

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

29 April 2018



Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In Syria there is a small village called Deraya which stands on the ancient road between Damascus and Jerusalem. Like thousands of other rural settlements, it looks remarkably unimpressive. Many of the Syrian inhabitants are not sure why their village is called Deraya. In Arabic the name Deraya means “the vision”. Something that happened on the road gave the village this name. For it was there, according to tradition, that the persecutor Saul encountered Christ Jesus. The small Catholic chapel in Deraya stands as a memorial to the most significant conversion in the early Church, when the man who went out of his way to hunt down Christians was confronted by the God who went out of his way to meet his persecutor. Saul believed that his vocation from God was the persecution of the Christian community. As he declared:

“I once thought it was my duty to use every means to oppose the name of Jesus. This I did in Jerusalem. I myself threw many of the saints into prison, acting on authority from the chief priests, and when they were sentenced to death I cast my vote against them.” (Acts 26)

Whatever actually happened on the road to Damascus, Paul dates his new beginning from this experience. He never claimed that his change was just an afternoon episode: his conversion began on the Damascus road and continued throughout his life.

Paul’s story is picked up in today’s First Reading. He escapes to Jerusalem where he tries to join the disciples. However the disciples are all afraid of Paul. They simply cannot believe he has changed. Given Paul’s punishing back record, the disciples’ suspicion seems all too reasonable. By his own admission, Paul had signed the death warrants of Jerusalem Christians. Now he wants to become one of them. Barnabas, whose name means “son of encouragement”, takes charge of the new arrival. He introduces Paul to the apostles, telling them the story of his conversion and recent preaching. Even though he causes a storm Paul refuses to go into hiding or retire from his new career as an evangelist, despite the floggings and the days in jail and the many threats against his life. He cannot do this because he believes that he has been appointed by God to be an apostle and a missionary. No matter how good he is the burden of the past never seems to leave him completely. He is always anxious to prove that he is as good as the other apostles, that he preaches the same message, has been chosen by the same Christ, and that he suffers more than they do for the sake of the Gospel.

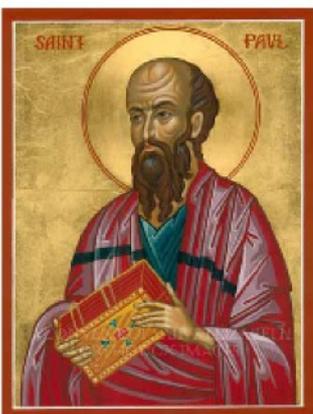
Paul remains a great example of authentic humanity. He is sensitive, impulsive, obstinate, moody, thoughtful, demanding, driven, caring. His idealism is tempered by his sense of realism, and his own struggle always serves to educate his spirituality. Above everything Paul’s great lesson to us is his abiding love. He was a man who longed for friendship and the affection of others. His great hymn of love to the Corinthians is testimony to this. Above all Paul’s story reminds us of the great love of God. If he can change Paul from the great persecutor to the great evangelist, he can change us too, from sinners to saints.

**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

Eileen Boardman, Caitlin Bradbury, Maurice & Joseph O'Connell, Len Pritchard, Joyce Marie Smith, Thanksgiving

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

FIRST COMMUNION GIFTS

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

COFFEE MORNING

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass next week, come along and have a chat

GARDENING

We have started our gardening again, if you can spare an hour, please come along on Tuesdays at 10.00am.

SACRED HEART

We extend a welcome to the children who will be making their First Holy Communion over three Sundays. Please show their families how welcoming a community we are.



Apr 26 - God alone can give us true happiness. It's useless wasting time looking for it elsewhere: in wealth, pleasure, and power.

Apr 25 - Authentic Christians are not afraid of opening up to others, of sharing their living spaces and transforming them into places of solidarity.

Apr 24 - Life only fully makes sense when it is given as a gift. It becomes tasteless when it is lived for itself alone.

Apr 23 - Moved by the prayers and immense solidarity shown little Alfie Evans, I renew my appeal that the suffering of his parents may be heard and that their desire to seek new forms of treatment may be granted.

Apr 23 - The Word of God is the lamp with which we look to the future: its light allows us to read the signs of the times.

Apr 22 - Let us follow the example of St Francis of Assisi and take care of our common Home.

Apr 22 - God calls each one of us, and each call is a gift that should fill us with joy.

Apr 21 - When we are full of self-importance, we leave no space for God. So let us ask the Lord for a conversion of heart.

Apr 20 - All it takes to encounter God is to acknowledge that we are needy. And the key to that encounter lies in humbling ourselves.

