

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B) 4 February 2018



Responsorial Psalm

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

Are we more optimistic or pessimistic? Do we tend to see rays of light or clouds of darkness? The French philosopher Rene Descartes wrote, "The optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?" It is easy to be overwhelmed by the misery in the world if every day we watch the news with its constant diet of war, violence and tragedy. We can sometimes feel crushed by the sheer amount of suffering we see. Sometimes we can feel crushed by our own personal sense of darkness. This is what happened to Blessed John Henry Newman. In 1833 he was lost at sea near Sardinia and felt worn down by sickness and depression. But there he prayed for light in what has become a well-known hymn:

"Lead kindly light, amidst the encircling gloom, lead thou me on.
The night is dark and I am far from home, lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to see the distant scene, one step enough for me."

Job, in today's First Reading, does not seem able to pray like that. He is feeling the misery of the world. He is pessimistic about life. For most people it is sheer drudgery. In his sickness he lies on his bed and feels a terrible restlessness as he waits for morning and then frets until evening falls. And when we turn to the Gospel we see how the crowds who suffer like Job are drawn out of their despair by the healing touch of Jesus. He is a light in the darkness. Jesus has announced the Kingdom of God and is now healing sick people and casting out devils from those who are possessed. This is exactly why he has come – to preach a message of hope to a suffering world. Jesus teaches but so often he has to reach out to touch the sick people who are pressing around him for healing. Much of Mark's Gospel is taken up with his miracles of healing because this is what the wounded world demands. Some are dramatic exorcisms but others, as we hear today, are smaller cures. In Simon's house he goes to the disciple's mother-in-law, lying with fever on her bed. He takes her by the hand, helps her up and she is healed and given new hope. But Jesus does not want to be seen as just a wonder-worker. His healing goes deeper. He forgives sin and heals spiritual sickness. And then at the end of his life he shares our suffering by identifying with those who are poor and are outsiders. He undergoes their fate by being crucified between two criminals. It is only on the Cross after he has suffered that Jesus will gain the full recognition of being both Messiah and Son of God.

In a society which highly values those who are young, healthy and rich, the acknowledgement of sickness and even death is not always welcome. But the Bible has no qualms about facing these realities. It tells us outright that we are mortal and gives us the permission to lament our suffering just as Job did. Jesus confronts the misery of the world head-on. He makes the healing of sick people central to his ministry. By entering fully into the misery of the world Jesus becomes for us a source of healing and hope. Optimism is a feeling that things will get better, but Christian hope is rooted in a person who has triumphed over death. In the light of that hope we can pray to God for healing in many ways. God works through the skill of the doctors and nurses in modern hospitals. But the Lord works as well in our communities through his presence among us, especially through the sacraments of healing. In Baptism we are washed clean, in Confirmation we are strengthened in the Spirit, and in the Sacrament of the Sick Jesus continues his healing work among us through the laying on of hands. And today, as we gather for Mass, we are fed with the bread of life. But we are also healed, as Peter's mother-in-law was, by the love and care in our homes through the loving concern of our brothers and sisters. Healing is not always dramatic, but it continues each day through the loving presence of God in our lives.

**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

Pat Branwood, John Carney, Alf Case, Monica Davies, Jean Fullerton, Geoff, Tom & Betty Kennedy, Steven Naylor, Mary Sutton, Frank Twentyman, Claire Tyman, Members of the Legion of Mary.

LITTLE CHURCH

St Joseph's Little Church penny collection total is £65, which has been sent to CAFOD. £50 for emergency food, £5 for emergency water, £10 for a vegetable garden. Thank you for supporting the children.

THANK YOU

The family of Joni Horton would like to thank all the parishioners for their prayers, support and Mass cards during Joni's long illness and for their generous donations to Wigan & Leigh Hospice and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

COFFEE MORNING

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass today. All welcome.

MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Saturday 10th February 2018, 12.00 noon
Christ The King Church, Queens Drive, Wavertree L15 6YQ
Main Celebrant Bishop Tom Williams. All Welcome.

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

DIARIES

We have been sent some 2018 diaries (a little late!). There are only a few, but please feel free to take one.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Feb 1 - A faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow.

Jan 31 - Jesus is our mediator, who reconciles us not only with the Father but also with each other.

Jan 30 - Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day.

Jan 29 - Through prayer we can enter into a stable relationship with God, the source of true joy.

Jan 28 - I pray for those who suffer from Hansen's Disease and I encourage those who are committed to their care and reintegration into society.

Jan 27 - Here we are, Lord, ashamed of what humanity, made in your image and likeness, is capable of doing. Remember us in your mercy.

