

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

11 March 2018



Responsorial Psalm

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel scene a Pharisee talks to Jesus about God. Nicodemus has arrived under cover of darkness, and he misunderstands what Jesus, the Light of the World, is saying to him. This gives Jesus the opportunity to clarify his meaning, so he declares: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." God's supreme gift was given out of love, not out of desire to humiliate or condemn the world. If God's basic attitude to the world was one of divine contempt or detachment then he would not have sent us his only Son. If God is greedy for anything it is for people's acceptance of his love. There is a divine hunger for human love – which is why God sent his only Son. Hopefully there is human hunger for divine love – again, this is why God sent his Son. In the person of Jesus, two hungers meet and are satisfied.

The Gospel today expresses the hope that if we really believed God loved us we would surely emerge from our selected darkness. In the dark it is difficult to see God. it is difficult to even think about him. We tend to think of God in our own image and likeness. Perhaps we would choose to come into the light more often if we truly believed that the light we are entering is not the light of condemnation. If some of us are afraid of the dark, then many more are afraid of the light. We are afraid of standing in a place that is over-lit, exposed and defenceless. But this is a "dark" image of God. God is not waiting outside the door from the dark, ready to humiliate us with the light of truth. The purpose of the light is to enlighten, not to blind us. God wants to see us in the light. After all, as today's Second Reading tells us, "We are God's work of art created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it."

Most of us would have difficulty in imaging ourselves as God's work of art. It takes less effort to see ourselves as God's mistake. This may be the image for ourselves, as it is for many Catholics, but this is no reason for ascribing the same view to God. it is part of the central message of the Gospel that we are created in God's love, that we ARE his work of art. We have to begin imagining ourselves as God sees us. Works of art should not be left to rot away in the dark, neglected and unseen. If they have been abandoned for a long time they will need sensitive restoration to be saved and brought to life again. Lent gives us the opportunity to think again about the task of restoration and allow God to bring out the best in us. Like all restorers, God needs light to do his work. Who knows, we might even begin to value God's work ourselves. And if this happens, then we might just recognize God's art in other people.

**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

Raymond Buck, Carolyn Burke, Canon Cowell, Manfred Funke, Francis Gallagher, Sheila Garvey, Vincent Higgins, Joanne, Norah Morley, Marlene O'Neill, Peter Quinn, Ellen Squires, Thanksgiving St Anthony.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

There will be a Mothers' Prayers Meeting on Tuesday 13th March at 2.00pm. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

EASTER RAFFLE

We are having our usual Easter Raffle. Donations of Easter eggs, chocolates and gifts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

EASTER LILIES

Our Altar will be decorated with lilies at Easter in memory of our loved ones. If you would like a lily, they are £1.50 each. Please put your donation and the names of your loved ones in the envelopes provided and put them in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

EASTER CARDS

Easter cards are now on sale.

SACRED HEART

Easter cards are now available in the little shop and on the table at the back of church.

TEA & COFFEE

Tea and coffee will be served after Sunday Mass today.

LIVERPOOL SYNOD 2020

Following on from the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter before Christmas, Liverpool Archdiocese is embarking on a three year project aimed towards a General Synod in 2020. As part of the preparations we will be holding a number of Holy Hours very soon as we focus on prayer for the first year. The Archbishop will be leading some of these Holy Hours in the different area of the Archdiocese. So, an early notice that Archbishop Malcolm will be leading a Holy Hour in St. Joseph's church, Leigh, on Wednesday May 30th at 7.30pm. All welcome. More details nearer the time.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS LIVERPOOL

Many of you may be aware that Liverpool Archdiocese are hosting the National Eucharistic Congress in September this year. Since this is a national event tickets for the Congress are strictly limited. The Congress takes place between September 7th-9th in different venues in Liverpool city centre. Anyone who wishes to go does not have to attend the whole weekend. In fact, this would be rather difficult due to ticket availability. Each Deanery has been allocated just five tickets for the Friday event. We have been allocated 36 tickets for the Saturday – this includes tickets for priests and deacons. Sunday is a celebration of two Masses at the Cathedral (see below) so this is a little more flexible, although you will still need tickets for this event too. Venues and approximate times are as follows:-

Friday September 7th – ACC Convention Centre, Liverpool between 10am-5.45pm.

Saturday September 8th – ACC Echo Arena, Liverpool between 9.30am-5pm.

Sunday September 9th – Mass in Liverpool Cathedral at 9.30am & 11.30am.

Outdoor Eucharistic Procession at 1.00pm.

If you would like to volunteer to represent the Deanery at the National Eucharistic Congress then please contact Fr Paul (the Elder) as soon as possible. You will be provided with a booking form which you will need to fill in as part of your booking. First come, first served. **Just heard that booking forms need to be received BEFORE March 15th at the very latest.**

HCPT GOLF DAY

HCPT are running their annual Golf Day on Thursday May 24th at Westthoughton Golf Club. Fr Paul has been asked to get together a couple of teams for the "shotgun start" golf day, which begins at 1.00pm. If you would like to please contact Fr Paul as soon as possible – strictly on a first come, first served basis. There are two places left. Price is £30 per person including competition prizes and hot food.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Mar 8 - I thank all women who every day strive to build more humane and welcoming societies.

Mar 7 - If sometimes the flame of charity seems to die in our hearts, it never dies in the heart of God!

Mar 6 - Let us learn to recognize that which leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, knowing that it comes from God.

Mar 5 - God, who cannot be outdone in generosity, still uses you and me to help our brothers and sisters.

Mar 4 - When you meet other people in the Lord, you can be sure God's surprises will follow.

