

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B) 28 January 2018



Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
For revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

When the evangelist Mark begins telling his story of the ministry of Jesus, he shows us how Jesus is invested with the power of the Holy Spirit at his baptism and thus acts with authority. The power that moves Jesus has its source in God; the authority that Jesus displays, both in actions and words, is the authority of God himself. When Jesus begins teaching, the people are deeply impressed; they can see for themselves the difference between how Jesus teaches and how other religious leaders teach. When Jesus teaches, something actually happens! It is not a matter of words decorating the air. Jesus' teaching creates an impression because people can see the change for good it has upon the broken and the crippled and the dispossessed.

In today's Gospel Jesus' teaching is seen in action. In the first public work of his ministry there is confrontation between two super powers: the power of God and the power of darkness. While Jesus is teaching in the synagogue, he is interrupted by the shouts of a man possessed, a man who has no authority over his body or spirit. He is possessed. He is not in charge or in control of his own life. When Jesus speaks, he commands the power that dominates this man's life to leave him alone. At Jesus' command the man is freed. The people are astonished and marvel at Jesus' teaching: "Here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it." When Jesus teaches, he shares not only his wisdom but his power. Jesus' actions are his principal teachings. This is unique authority. He uses his power to liberate people from the evil forces that dominate their lives. And when others see what he is doing with his teaching, they begin to wonder who this Jesus really is.

At the beginning of his ministry Jesus seems to meet with unmixed approval and success. You can hear the applause. But later, as we know, things will change and the applause will die down. When people want to shelter from his teaching and ignore his worth, they will distract themselves by focusing on his background, his address, his family, his supporters. His listeners will haul in the usual array of defence mechanisms to protect themselves from his insight. They will begin to question his authority, criticize his values, denounce his preferences. Jesus, however, seems to be aware that the road from approval to violence is a short one, and that he is not excused from facing the rejection that all the prophets before him had to face. The important point is that Jesus stays committed to using his power for good. He continues to exercise his authority to liberate those who are bound up and to confront those who lay burdens on the weak. No matter what the popular opinion is, Jesus struggles on. If he receives authority from Heaven then he looks to Heaven for support. Ultimately he is responsible to God the Father, from whom all power and authority come.

As we strive to live out our faith to the full, there will be times when we don't always receive approval from others, when people seem to act as barriers rather than helpers. Jesus never promised his disciples peace on earth – no matter what the recent Christmas cards may say – but peace one day with God in Heaven. Let us hope and pray that this will always be at the forefront of our minds and hearts as we, like the disciples, say our "Yes" when he asks us to follow him.

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**
www.leighdeanery.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



Healing Of A Demoniac in the Synagogue by James Tissot

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Teresa Ashton, Sarah Fullerton, Joan Hayes, Joni Horton, Rev. Dcn. Alan Mee, Andrea Southern, Grace Speakman, Mary Sutton, Anne Turner, James Unsworth.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The following tickets are winners of unclaimed prizes:
339 green, 207 orange, 289 orange, 367 green, 366 green, 402 green, 145 green.

SACRED HEART

OUTSTANDING

Last Tuesday, Sacred Heart school welcomed Religious Education inspectors from the archdiocese. After spending the day in school, the team of inspectors found that our school has improved from **good** to **outstanding**. This result is a reflection of all the hard work and dedication of our Headteacher Mrs Ahmed, our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Warner, our RE subject leader Mrs Nice and all the staff, also the dedication of our Chair of Governors Mrs Patricia Turton and all our governors who continue to maintain this high level of Catholic education for our children. This is a fantastic achievement and I thank all those who have worked so hard for this result. I'd also like to thank our parents and carers and, of course, all our children. Well done to everybody involved!!! *Fr Kieran*



Reflect:

In today's Gospel reading we hear about the authority of Jesus and his skill as a great teacher. Jesus' upbringing is likely to have been as normal as any other young person of his age and yet he was able to stand before a group of people in the synagogue and speak with authority. How could this be? We need to remember that Jesus was completely open to the promptings of his Father through the Holy Spirit and it was this trust and faith in God, this ability to listen to the words of God in his heart that enabled him to speak as he did and to live his life in a way that reflected his teaching

Pray:

Lord, open our hearts to the promptings of your Holy Spirit so that we may be in touch with your Truth and in doing so have the courage to share your word with others in the way we live and interact with each other. Amen

Act:

Actions speak louder than words – do we live our lives in a way that reflects what we believe, or are we just Sunday Christians?

