

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 19 February 2017



Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus address himself to the question of how his disciples should conduct themselves when they are faced with hurt and hatred. Jesus develops the Law that he has received, "You have learnt how it was said ... but I say to you ..." Jesus quotes the ancient Law of retaliation which fixed the boundaries of vengeance. The Law stated, "Anyone who injures a neighbour shall receive the same in return, broken limb for broken limb, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As the injury inflicted, so will be the injury suffered." This might sound like a savage Law but it was introduced as a legal practice to limit blood feuds between communities. In traditional tribal life if a man of one tribe injured a man of another tribe there could be outright war in which all the members of both tribes were involved. There were no limitations on the revenge the offended tribe would take against the family and tribe of the offender.

The Law of "an eye for an eye" limited the retaliation to the penalty of the same injury. In its time, therefore, the law was merciful because it stopped whole families being wiped out. Jesus, however, revokes this law saying that his disciples must not be provoked into taking retaliation for the wrongs done against them. The disciples must not allow another person's hostility to be their cue for action. Their cue for response should be taken from the nature of their discipleship, not from the wrongs they have experienced. Jesus confirms the ancient Law that you should love your neighbour, but rejects any interpretation of the Law that permits people to hate their enemy. The Law called on the people of Israel to love their neighbour, but a neighbour was understood to be their fellow country men and women. Jesus rejects this limitation of love. In asking his disciples to love their enemies he is lifting all limitations to love. So no one is excluded from Christian love – not even the one who persecutes the disciple.

Jesus argues that the love his disciples give to people is not related to the love they received from others. It is not a social contract or a fair bargain. The disciple loves because love is the nature of being a disciple. A disciple is a son or daughter of the Father. The Father does not withhold the sun or the rain from those who oppose him. Likewise the disciple should not withhold their love from anyone who opposes them and shows themselves to be an enemy. The love is offered, NOT because Jesus thinks that it will change the enemy into something else. Certainly love may well confuse them or cause them to think about their lives and change their ways. Love is offered because this is what a disciple of the Kingdom of God should do. The disciple's script proceeds from who they are, not from what they receive from others. Jesus does not necessarily believe that love transforms enemies into instant friends. Love did not solve all of Jesus' problems with his enemies, and don't forget that during his life he had many. In the end he was the one who reached out to free others and was hurt in the process. The love he showed to others actually cost him his life. But he continued to love because he was the Son of the Father. Love IS his way and it stays his way no matter what appears on the agenda. May love be our way 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

Tony Broster, Frank Eveans, Kevin & Margaret Fleming, Deceased Members of the Flynn Family, Francis Gallagher, Glynis & Philip Hindley, May Malley, Ellen Mullahy, Marlene O'Neil, Peter & Marie Golden Wedding, Special Intention, St Jude Thanksgiving,

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

BONUS BALL

There are numbers on our Bonus Ball. If anyone would like to join, please see Margaret at the back of Our Lady's church.

SACRED HEART

REPOSITORY

Our range of cards now includes First Communion cards, ready for the forthcoming celebrations.

TWELVE APOSTLES

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

Would those going on the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, departing Easter Monday, April 17th and who have not yet paid their remaining balance, please do so as soon as possible. Payments are accepted by Margaret Harkins, Therese Thompson or The Flower Shop, Atherton.

PANTASAPH

Franciscan Retreat Centre



What Is A Retreat?

If you have never been on retreat before, the choice placed before you can be daunting.

First and foremost, a retreat is a time of prayer and reflection, a time when you can step out of your day-to-day routine, its cares and concerns and spend time with God. It's a time to explore your faith in a deeper way; a time to share, join in community, be renewed and return home with a greater peace.

In the porch are booklets from the Franciscan Community at Pantasaph, with information about the retreats they offer throughout the year. Please take a booklet if you are interested in taking a retreat. These books are limited, if there are none available please www.pantasaph.org.uk



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Feb 16 - I invite you to join in the fight against poverty, both material and spiritual. Together let's build peace and bridges of friendship.

Feb 15 - The throwaway culture is not of Jesus. The other is my brother, beyond every barrier of nationality, social extraction or religion.

Feb 14 - It is good to know the Lord takes on the burden of our fragilities and patiently gets us back on our feet with the strength to start over.

Feb 13 - Let us never place conditions on God! Entrusting ourselves to the Lord means entering into his plans without demanding anything.

Feb 12 - The dignity of children must be respected: we pray that the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

Feb 11 - I encourage all of you to see in Mary, Health of the Infirm, the sure sign of God's love for every human being.

