

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) 15 April 2018



Responsorial Psalm

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

There are times in life when it takes courage to stand up and bear witness to the things that we believe to be true. When Jesus told his disciples, "You are witnesses to this," regarding his resurrection, they may not have been entirely delighted to be chosen for that role. In New Testament Greek, the word for "witness" is the same as that for "martyr". The early Christians would have been aware that those who were appointed as witnesses to Christ might well be called upon to follow his example and lay down their lives for him. So many of the early disciples did exactly this – St. Stephen, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. James, to name only a few, did in fact die a martyr's death in the early days of the Church, and many more have done so over the centuries, in many different countries around the world. And it's still a danger that people face in some parts of the world even in our own day. To what, exactly, did the disciples bear witness? They witnessed the resurrection of Jesus. It was not necessary to bear witness to his crucifixion. That was common knowledge. Indeed, some of those to whom Peter preached had themselves been instrumental in having Jesus crucified. In today's First Reading Peter relates the crucifixion as an undoubted fact, but goes on, "God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are witnesses." On another occasion, recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, speaking before the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin, Peter said, "By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and Saviour ... we are witnesses to all this."

We are all called to be witnesses to Christ Jesus. Will we also be called to be martyrs? It may not seem likely in this country, in our time; but even if we do not have to face persecution of this kind, we may very well have to face opposition, ridicule, contempt, discrimination. A woman recently fought a case for unfair dismissal, having been sacked for wearing a crucifix. Are we prepared to give open and visible evidence of our faith, even if it gets us into trouble? We are not eyewitnesses to the resurrection, as Peter and the disciples were. We can only bear witness that we accept what has come down to us from the disciples, and what we have experienced in our own lives. This may seem a relatively safe way to be a witness. However, many witnesses in criminal trials may have wished that they had not been so aware of what was going on, that they had been looking the other way, that they had not been so sharp-eyed. Perhaps we may come to wish that we had not heard the Lord calling in the night, that we had not recognized Jesus in the stranger on the road, that he had not opened our minds to understand the scriptures, that our hearts had not burned within us as we read about him in the Gospels. Then we would not have been called to be his witnesses. But we did hear him, we did recognize him, and we are his witnesses in the world today. That is his calling to each one of us.

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

Julie Booth, Margaret & George Cartledge, James Cassidy, Anne Charlesworth, Martin Denson, Margaret Fleming, Rose Grimley, Vinnie Johnson, Mary Malley, Cherian Mani, Jack Parr, Vincent Scott, Bill Speakman, Reginald Squires, Peter Stott, Keith Turner, Karen Worthington, Callum Wright, Deceased Members of the Yates Family, Private Intention

RED MISSION BOXES

Can collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring them to the Presbytery on Monday 23rd April. Thank you.

GARDENING

Mosses Garden Centre has very kindly donated a large number of plants for our gardens, Keith Hindley is doing a wonderful job planting them all, but would appreciate a little help, with planting and to keeping the gardens tidy. If you are available to help, please speak with Keith.

THANK YOU

Kathleen Parr would like to thank everyone who sent Mass Cards, Birthday Cards and lovely gifts on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Also a very special thanks to the ones who helped to arrange the surprise birthday party. It was a wonderful night. May God bless you all.

ST JOSEPH'S MEN'S SODALITY CLUB

The Sodality Club has now been bought by W J Structures Ltd and the new owners want to restore the building. They are interested to hear from anyone who has any photographs or history about the club, if you are able to help please contact Mrs littler on 07851109235

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

EASTER RAFFLE

Please check your raffle tickets, there are a few unclaimed prizes.

FIRST COMMUNION GIFTS

First Holy Communion gifts are on sale at the back of church.



April 12 - Saints are distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God. There is no holiness without prayer. #Holiness

April 11 - Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church. #SaintsToday

April 11 - The word "happy" or "blessed" becomes a synonym for "holy", because those faithful to God, by their self-giving, gain true happiness. #GaudeteetExsultate

Apr 10 - Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love, sowing peace all around us, accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness. #SaintsToday

Apr 10 - Being poor of heart, reacting with meekness and humility, knowing how to mourn with others, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness. #SaintsToday

Apr 9 - Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain. #GaudeteetExsultate

Apr 9 - Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. #SaintsToday
Apr 9 - Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. #Holiness

Apr 9 - Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. #GaudeteetExsultate

Apr 9 - Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. #SaintsToday

Apr 9 - The Lord calls each of us to holiness, you too. #Holiness

Apr 9 - I wish to repropose the call to holiness: "Rejoice and be glad". #GaudeteetExsultate

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortation_s/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html ...

Apr 9 - Today God is still searching for hearts like Mary's, hearts that are ready to trust in Him completely.

Apr 8 - God covers us with His mercy, He enfolds us in Christ, so that we can become instruments of His goodness.