Jan 26 - Christian joy cannot be bought. It comes from faith and from meeting Jesus Christ, who is the reason for our happiness.

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)

MISSIO

"I am in the last year of my seminary formation; I hope and pray that God who started this beautiful work in me will see to its completion"

These are the earnest words of a young trainee priest in Sri Lanka. This sentiment has been echoed time and again by countless young men throughout the world, who have shared their fears and struggles in completing their formation to the priesthood. Many are poor and expected to support their families as their parents become older, many are Catholic minorities in a hostile environment, but one thing is certain - their desire to love and serve in Christ's name.

You can help these young men fulfil their calling by having a Mission Box and putting your loose change in, it is surprising how it mounts up. Collectors are also needed to empty the mission boxes three times a year, it is not a taxing job and help is much needed. Please contact the parish office if you would like to have a mission box or become a collector.

Thank you

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,640.19
SPUC £ 285.63

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, Doug Wakefield

DECEASED

Rhoda Ward, Michael Mullahy, Wasył Weresniuk

Eternal rest grant unto them

FAMILY FAST DAY Friday 23rd February

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brother and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday 23rd February can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity?

With malnutrition still killing almost 3 million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough to eat.

And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed.

WHY FAST?

In 1960, a group of Catholic women did something extraordinary. They organised the first Family Fast Day to support mothers and babies in Dominica who were suffering from malnutrition. They received overwhelming support. From this CAFOD was born.

Fast Day Prayer

Everlasting God,
We give you thanks
For you nourish and strengthen us
With your merciful love.

Give us this day our daily bread.

We pray for those
Who hunger in scorched lands,
With no food for their children.
Together we cry out for justice.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Help us to share generously
As one family,
And to hold onto hope
For a world transformed.

Bread of life,
We pray your people
May find life and joy
In all its fullness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Rachel McCarthy

CAFOD
just one world

live simply

Reflect:

We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Jesus models for us a life of prayer - for Jesus, prayer is intrinsically linked to the work he does, to his understanding of the relationship between himself and his Father in heaven. Do we live our secular and spiritual lives in this balance too, or is one part of our being out of sync with the other?

Pray:

In our waiting, in our praying, in our being;
By our actions and our words
By our choices and decisions
May we make your love known

In our tears and our anger
By our sharing and our sheltering
Through our joy and thanksgiving
May we make your love known.

Linda Jones 'Livesimply – a CAFOD resource for living'

Act:

Jesus healed many who were suffering in today's Gospel. Find ways in which you can help to cure others – pray with them; lend a helping hand in their distress; show you care; donate to a food bank; be environmentally aware....

Challenge:

Take steps to ensure the spiritual and secular life you live are in balance with each other – become a whole person!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer Unity Service for all our Leigh Area, the gift to our world of Suriname (on N. Coast of S. America), FRIDAY, 2nd. MARCH, 7:30pm, Bedford Methodist Church, Breaston Avenue (off Warrington Road), LEIGH, WN7 3DJ. Singers (Male, female, any age) Practices: Mondays, 18th. & 25th. February, 7:30 to 8:30pm at Bedford Methodist Church.

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

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 3 February

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Winifred Robinson

Sun 4 February

StJ 8.30am

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

SH 9.30am

MASS Teresa Eckersley R.I.P.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Kitty Gallagher (birthday anniversary)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Joan & Gerald Noon (birthday memorial)

MASS Mary O'Neil L.D.

Mon 5 February

Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

NO MASS

Tue 6 February

SH 12.00noon

Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

MASS Julia Gallagher

Wed 7 February

12A 9.30am

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 4)

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Roy Ellis L.D.

MASS Ellen & Joseph Joyce (Anniv.)

Thu 8 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Day for Victims of Trafficking

StJ 9.00am

MASS Vernon Byrne (Birthday Memorial)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Brian Wilfred Ogden

SH 1.15pm

FUNERAL MASS Wasył Weresniuk

Fri 9 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Andrea Southern (Anniv.)

Sat 10 February

Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin

OLR 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation *

OLR 12.00noon

MASS Maureen Sweeney (birthday anniversary)

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 11 February

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

World Day of Prayer for the Sick and those who care for them

Day for the Unemployed

StJ 8.30am

MASS People of the Pastoral area

SH 9.30am

MASS Nora Heneghan L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Thomas Kennedy (Anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Margaret Ridyard L.D.

*Please note confessions finish at 11.45am

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 297, J Evans; £5, 009, A Unsworth; £3, 303, C Eillis; £2, 421, M Moore
Bonus Ball No. 16 m Collins



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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