Challenge:

Find ways in which you can support those children throughout the world who do not have the benefit of an education - for whom the act of going to school can be a perilous journey, or who may miss out on an education due to financial constraints

ROME PILGRIMAGE 18th - 22nd June 2018

We are pleased to confirm that this is going ahead as we have already 22 people booked. Details and booking forms are available in the Church porches. Alternatively please contact Des: 07973114365

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP M^cMAHON

... On Sunday 11th March at 11.00am in the Metropolitan Cathedral. *Would you like to be involved in the Mass? Do you*

have a significant anniversary to celebrate? Please contact Maureen Knight 0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

LAY FUNERAL MINISTERS TRAINING

21 - 22 February 10.00am - 4.00pm. Please contact Maureen Knight 0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

PASSING ON THE FAITH TO YOUR CHILD

An engaging, illustrated resource to help parents pass on the faith to their children. Suitable for 0-5 years. These colourful books use child-friendly language and simple illustrations to talk about God, heaven, prayer and Advent. This set of four books has been used throughout our Archdiocese to encourage parents as they pass on the faith to children in the home. Please contact Maureen O'Brien 0151 522 1044 or m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Jan 25 - Prayer allows us to see one another the way God our Father sees us, and to realize that we are brothers and sisters.

Jan 24 - I would like everyone to promote a journalism of peace, a journalism created by people for people.

Jan 24 - The most radical antidote to the virus of falsehood is purification by the truth.

Jan 24 - There is no such thing as harmless disinformation; trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences.

Jan 23 - Prayer that purifies, strengthens and illuminates our path is like fuel for our journey towards full Christian unity.

Jan 22 - I am grateful to all who have accompanied me on my pilgrimage to Chile and Peru in so many ways, especially with prayer.

Jan 21 - The Lord calls you today to travel with Him through the city, your city. He calls you to be His missionary disciple.

Jan 21 - Don't waste time hiding your heart. Fill your life with the Holy Spirit!

Jan 20 - There is no better medicine to heal so many wounds than a heart capable of mercy.

Jan 19 - Praise to you, Lord, for this wonderful creation that is the Amazon people, and for all the biodiversity these lands contain!

Jan 19 - Every life counts: from the beginning to the end, from conception to natural death

Jan 18 - The Gospel message is a source of joy: a joy that spreads from generation to generation and which we inherit.

ORDINARY TIME WINTER

Until Lent begins we are asked to pray for these intentions:- Peace on Earth, Christian Unity, Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; The Unemployed.

Peace Day	14 January
Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity	18-25 January
Racial Justice Day	28 January
Day for Victims of Trafficking	8 February
World Day for the Sick	11 February
Day of the Unemployed	11 February
(Ash Wednesday is on	14 February 2018)

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,707.00

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

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

SHARE THE JOURNEY

It was a cold January morning as young leaders from Catholic youth centres across England and Wales met at Hayes Conference centre for a training event. During that day, they walked 71 miles to show their solidarity with refugees and migrants. These are the first miles of a 29,400 mile journey – the distance around the world – we aim to walk with all the CAFOD supporters to bear witness to the global refugee crisis. What about you? Will you add some miles to our grand total from across England and Wales?

71 miles in solidarity with refugees

"When it comes to people in the UK asking their government to do more for refugees, if people can do this then they should. People marching to show solidarity with refugees, this is a very good thing. God help us and God bless you for this." Susan Kambalu, who works in the education team at CAFOD, organised the first of our Share the Journey walks to show solidarity with refugees and migrants. She says: "Each one of us has made a small journey, but together we are making greater strides".

71 people each walked one mile. They walked to stand up for refugees. Every step they took sent a message to world leaders that they must also step up and act with courage and compassion when they sign new international agreements on refugees and migrants next September.

