.

Challenge:

Have a Green Christmas this year by being less wasteful and as a show of respect for our environment and the occasion. Visit <https://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Green-Christmas> or http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm for some simple ideas enabling you to do this.

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 16 December

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 (the last) SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 18 December *Weekday of Advent II*

StJ 9.00am MASS Ellen Heaton (R.I.P.)

Tue 19 December *Weekday of Advent II*

12A 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Brian Ogden

Wed 20 December *Weekday of Advent II*

12A 9.15am MASS in church for school end of term. All welcome
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Agnes Manfredi

Thu 21 December *Weekday of Advent II*

StJ 9.00am MASS Joan Ganley (R.I.P.)
SH 12.00noon MASS Nora & Jim Pemberton

Fri 22 December *Weekday of Advent II*

OLR 10.00am MASS A sick person
StJ 12.00noon MASS Kathy Rigby & Marion Higgins (Anniv. & Birthday memorial)

Sat 23 December *Weekday of Advent II*

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 12.00noon MASS McHugh family
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Thompson

Sun 24 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Day of prayer for expectant mothers

StJ 8.30am MASS Stephen Aspden
SH 9.30am MASS Karen Williams (sick)
StJ 10.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
OLR 11.00am MASS Catherine Shea

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY

12A 5.30pm MASS Murnan family
StJ 5.30pm Carol Service
StJ 6.00pm MASS Carolyn Burke
SH 11.30pm MASS Fred & Frances Shortis

Mon 25 December SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(CHRISTMAS) Holyday of Obligation

StJ 8.30am MASS Joan & Vincent Ganley
SH 9.30am MASS Thanksgiving for prayers answered
StJ 10.30am MASS Kieran Moss (R.I.P.)
OLR 11.15am MASS Austin Wood

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 016, E Dawber; £5, 486, K Jones; £3, 187, A Sharkie; £2, 424, B Woods.

Bonus Ball No. 19 U Lightford

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. Paul Grady

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

Email: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