Apr 7 - Like the Good Samaritan, let us take care of those who are sick and suffering! #WorldHealthDay

GIFT ENVELOPES

The Gift Aid Envelopes are now available, please collect your envelopes after Mass today. If you are a tax payer and are not currently signed up to Gift Aid, please consider doing so. It costs you nothing and the church receives an extra 20p from the government for every pound you give.



Reflect:

In today's reading we are reminded that out of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection comes our mission to proclaim reconciliation with God through Jesus to the whole world. God's Kingdom is being realised when people go through the process of radical conversion and change of life which brings about a deep reconciliation of each one with God, with all those around them and with themselves. When fear and hostility are replaced with caring love for each other. It is for each one of us today to ask how, given the circumstances of our own lives, we can most effectively get that message across to the people around us. It means proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom among us.

Pray:

We ask, Lord Jesus,
That the gifts we have may become the treasures we share
And the blessings we receive become the riches we give,
So we may reflect the light you bring into the darkness of others.

Act:

Now the weather is warming up, it's the ideal time to plant some vegetable seeds for harvesting later in the year.

Challenge:

All round us there are people who have never heard that message of unconditional love, or who have only heard a distorted version of it.

Yet the constant pursuit of money and goods, of power and status, the constant escape into drugs, nicotine, alcohol and the high incident of suicides, especially among young people, all point to people who are looking for meaning, peace and happiness in their lives.

All need to hear that greeting: "Peace with you" and to experience the peace that only Jesus can give. Will I be the one to carry that message today to even one other person?

Reflect and Challenge adapted from 'Sacred Space' website

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,817.29

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

The retiring collection in all our churches next weekend will be on behalf of the Priests' Training Fund.

SICK

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

DECEASED

Patricia Ferroni, William Speakman
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND

Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The second collection will be the annual collection for the Priests' Training Fund which is the chief source of income that enables the Archdiocese to train our future priests. It takes six or seven years to train a priest and costs approximately £100,000.

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 911623



LIVERPOOL
LOURDES
PILGRIMAGE

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE & CONGRESS 2018

Eucharist is ... pilgrimage

The culmination of a pilgrimage may be a Mass, but the source and summit of any week as a Catholic Christian is the Eucharist. We don't have to journey with passport and suitcase to find the healing that we need, the healing of forgiveness and inclusion in God's family. We just have to journey to church for Mass.

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Sunday 6th May 2018 10.30am - 4.00pm

Boys in Year 2 & 3 are invited to come and meet the Choristers and have the opportunity to sing in the largest Catholic church in the UK. This is an opportunity to explore what being a chorister is all about. For further details please visit the Cathedral website. www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk

St Joseph's Players Present "AN IDEAL HUSBAND"

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh
A Comedy by Oscar Wilde
Produced by Donna Wood

Tuesday 24th to Saturday 28th April

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets adults £8 16yrs & under £4.50

Available from Spectrum Blinds, Chapel St, Leigh or pay on the door



The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present

Orpheus in the Underworld

Music by Offenbach

Tuesday 15th – Saturday 19th May 2018 7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Tickets: £11 & £13 Concessions available. Contact
01942 676594, 01942 605369

or call in at The Baby Centre, 15 Queen Street, Leigh
01942 665615

Also available online at www.thethreetowns.net

A comic, adventurous helter-skelter journey from Greece, up to Mount Olympus and down to the Underworld.

Enjoy the famous Can-Can and other lively, foot-tapping melodies.

CAFOD
just one world

Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to www.cafod.org.uk/lent

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 14 April

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joyce Butler (get well)

Sun 15 April

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Ellen & Joseph Joyce (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr. (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Joni Horton R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Mon 16 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 9.00am

MASS Nikki (Get Well)

12A 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Patricia Ferroni

Tue 17 April

Weekday of Easter

SH 12.00noon

MASS Norah Heneghan L.D.

Wed 18 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Pat Brandwood

Thu 19 April

Weekday of Easter

StJ 9.00am

MASS Jack & Elizabeth Cleworth (R.I.P.)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Sister Eileen Wall O.L.A. (L.D.)

Fri 20 April

Weekday of Easter

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at Moss Bank Court Roy Ellis R.I.P.

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Bill Speakman (R.I.P.)

Sat 21 April

Weekday of Easter

12A 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

12A 12.00noon

MASS John Robinson

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Brian Keavney

Sun 22 April

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

StJ 8.30am

MASS John Davey (R.I.P.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Eileen McNulty L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Ellen Squires (Anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Tom Rasburn (Birthday Memorial)

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 458 K Jones, £5 No. 120 J Riley, £3 No. 481 K Jones, £2 No. 050 D Hindley

Bonus Ball No. 13 E&L 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 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

Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

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Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

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