Apr 20 - Today we recall the words of Don Tonino Bello: "Works of charity are not enough, unless those works are done with charity".

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.

COMMEMORATING THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

On Friday, 4th of May we keep the Feast of the English Martyrs. Mass will be celebrated in their honour at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart church, Swan Lane, Hindley Green followed by a presentation on the Lancaster Martyrs given by Christopher Robson, representative for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in the Lancaster Diocese. All are welcome and we hope many will come along - bring your Catholic friends from other parishes too! A retiring collection will be taken after the presentation to receive any donations you may wish to make towards the work of ACN which supports Christians who are being persecuted for their faith 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 areas 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. Additional Holy Hours in our Pastoral Area will take place on **Wednesday June 27th** at 7.30pm in St. Ambrose Barlow church, Astley and on **Wednesday July 18th** at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart church, Leigh.



Reflect:

In today's reading Jesus describes himself as a vine, and God, his loving Father, as the vine-grower. In order to grow strongly, abundantly, drooping with bunches of grapes, the vine requires looking after. It needs to be cared for, protected, gently pruned. Jesus keeps repeating how carefully the vine is treated in order that it will be fruitful. He tells us again and again that being closely grafted into the true vine, abiding in him, enables us to be fruitful. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished through the Eucharist. And it is through the Eucharist that Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

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 that your love goes round
And we all become the best people we can be.
Amen
Annabel Shilson-Thomas CAFOD

Act:

To take the analogy of the Gospel reading more literally, now is a good time to tend and nurture any seedlings planted earlier in the year to ensure a bountiful crop.

Challenge:

Strengthen your personal relationship with Jesus by taking action to love others in deed and in truth this week - feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,821.05
Holy Places £ 612.93

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

The retiring collection in our churches this weekend will remain open for the Priests' Training Fund.

SICK

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

DECEASED

Julia Peters, Len Pritchard, Mary Eileen Wright

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND

Please continue with your prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. Donations are still welcome to 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 Hospitality 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

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

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary, based at Sacred Heart Hindley Green is planning a series of 5 CaFE courses on Our Lady, called *Let it be done unto me according to Your Word*. These will start on Saturday 26th May and run until 23rd June inclusive, in Sacred Heart Club, Swan Lane, Hindley Green, 2.00 - 3.30pm. Refreshments provided. We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who might like to join us. Each participant will receive a book so we would like to sign up for the course so we know how many to order. Please put your name on the list at the back of church if you would like to attend

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASS

Pentecost Sunday, 20th May 2018, 3.00pm
Holy Rosary Parish Church, Altway, Aintree, L10 2LG
Everyone is invited to celebrate Dementia Action Week 21st - 27th May, especially those people living with dementia, their carers, family, friends and parishioners from all churches. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present

Orpheus in the Underworld

Music by Offenbach

Tuesday 15th – Saturday 19th May 2018 at 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.



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

RESPONDING TO THE CALL 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 5th May 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 28 April

12A 5.30pm

Sun 29 April

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.00am

Mon 30 April

StJ 9.00am

Tue 1 May

SH 7.00pm

Wed 2 May

12A 10.00am

StJ 12.00noon

Thu 3 May

StJ 9.00am

StJ 10.00am

SH 12.00noon

Fri 4 May

(OLR) 10.00am

StJ 12.00noon

Sat 5 May

SH 11.00am

SH 12.00noon

12A 5.30pm

Sun 6 May

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.15am

Weekday of Easter

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Eileen Boardman L.D.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

MASS Joan Ganley anniv.

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

MASS Special Intention Birthday

MASS Winifred Peake R.I.P.

Weekday of Easter

Special Intention (G.M.)

Weekday of Easter

Optional Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

MASS Nora Heneghan R.I.P.

Memorial of Saint Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor

MASS Special Intention (MM)

FUNERAL MASS Len Pritchard

FEAST OF SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES

MASS Nithy Thomas anniv.

FUNERAL SERVICE Julia Peters

MASS Caitlin Bradbury anniv.

FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

MASS at Moss Bank Court Denise Guilloteau

MASS Thanksgiving

Weekday of Easter

Exposition and Reconciliation

MASS Philomena Gaughan

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

MASS Deceased Members of the Gainer Family

MASS Julia Gallagher R.I.P.

MASS Eddie Trumble anniv.

MASS Ted Taylor L.D.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 206 B Ryan, £5 No. 482 D Lee, £3 No. 120 J Riley, £2 No. 233 S Gardner
Bonus Ball No. 38 C Ackers



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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