

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (Year B) 31 December 2017**



## Responsorial Psalm

**He, the Lord, is our God.**

**He remembers his covenant for ever.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**At various times in the past and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

The regular presence of parents can be a constant assurance of safety and love for every young child. A family, no matter how good or bad or great or small they may be, provides the fundamental human connection that everyone needs in life. No matter how safe or how good any institution, the family is the best place for any child to grow up; so it was with the Holy Family. The reality of the Incarnation, that the Son of God did NOT pretend to be human but was fully human, is shown in his need for a family, a family who struggled to find their place in the world. They brought him into the world homeless, born in a manger in Bethlehem. They were forced to flee into Egypt, therefore they were asylum seekers. They later approached Jerusalem with great caution and were rightly worried about their child, especially when they lost him. The stories of the infancy narratives can appear very romantic but they were anything but. We love to tell these stories to children, and yet they are stories of worries, struggle and frustration. Struggle, worry and frustration, but also triumph over all that would try to break them apart. Out of the unity of the Holy Family came the unity of the whole human race.

In the paintings of some of the greatest artists of the world, Mary, Jesus and, when the painting includes him, Joseph, rarely look directly at each other. This is not because there is a lack of intimacy between them but because the painters wish to present the mystery of the Holy Family. They are bound together by something more than mutual concern. They are caught up in God's great plan, which is why they exist as a family. Sometimes they may be looking at a cross, sometimes at a symbol of grace such as a flower representing suffering, but often enough they are gazing at something outside of the painting. For all Christian families, the Holy Family reveals that all of our lives are enfolded in the great mystery of Christ Jesus himself. The Gospels only give us glimpses into the life of the Holy Family, yet it is clear that before he began his public ministry, Jesus lived for most of his short life in the circles of this family in the small village of Nazareth. This life within his family is referred to as Jesus' "hidden life", yet it was from these days that the human thoughts of Jesus developed. The parables of the Kingdom come from his experience as a human being living with other human beings. What is the Kingdom of God like? It is like the life of Jesus, and what he saw of human yearnings for happiness as he grew up in Nazareth.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend, let us remember that Jesus himself needed a family himself to feel protected, to feel loved, to feel valued. As God's family here on earth today we are called to protect, to value and to love others in the way Jesus was by Mary and Joseph two thousand years ago. We all need to feel part of a family, of God's family. We are all called to be part of this special family. May the unique story of the Holy Family inspire us to keep on going when all around us seems so difficult. Jesus' life on earth was tinged with hardships, suffering and sadness but he persevered because of the love of his family. May this same Holy Family inspire us to continue on our journey of faith until we too arrive at our homeland in Heaven.

**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

Audrey Ashurst, Mary McCann, Paul Nuttall, Pauline Oddie, Roy Parr, Joe & Tony Shovelton, Jon Smith,

### 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.

### SACRED HEART

#### CHRISTMAS CRIB

Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who helped to assemble our Christmas crib. Please stand by for the disassembly, but it won't be until the end of January.

### PARISHIONERS

There will be a special Mass to celebrate the arrival of 2018 in Our Lady of the Rosary church. It 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.



#### Reflect:

Today's readings illustrate the importance of Family and our need to support each other in our shared journey. It can be easy to be dismissive of a brother or sister that we may not get on with, and yet each of us has a unique role to play in forming the family unit.

The same is true of the role that each of us plays in our interactions with other people in our wider community. We are enhanced by each other, but we are also diminished when our relationship with each other is not as it should be.

#### Pray:

Through our lips let Christ speak.  
Through our hands let Christ act.  
Through our hearts let Christ love  
And through our sharing let Christ work.  
Amen  
Anabel Shilson-Thomas

#### Act:

Have the courage to be the one to take the first step towards reconciling any differences there may be between members of your family.

#### Challenge:

Show solidarity with the wider community by donating to a charity which supports those who are lonely, hungry or homeless.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Dec 28 - Today we pray for all the children who are not allowed to be born, who cry with hunger, who hold weapons in their hands instead of toys.

Dec 27 - God is in love with us. He draws us to Him with tenderness by being born poor and fragile among us, like one of us.

Dec 26 - Today we want to remember all those who suffer persecution. We want to be close to them with our affection and our prayers.

Dec 25 - Stop and look at the nativity scene: let us enter the true spirit of Christmas with the shepherds, bringing Baby Jesus all that we are.

Dec 24 - Contemplating the Baby Jesus, with His humble and infinite love, let us say to Him, very simply: "Thank you for doing all this for me!"

Dec 23 - If we really want to celebrate Christmas, let's contemplate this image: the fragile simplicity of a new-born baby. That's where God is.

Dec 22 - Let us free Christmas from the worldliness that has taken it hostage! The true spirit of Christmas is the beauty of being loved by God.

Dec 21 - Without love, both life and faith are worthless.

### 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.

### CAFOD FUN RUN

On behalf of CAFOD's work for the most needy of our world family, three runners & two walkers of our parish braved the elements last Wednesday at Wavertree. Please donate what you can: any cheques should be made out to CAFOD. God bless all of you. Many thanks. Peter & Julia.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £ 2,427.01 (St Joseph's)

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

### SICK

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

### DECEASED

Nora Hannah Baron, Catherine Morgan, Albert Keith Wall  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

### 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.*

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



### THANK YOU

*Fr Kieran & Fr Colin would like to say a very big thank you for all the good wishes, cards and gifts they have received over the Christmas period and for all the hard work and support given throughout the year.*

*And to wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year!*



### God will make a way

*God will make a Way where there seems to be no way.  
God works in ways we cannot see  
He will make a Way for me  
With love and strength for each new day.  
By a roadway in the wilderness  
God will lead me  
and I will see rivers in the desert.  
Heaven and earth will fade  
but God's word will still remain  
and together we will do something new today.*

*Sr Colette Selvam From Images of Prayer, ed. Linda Jones, published by CAFOD*

## MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

### Sat 30 December

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

### Mon 1 January

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

All parishioners are invited to celebrate today's Solemnity and the arrival of 2018 at The Holy Rosary, led by the Legion of Mary.

OLR 11.30am

MASS Eileen West L.D.

OLR 12.00noon

#### Memorial of St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen Bishops & Doctors

### Tue 2 January

SH 12.00noon

MASS Winifred Keeley L.D.

### Wed 3 January

#### Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 9.00am

MASS Margaret & Peter Cartledge

### Thu 4 January

#### Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 9.00am

MASS James Frost (anniv.)

### Fri 5 January

#### Weekday of Christmas Time

StJ 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Nora Hannah Baron

### Sat 6 January

#### Weekday of Christmas Time

SH 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS Nora Heneghan L.D.

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Kathleen McArt

### Sun 7 January

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am

MASS Fred Cooper R.I.P.

SH 9.30am

MASS Brian Wilfred Ogden L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Robert & Lily Farrimond

OLR 11.00am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10

**Bonus Ball** No.



### 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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