Feb 10 - Let us be close to our brothers and sisters who are going through illness and also their families.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

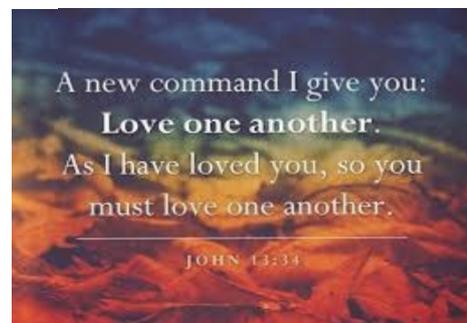
The gift of the Philippines

St Paul's church, Westleigh Lane, Leigh, WN7 5NW. will host this service for all our Leigh area on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm. All most welcome. All persons of any age who enjoy singing are invited to the singers' practices on Mondays 20th and 27th February, 7.30 to 8.30pm in St Paul's church. If items from the Philippines could be loaned for a display in the church, they would be cared for and returned to you promptly after the service. A Scales of Justice, wood/brass, is required. Please ask your friends. Please ring 01942 676962.



JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

The next meeting takes place at St Richard's Parish House on Thursday 23rd February at 7.30pm. All are welcome to contribute *Live Simply* ideas.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,790.86

Thank you for your generosity.

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Heneghan, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Mary Sutton, Edna McLoughlin (née Higgins)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patrick Monaghan, Donald McGrail, Edna McLoughlin
Eternal rest grant unto them ...



ORDINARY TIME WINTER

During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Peace on Earth; Christian Unity; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; The Unemployed.

Racial Justice Day	Sunday 12 th Feb
Day for Victims of Trafficking	Wednesday 8 th Feb
World Day for the Sick	Saturday 11 th Feb
Day of the Unemployed	Sunday 26 th Feb

Ash Wednesday will be on 1st March this year and the First Sunday of Lent will be on 5th March.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

10th - 18th March

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from the 10th - 18th March 2017 at St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer.

Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Rd Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novena@millhillmissionaries.com

CAFOD

LENT FAST DAY 10th MARCH 2017

Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago, she was only making enough to feed her family. However, CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, recognised how determined Florence was to stand on her own two feet and so they gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. By selling some fish at market, Florence was able to give her children a future - she was able to send them to school.

Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing.

GIFT AID

When you donate to CAFOD and fill in a Gift Aid form, you can increase the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 you give - at no extra cost to you. This extra 25 percent makes a

big difference and means that we are able to support our partners with additional funding.

Last year we raised over £2.6 million through Gift Aid donations!

God of Love, Maker of all,
transform my heart
through my Lenten journey
of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Help me to see the dignity
in all my sisters and brothers,
made in your image and likeness.

Inspire me to share the fruits of your creation
so that all your people can become artisans
of their own destiny.

Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

CAFOD
just one world

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT AT SACRED HEART CLUB, HINDSFORD

There will be an evening of Irish and Country songs at Sacred Heart Club, Hindsford to help the Parish celebrate St Patrick's Day on **Friday 17th March**, from 8.00pm till closing time. Live music from *The Cambridge Crew* plus guest singers/guitarists from the local *Streetlifers* group. Admission free.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS
WITH THE BRILLIANT AND POPULAR
GEORGE FORMBY TRIBUTE BAND
St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St. Leigh WN7 2PR
100
(Fancy Dress Optional (war time theme)
Friday 24th February doors open at 12-15pm
Tickets £6 including Hot-pot
Available from Pensioners Link Office 01942 261753
Or Pauline on 01942 604603
BAR, TOMBOLA, (Fund raising event)

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 18 February

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

Sun 19 February

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice Gallagher RIP
SH 9.30am MASS Caitlin Bradbury Get Well!
StJ 10.30am MASS Robert & Agnes Kedward Anni
OLR 11.00am MASS Peter Purcell
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 20 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 7)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Suzannah Michelle Greensmith Anni

Tue 21 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon MASS Ann Marie Colinson & the Atherton family

Wed 22 February

FEAST OF THE SEE OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 10.00am MASS Terry Hill
StJ 12.00noon MASS William Fairclough Anni

Thu 23 February

Memorial of Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Mary Tyrer Anni
StJ 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Patricia Monaghan
SH 12.00noon MASS Canon Gerry Wharton (LD)

Fri 24 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 10.00am MASS Successful Operation
StJ 1.00pm FUNERAL MASS Donald McGrail

Sat 25 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 12.00noon MASS Christine Cole L.D.
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Fisher

Sun 26 February

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Day for the Unemployed

StJ 8.30am MASS Steven Naylor R.I.P.
SH 9.30am MASS Mary Hollinshead R.I.P.
StJ 10.30am MASS Joyce Lani Amate R.I.P.
OLR 11.00am MASS Maureen Sweeney
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

***Please note Mass at St Joseph's on Friday is at 1.00pm**

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 10th February were 8, 17, 26. There was no winner of £58. Last week's jackpot was estimated at £90. The lottery is taking a half-term holiday (one week) so, after the draw on Friday 17th (results on the noticeboard), the tickets on sale will be dated for the next draw on Friday 3rd March.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 210, M Roach; £5, 485, D Hindley; £3, 339, M Roach; £2, 227, A Simpson.

Bonus Ball No. 28 T Jones

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
Email: stjosephs@live.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon
Tel: 01942 883395
Email: paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk

