

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR A)

29 DECEMBER 2013



Responsorial Psalm

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

If you plant a tree in an exposed place it can become very vulnerable. It is at the mercy of every wind that blows. If it survives at all it will be in a twisted and stunted form, a poor specimen of what it could be, because of the winds and the driving rain. If you want a tree to grow to its full potential you must plant it in a more sheltered place. And you must not plant it on its own. You should plant some other trees with it. If you do this it's important to get the space between the trees right. They must be close enough to be able to provide shelter and protection for each other. Yet they must not be too close as they may stifle each other's growth. It's not good for any tree to be alone. Nor is it good for any of us to be alone. For our wholeness and inner peace we need ties of love and friendship with each other.

God made us, not for isolation, but for community. We are not complete in ourselves. We need others around us to help us become the people God wants us to be. This is where the family comes in. A group of trees planted in the form of a little grove is a good image of what it means to be family. In the ideal family there is closeness and space. The closeness means the members of the family are able to provide support for one another. The space ensures that they do not stifle each other and stop each other from growing. It is in the family that we can feel most loved, most wanted and most valued.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this weekend we are reminded that Jesus himself needed a family in which to grow and find support and protection. Without his family he possibly may not have been able to be the person we recognise in the scriptures. Even the Son of God himself needed a family. This is why, this weekend, whatever our families are like, however much or little we see them, we should pray for them and thank God for them.

The feast of the Holy Family also reminds us that we are called to be God's family here on earth. Just as Mary and Joseph became Jesus' human family, so we are called to live like his family today and encourage others to do the same. As we begin a New Year this week let us pray that we may follow the great example of the Holy Family in nurturing the Jesus inside each other of us, and pray that we may share his light with others.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

www.leighpastoralarea.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

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



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEWS

ST JOSEPH'S MASS INTENTIONS

Mark Keleher, Steven Naylor, Anthony O'Donnell, Adam Orchison, Joe & Tony Shovelton, Jack Withington

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,137.67

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our Parish through Baptism to: Michaela and Nicole Demeterova,

SICK

Please remember Kitty Gallagher, Baby Kara Hughes and all who are sick at this time.

LATELY DEAD

Cyril Lancaster, Brenda Edisbury, John Farrington
Eternal rest grant unto them

TWELVE APOSTLES



New Years Eve Celebration

St Joseph's Parish Hall

Chapel St, Leigh

Starring

Eddie Robbins

The Sunbeams

Boogie Nights

Spot prizes Bar Free Raffle

Tickets £12.50 including Traditional Supper and glass of wine on arrival Available from Des 01942 674868 or the Parish Office 673517

HELP

The players are looking for back-stage helpers to help prepare the sets for the pantomime and also for help during the pantomime. If you would like to get involved with the dramatic society please go along to St Joseph's Hall any Monday or Thursday evening at 7.30pm

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

Sat 28 December

12A 5.30pm 1st MASS SUNDAY Dennis Sweeney

Sun 29 December FEAST: HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (YEAR A)

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Molly Yates LD

StJ 10.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

OL 11.00am MASS William & Catherine Flynn

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

Mon 30 December 6th Day of Nativity Octave

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

StJ 1.30pm Funeral Service Brenda Edisbury

Tue 31 December 7th Day of Nativity Octave

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Don Kennedy

Wed 1 January SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Thu 2 January Memorial: St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bps. Ds. (4th c.)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A 9.30am Mass Vernon Byrne LD

StJ 11.00am Funeral Service Cyril Lancaster

SH 2.00pm Funeral Service John Farrington

Fri 3 January Weekday before Epiphany

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

(OL) 10.00am MASS at Moss Bank Court Mary Flynn

StJ 12.00noon MASS

Sat 4 January Weekday before Epiphany

SH 10.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Harvey Dowell

12A 5.30pm 1st MASS OF SUNDAY Eddie McGrath

Sun 5 January SOLEMNITY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

StJ 8.30am MASS

SH 9.30am MASS Marion Woodward LD

StJ 10.30am MASS

OL 11.00am MASS Eileen Massey

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS

St Joseph's Players

Present

The 2014 Pantomime,

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

From Wednesday Jan. 22 to 1st February
Evening Performances curtain 7-15pm,

Three matinees Jan. 25th, 26th and 1st February
curtain 2pm.

Adults £8 16yrs and under £4

Tickets are available from Ratcliffes Bike Shop,
Bradshawgate, Leigh.

Special Offer, 2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1 WED and THURS.
(TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST SO BOOK ASAP)