Mar 3 - Almsgiving helps us to recognize our neighbour as our brother or sister, and to acknowledge that what we possess is never ours alone.

Mar 2 - Fasting makes us more alert and attentive to God and our neighbour, and reminds us that He alone can satisfy our hunger.

LENTEN ALMS

At the Archbishop's request this year's Lenten Alms are being donated to Asylum Link, which is an organisation dedicated to assisting Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Liverpool and to raising public awareness around refugee issues. It is a welcoming and safe place for people from all countries to meet, relax and find out about the city they have arrived in. Asylum Link provides friendship, help and advice and encourages the participation of asylum seekers and refugees in the service. Most services are provided on a drop-in basis, with appointments available for specialist activities. Every day, tea, coffee and biscuits are available during opening hours and lunch is served most days to everyone. The day to day running of the centre is managed by four full time and three part time staff, and over 100 volunteers.

Our Lenten Alms box is situated in the main porch. Please give generously.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,755.60

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

Winifred Beattie, David Belshaw, Marie Fletcher, Kitty Jones, Alan & Doreen Lowe, Mary Marsh.

DECEASED

Violet Brown, Elizabeth Reeder.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Emily Elsie Davies.

NUGENT

There will be an appeal on behalf of Nugent on the 10th/11th March..

"Our appeal this year "In Your Name" focuses on our core Caritas projects serving children and adults with learning disabilities and children who can no longer live at home and are in our care. These services receive little or no statutory funding and are entirely reliant on the good will and generosity of our supporters.

As well as your generosity your prayerful support this Nugent Sunday is of tremendous value to our staff, volunteers and the people we serve.



Reflect:

This Sunday's Gospel reading makes an offer of life and light, and a warning about judgement and darkness. We all want to be on the side of light. We all, at times, veer towards the dark. Often we're in a half-light, like at dusk. But Lent is more about dawn than dusk. As the days lengthen, Lent offers a springtime of the heart. Open your heart to that hopeful call.

Pray:

Lord,
We pray that we may be the light of Christ to others, revealing the transforming power of your love, challenging the injustices we encounter bringing hope to those living in darkness.
Amen

Act:

The theme of the Crucifixion runs through the reading. We aren't far away from Holy Week now, and this Sunday is often seen as a break from the rigours of fasting. How is your Lent going? Have you made progress or change in the way you wanted to?

Challenge:

Are there any deeds of darkness you want to confess to the God of love? How have you cooperated with the God of light in the last day or two? How is Jesus wanting to bring you a little more into the light today? Spend some time talking with the Lord about how you can come closer to the light as we continue through Lent.

LENT

Reflections taken from 'Pray As You Go' During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:-

Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Candidates for the Sacraments especially on Sundays

Stations of the Cross

St Joseph's church Wednesdays in Lent 7.00pm

Sacred Heart church Thursdays in Lent following a noon Mass

THE PRIESTS LIVE IN CONCERT

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Friday 1st June
Tickets from £16 available from Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Box Office 0151 709 3789
The proceeds of the concert will be split between Nugent Care and Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool

LOURDES

A Place for All
ONE ARCHDIOCESE
ONE PILGRIMAGE

Friday 20th - 27th July 2018

Each year our dedicated team of healthcare professionals and Hospitalité team of volunteers help people to realise their hope of time spent at Our Lady's Shrine.

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes contact us in total confidence via our website Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk or call 07484 911 623

THE PASTORAL CARE PROJECT

Dementia Prayer Week, 12th – 19th March 2018

Our Mission

"raising awareness of the spiritual needs of the frail elderly - enabling carers to support them in their journey to the fullness of life."

We are inspired by the Gospel of Luke 4.18-19

The spirit of the Lord is upon me
because he has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim release for prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind;
to free the broken-hearted
and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

History

The Pastoral Care Project is a Christian organisation which pioneered pastoral care and ministry in care settings and in the community since 1994 and in 2002 achieved charitable status.

Working with many Christian ecumenical partners since 1994 we have raised awareness and produced resources to help alleviate the isolation felt by those suffering with dementia, as well as providing information and support enabling their carers to support them in the last part of their journey to the fullness of life.

If you would like more information about the work of the Pastoral care Project, please visit:
www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk

**Wigan & Leigh Pensioners Link
30 year Anniversary**

Ashton-on-Mersey Showband

Saturday 17th March

Curtain up 7.30pm

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh

Tickets £8 including buffet

Available from Pensioners Link Office
or Spectrum Blinds, Chapel St Leigh

Email : polly.link1@gmail.com

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 10 March

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Caroline Sutton

Sun 11 March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Thomas & Kathleen Jones (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Joni Horton (R.I.P.)

OLR 11.00am MASS Tom Monaghan

Mon 12 March

Weekday of Lent

SH 12.00noon MASS Brian Finney L.D.

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Violet Brown

Tue 13 March

Weekday of Lent

SH 12.00noon MASS Eileen West L.D.

Wed 14 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 9.00am MASS Marlene O'Neill

12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson

StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 15 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 9.00am MASS Francis Gallagher (Anniv)

SH 12.00noon MASS Nora Heneghan L.D.

followed by Stations of the Cross

Fri 16 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 12.00noon MASS James & Ann Marsh

Sat 17 March

FEAST OF SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON OF IRELAND

StJ 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation *

StJ 12.00noon MASS Mary Frain (100th Birthday)

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

Sun 18 March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS John & Agnes Coan

SH 9.30am MASS Kathleen Hall (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am MASS Sylvia Withington

OLR 11.00am MASS Peter & Agnes Wilkinson

*Please note, confessions finish at 11.45am

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 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

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

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