

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8 January 2017



Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

The word “Epiphany” means a manifestation or revelation. Literally, it means a “drawing back of the veil.” On this day the veil is drawn back on a great mystery, namely, that Christ is the Saviour not only of the Jewish people but also of the Gentiles, namely all the people of the world. It is God’s will that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. This is the theological meaning of today’s feast-day. God invites all people, whoever they are, to share on an equal footing the benefits of salvation won by Christ Jesus. It stresses the perfect equality of all women and men and, as the Second Reading reminds us, in Christ we all have become part of one body.

In the Old Testament the Jews are portrayed as God’s “Chosen People”. But this idea was interpreted in a way that involved second-class status for all other people. This feast shows that election by God is not a privilege for some but a hope for all. It puts an end to every kind of exclusivism. So today is very much a universal feast because it tore down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. For the most part Jesus’ own mission was restricted to his own people. Nevertheless, he also reached out to Samaritans, Canaanites, foreigners, and all kinds of social outcasts. He angered the Jewish leaders of the time by telling them that the Kingdom of God was open to everyone. The news that non-Jewish people would be accepted on equal terms as themselves caused shock and bewilderment amongst the religious leaders of the time. And in his final commissioning of the disciples he said to them, “Go out into the whole world and make disciples of all the nations.”

This great and wonderful truth was revealed when the Magi, the three kings, three Gentiles from foreign lands, came to honour Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. The Magi are the first fruits of the outside world coming to share in the blessings of God, revealed in the stable in Bethlehem. So today is a happy feast. It is an inclusive and welcoming feast. Perhaps as we celebrate today’s feast we should ask ourselves how well we welcome others, especially into our church. If God himself loved us SO MUCH that he gave us his only Son to be our Lord and Saviour, how much should we share that love with others? Let us allow this feast to remind us of our calling to be a welcoming Church, a welcoming Parish and a welcoming Family. After all, through Jesus we are now part of God’s family too.

**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

Margaret Brown, Ernest Clarke, Mr Crompton, Robert Farri-
mond, Ian Johnson, Helen Beryl Jones, Desmond Fitzmartin,
Tommy Rowley, Tom Slater, Ken & Betty Sroka, Anthony
Sutton, Margaret Taylor, Iris Valiant, Thanksgiving Success-
ful operation,

ST JOSEPH'S MISSION BOXES

The amount raised from Mission Boxes at St Joseph's church
for 2016 was £6,730.00. Many thanks go to all our dedicated
box holders, donators and collectors for achieving this total.
We are still hoping for more households to take a Red Mission
Box or be a regular donator. We also need people to volun-
teer to be a collector for the Missions, no more than ten boxes
opened every three months. Please contact the Parish Office
on 673517 or a team member on 679368 if you would like to
help or be a box holder.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held Tuesday 10th January, 7.30pm
at St Joseph's. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next Support Group Meeting will be held this Wednesday
11th January. The main agenda item for the meeting is to
discuss the Christmas Fair.

COFFEE MORNING

This week Coffee Morning will be held in the Mather Room.

SACRED HEART

CHRISTMAS DRAW

There are **still** three unclaimed prizes, please check your
tickets. They were all sold in church. Yellow 631-655 (M&S
white wine); Yellow 316-320 (Pimm's No. 1); White 326-330
(white wine).

CAFOD FUN RUN/WALK

£200 has been given to CAFOD for the starving in Ethiopia.
Many thanks to all those who generously contributed.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass today.

TOYS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Clean, whole toys for children under five would be gratefully
received by the volunteers who run the Leigh Asylum Seekers
and Refugees Support, for use at the drop-in on Tuesdays
from 12noon to 2.30pm at Kingsleigh Methodist Youth Cen-
tre, opposite Leigh Bus Station. Queries to 01942 676962.

GIFT AID

We are pleased to report that the sum of £16,758.68 has now
been received from the Inland Revenue in respect of the tax
refund due on the total St Edmund Arrowsmith Gift Aided
Donations for the Tax Year ended 5th April 2016.

The Gift Aid Scheme is an excellent way of raising much
needed funds for our Parish and at no extra cost to parishion-
ers as we are simply reclaiming from the Inland Revenue the
Income Tax you have already paid on the money you contrib-
ute.

Thank you to those already in the scheme. If you are a
taxpayer, and not in the scheme, please think of joining.
There is one form to sign, containing just your full name and
address. For recording purposes you can then use a set of

the specially numbered Offertory Envelopes or, if you prefer,
by Standing Order from your Bank.

For more information please leave your name, address and
telephone number with the Parish Office and a member of the
Gift Aid Team will contact you.

Thank you.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Jan 5 - May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat
each other.

Jan 4 - To be true followers of Jesus today also includes
embracing his teaching about nonviolence.

Jan 3 - May nonviolence become the hallmark of our deci-
sions, our relationships and our actions.

Jan 2 - At the beginning of this New Year, I offer heartfelt
wishes of peace to the world's peoples and nations.

Jan 1 - Let us entrust the new year to Mary, Mother of God,
so that peace and mercy may grow throughout the world.

31 Dec 2016 - As we end this year, let us remember the days,
weeks and months we have lived in order to give thanks and
offer everything to the Lord.

30 Dec 2016 - Holy Family of Nazareth, help us all to recog-
nize the sacred nature of the family and its beauty in God's
plan for humanity.

29 Dec 2016 - Let us be touched by the tenderness that
saves. Let us draw close to God who draws close to us. Let
us pause to gaze upon the crib.

JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

The next Justice & Peace Group meeting will be on
Wednesday 11th January at 7.45pm at Holy Family Presby-
tery. All welcome.

THANK YOU

Fr Colin & Fr Kieran would like to thank all those who helped
in our Christmas celebrations in any way.