Before they left for their walk, each group was given a campaign card to help them reflect, listen and discuss as they walked. They were encouraged to share their own life journeys and reflect on the journeys made by refugees and migrants.

Susan added "at the end we invited the participants to sign a card to the Prime Minister to ensure September's UN global agreements have the dignity of refugees and migrants at their heart. We finished with the closing prayer on our cards. It was simple but powerful."

Join our walk around the world

Easy steps to follow

"It was so easy to organise. I used the guide and followed the advice step-by-step, including reading from the script on the day" says Susan.

"On the day, after the opening prayer, the young adults left in pairs and small groups. They were given fifteen minutes to walk a mile around the grounds," added Susan.

Some groups had to walk in the rain and as one participant said, "walking outdoors in the rain can help you understand more the situation facing refugees as they walk to seek refuge".

Order your campaign cards to reflect while walking

Go the extra mile for refugees

Now it is your turn to organise a walk in your community. Any age or group can take part. Pick a date from now until September 2018. Why not walk during refugee week (16 to the 24 June)? Your walk will make a big difference and send a powerful message to world leaders that they must step up too.

1. Order your Share the Journey walk guide today
2. Order your campaign cards with story, prayers and questions for reflection

Want to know more about CAFOD Share the Journey campaign? Download our fact sheet. You can download a prayer for refugees too.

Authors:

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CAFOD
just one world

St Joseph's Players
Present Their 2018 Pantomime

Cinderella

Directed by Doreen Johnson & Pauline Nevell

Wednesday 24th January to 3rd February

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



Leigh Catenians Association

invite you to a

Ladies Evening Dinner Dance

Starring local vocalist Steven Green

At the Masonic Hall, Leigh,

Friday 23rd February 2018,

7:00pm for 7:30pm

Full three course dinner plus dancing,
formal dress.

Price £30 per person

All enquiries to Maurice McCarthy 01942 518895

VOCATION DISCERNMENT GROUP

To support those exploring Vocations to the Priesthood in our diocese, a monthly day of recollection has been organised for the first Saturday of each month. These days will help men who feel called to ordained ministry to discover more about diocesan priesthood and meet others discerning a call to priesthood. There will be an opportunity to talk with and hear from priests who minister in the diocese, and also a time for prayer and discussion. The next day of recollection will take place on Saturday 3rd February at St. Charles' Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool. For further information, please contact Fr James Preston, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Liverpool, at frjamespreston@gmail.com or telephone: 0151 727 2493. Regular updates will be posted on our Facebook page: Archdiocese of Liverpool Vocations.

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 27 January

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 28 January

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

Racial Justice Day

StJ 8.30am

MASS Eileen & Alan Hogan (R.I.P.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Frances Shortis

StJ 10.30am

MASS Julie Costello & Family (Sp. Int.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Malcolm Powell L.D.

Mon 29 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 4)

StJ

NO MASS

Tue 30 January

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 10.00am

FUNERAL SERVICE Sarah Fullerton

SH 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Teresa Pilkington

Wed 31 January

Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest & Doctor

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Thomas Kennedy (anniv.)

Thu 1 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 12.00noon

MASS Special intention (K.R.)

Fri 2 February

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Vernon Byrne (birthday memorial)

StJ 1.45pm

FUNERAL SERVICE Irene Forsyth

Sat 3 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS Eileen West L.D.

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Winifred Robinson

Sun 4 February

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Teresa Eckersley R.I.P.

SH 9.30am

MASS Kitty Gallagher (birthday anniversary)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Joan & Gerald Noon (birthday memorial)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Mary O'Neil L.D.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club 14 Jan £10, 201, J Causby; £5, 313, B Edwards; £3, 223, K Jones; £2, 487, Jessica Flannery. 21 Jan £10, 485, A Wilkinson; £5, 87, Christina Swift; £3, 264, T&C Ellis; £2, 173, B Ryan;.

Bonus Ball 14 Jan 5, F Rasburn: 21 Jan 47, A Unsworth.



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

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