

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

24 December 2017



## Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP MALCOLM

If we take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the feast can transform our lives, and not just for a few days at the end of the year. The Christmas message of peace and love never changes from one year to the next because it is there for us every day of our lives. The Gospel tells us that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life'. We remember this especially at Christmas, showing our thanks by reaching out to those around us.

We remember the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem: the nativity reproduced each year in numerous plays and presentations and recreated through the centuries in countless works of art. The stable, Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus, visited by shepherds and wise men.

It is right that we should remember and celebrate in this way, but sometimes our celebrations can lose sight of the reality of that cold winter's night two thousand years ago. The distance travelled: Mary and Joseph were far from home, they were living in a land ruled by an occupying power, forced to travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census. When they arrived there, among the crowd, there was nowhere for them to stay until an innkeeper let them use a stable. There were shepherds looking after their flocks on a dark hillside with no light and no warmth and wise men who travelled from afar, a great distance, in the hope of seeing the saviour.

Suddenly, a transformation as darkness became light. A child is born. Shepherds, at first cowering and scared, have a vision of angels bringing tidings of great joy, for 'today a Saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord'.

Christmas transforms our lives too, especially if we give to those around us: to people who are on their own at Christmas, or by visiting the housebound and the sick in hospital. We can make welcome those, who like Mary and Joseph, are far from home; those seeking asylum, those in prison, and members of the Forces who must be apart from their loved ones.

On Christmas Day we hear the account of the nativity showing us what God's love means for us today. Let us recognise His love so that our lives may be transformed.

With my prayers and every good wish for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP

Archbishop of Liverpool

**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

Mary & John Connor, Cooper & Parry Families, Brian Crawley, Ronald Gore, Alan Hesling, Norman Hewitt, James Hurst, Robert Kedward, Agnes Kedward, Derek Kedward, Elizabeth Moore, Catherine Morgan, Marlene O'Neill, Pauline Oddie, Brian Ogden, Alice Pennington, William Pennington, Isabella Phillips, Maurice Phillips, Sandra Phillips, William Phillips, Terence Quinn, Helen Sherarer, Edith & Joseph Smith, Shie-la Smith, Eddie Trumble, Jack Withington, Kathleen Withington, Sylvia Withington,

### 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.

### 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.

### SACRED HEART

#### 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 stay and help after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

#### CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRAW

The draw took place after Mass last Sunday and there were a few unclaimed prizes. Please check your tickets against the list of winning numbers at the back of church. The final sum raised for the parish was £403.60.

### 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. The Legion of Mary will lead us in praying the Rosary on this special feast of Our Lady. 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 20 - Heaven doesn't value what you have, but what you give.

Dec 19 - Go out to meet Jesus, spend time with Him in prayer, and entrust your whole life to His merciful love.

Dec 18 - Every stranger that knocks at our door is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ.

Dec 17 - May the Lord grant us the wisdom to seek that which is worthwhile and to love, not with our words but with our actions.

Dec 16 - We become holy when we work for others. When we do so, we continue the creative action of God in history.

Dec 15 - Even if there were no one else left to remember us, Jesus would always be there at our side.

### RCIA

RCIA Classes will be starting early in January, for anyone wanting to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter. Please speak to Fr Colin as soon as possible if you are interested. Please keep all the Candidates in your prayers.

### THANK YOU

A very BIG THANK YOU to Mosses Garden centre for the beautiful trees they have kindly donated to all our churches and for their generous support and donations of plants for the Christmas Fair and for the church throughout the year.

### VISIT TO ROME - JUNE 2018

We are sounding out the possibility of a group travelling to Rome 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June next year, hopefully attending the Papal Audience. Please note we would be using public transport in the city so travellers will need to be fairly agile and able to walk long distances. Four nights - bed and breakfast in a Religious House close to Vatican City. If you are interested and want more information please contact Des - 07973 114365

### BURNS NIGHT 2018

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall at 7.45 pm. Including "HAGGIS" supper and a "wee" dram or soft drink - £7.00. As this is a popular night please contact Des 07973 114365 for reservations.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,783.01  
**S.V.P.** £

Many thanks for your continued generosity.  
There is information about the S.V.P.'s work in the church porch. Please take a sheet.

### SICK

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

### BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-  
Thomas Douglas Rough Conlon.

### DECEASED

Pauline Oddie

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### 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 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.

### 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.*

 livesimply

#### Reflect:

*In today's reading we are told the story of the Annunciations and Mary's 'Yes' to God. Her response to the Angel was one of absolute faith and trust in God, the culmination of her years of getting to know God through a life of prayer. It was the only response she could make. How much do we trust God? Are our days lived in God's light? Can we say a daily 'Yes' to whatever God asks of us?*

#### 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:

*Make each day your own personal 'Yes' to God.*

#### Challenge:

*Have a Green Christmas this year. Visit <https://www.wikihow.com/Have-a-Green-Christmas> or [http://eartheasy.com/give\\_sustainchristmas.htm](http://eartheasy.com/give_sustainchristmas.htm) for some simple ideas enabling you to do this.*

St Joseph's Players  
Present Their 2018 Pantomime

## Cinderella

Directed by Doreen Johnson & Pauline Nevell

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February

Tickets £5 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January  
Matinees & evening performances £10 adults £5  
under 16 years. Box Office Spectrum Blinds  
(inside Stones Carpets) Chapel St, Leigh



 Happy Christmas

Very best wishes for A very Happy and Holy Christmas to you all. Thank you for your support and kindness throughout the year.

Fr Colin & Fr Kieran



## MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary

### Sat 23 December

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

### Tue 26 December **FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

*All altar servers in our parish are invited to celebrate their Patron Saint at:-*

SH 12.00noon MASS Dermot Hoy L.D.

### Wed 27 December **FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Pauline Oddie

### Thu 28 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

SH 12.00noon MASS Nora & Jim Pemberton

### Fri 29 December **FEAST OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, (BECKET) BISHOP & MARTYR**

StJ 12.00noon MASS David Allison

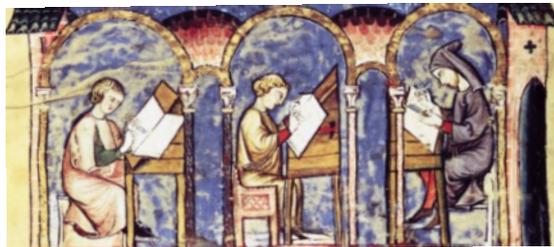
### Sat 30 December **SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY**

StJ 11.30am Exposition & Reconciliation  
StJ 12.00noon MASS Winifred Ellis (birthday anniv.)  
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Thompson (birthday anniv.)

### Sun 31 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

StJ 8.30am MASS Joan Ganley (R.I.P.)  
SH 9.30am MASS Michael Fay R.I.P.  
StJ 10.30am MASS Mark Prescott (Anniv.)  
OLR 11.00am MASS Anthony Freeman

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10, 056, R Ellis; £5, 229, J Evans; £3, 076, J Evans; £2, 291, M Roach.  
**Bonus Ball** No. 14 C Ellis



### **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**

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