To our Sacristans, Musicians, Altar Servers, Cleaners, Read-
ers, Ministers, Collectors, Flower Arrangers and those who
decorated the Churches for Christmas a massive Thank You.
Your time and dedication is greatly appreciated. Also a big
thank you for your good wishes, cards and gifts received at
Christmas. Your continued kindness and support is truly
appreciated, God bless.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	25 th December 2016	£4,684.20
	1 st January 2017	£1,746.81
CAFOD Emergency Appeal		£1,178.04

Thank you for your generosity.

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Sutton

RECENTLY DECEASED

Colin Trevor Brett, Christine Cole, Margaret Marczak, Monica Pugh, Thomas Slater, Mrs Minister.
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

NUGENT CRIB APPEAL 2016



"In switching on the lights of the Nativity scene, we wish for the light of Christmas to be in us.

Let there be light in the soul, in the heart; let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities, which are dark. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the crib."

Pope Francis

Please help us continue the work of our founder, Fr James Nugent, by giving your support to our 2016 Crib Appeal. All proceeds will be used to help children and adults in need across the Archdiocese.



PAX CHRISTI

The origins of Pax Christi in 1945 lie in an initiative of Marthe Dortel-Claudot, a teacher in the south of France, who began a campaign of prayer for Franco-German reconciliation. Bishop Pierre Marie Théas of Montauban, who had been imprisoned for protesting about persecution of the Jews, and who had prayed for the German people and urged others to do so, became the first President. The original objective was enlarged and Pax Christi became a "crusade of prayer for the nations". This spiritual basis underpinned the work of the movement which, as it developed, called for socio-political action in public life as a means of bringing about the Peace of Christ.

PAX CHRISTI UK

In 1958 a small group started meeting in London to discuss Church teaching on peace and to promote the international

routes, which are marches/pilgrimages across Europe, for peace. The objective was to further peace by fostering international friendship. New papal teaching on peace contained in the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (1963) and in documents emerging from the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) gave encouragement to Pax Christi's mission. Issues of contemporary concern which the British group took up included the lack of rights for conscientious objectors in Catholic countries such as Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and British arms sales to Nigeria, Biafra, and South Africa.

The work of Pax Christi – the Peace of Christ – is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Our vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work.

Pax Christi works for :-

Peace – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met and people feel safe and valued in their communities.

Reconciliation – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute.

Nonviolence – a way of living and making choices that respects others, challenges what is not fair or just, and offers alternatives to violence and war.

Pax Christi works to :-

Support teachers, chaplains and youth workers in promoting a culture of peace in schools and amongst young people. We are happy to work in schools and colleges and explore how young people can be encouraged to make choices based on Christian values.

Develop solidarity between people who are working nonviolently for justice and peace. We do this through joint actions for peace in Israel-Palestine, through events to encourage international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and by celebrating the life and witness of peacemakers.

Promote an understanding of sustainable security where human needs are met and the environment is protected, rather than seeking security through weapons and warfare. Pax Christi campaigns against military spending, the arms trade and nuclear weapons.

Who we are :-

Pax Christi is a membership organisation of individuals, families, communities and parishes from around the country.

Our members are our greatest asset. We have an office team of three full-time staff and one part-time staff, an editor and a team of volunteers. Pax Christi has an Executive Committee, elected from within the membership, who help to guide the work of the movement. Our National President is Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, of Liverpool Archdiocese. There will be a special collection for the work of Pax Christi in all our churches on 15th/16th January



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 7 January

12A 5.30pm

Sun 8 January

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.00am

StR 6.30pm

Mon 9 January

StJ 8.30am

StJ 9.00am

Tue 10 January

StJ 8.30am

SH 12.00noon

Wed 11 January

StJ 8.30am

12A 10.00am

StJ 12.00noon

Thu 12 January

StJ 8.30am

StJ 9.00am

SH 12.00noon

Fri 13 January

StJ 8.30am

12A 12.00noon

StJ 12.00noon

Sat 14 January

StJ 11.00am

StJ 12.00noon

12A 5.30pm

Sun 15 January

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.00am

StR 6.30pm

Weekday of Christmas Time

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Allen & Agnes Newton

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

MASS Marie Fitzsimons (RIP)

MASS Joseph Rynn L.D.

MASS Terence Keavney (Anni)

MASS Johnnie Fahy

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Gospel Year C)

Morning Prayer

MASS Neil O'Rourke

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 1)

Morning Prayer

MASS Vincent Johnson R.I.P.

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Morning Prayer

MASS John Thompson

MASS Anne & James Marsh RIP

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Morning Prayer

MASS Tony Broster RIP

MASS Albert Joseph Sankey R.I.P.

Weekday in Ordinary Time

Morning Prayer

FUNERAL MASS Christine Cole

MASS 80th Birthday thanksgiving

Memorial of Saint Kentigern, Bishop (Secondary Patron of the Archdiocese)

Exposition & Reconciliation

MASS Maurice Gallagher

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Edward Whelan L.D.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

MASS Philomena Gaughan

MASS Carolyn Burke Birthday

MASS Maureen Sweeney L.D.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery This week's jackpot was estimated at £350. Tickets are now available for the first draw of 2017 on 13th January. This week's results will be on the notice board from Friday afternoon and here in next week's newsletter.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 237 D Quinn, £5 No. 017 E Dawber, £3 No. 191 M Collins, £2 No. 024 E Joyce

Bonus Ball 25th December 2016 No. 12 B Jones, 1st January 2017 No. 25 U Lightford

We have spare Numbers on our Lotto Bonus Ball. Anyone wishing to take one up please see Margaret at the back of Our Lady of the Rosary church. Thank you.

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

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