

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) 26 February 2017



Responsorial Psalm

In God alone is my soul at rest.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

“Does a mother forget about her baby, or a woman the child within her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget.” When the prophet Isaiah wrote these wonderful words, the people of God had reached a very low ebb. The Temple had been destroyed, Jerusalem invaded, and the people taken into exile in Babylon. They felt that God had abandoned them. But Isaiah assured them that God had not abandoned them, no more than a mother could abandon her child. A poor woman in a Dublin parish had a son who was ruining her life. He wouldn't work. He spent his time drinking and hanging around with trouble-makers. He robbed everything of value she had in the house. Again and again she pleaded with him to change his life, but he refused to do so. He broke her heart and made her life a misery. Eventually he ended up in prison. Surely now she would leave him to his fate? Not at all. She visited without fail every week, carrying cigarettes and other things for him in a little carrier bag – you would not be allowed to do this today! One day, one of the priests from the parish met her as she was on her way to prison. “This son has ruined your life,” the priest said, “He'll never change. Why don't you just forget about him?” “How can I?” she replied. “I don't like what he's done, but he's still my son and I still love him.”

You could say that the mother was foolish. Yet she was only doing what any mother worthy of the name cannot help doing, that is, loving her child through thick and thin. A mother – or any good father for that matter – never gives up. For most of us, this kind of love is the most reliable kind of human love we will ever experience. It's no wonder that the Bible uses a mother's love as an image of God's love for us on so many occasions. If a mother, who after all is a human being, is capable of such steadfast love, then how much greater is God's love for us who are his children. Even if we have sinned or made many mistakes, God does not stop loving us.

People accumulate money and possessions, because they give the illusion of security and good living. Then when they start to lose them they get anxious and worried. People of faith are challenged not to rely on such things but upon their faith in God. God is our security and our chief concern should be to do his will. So when Jesus says, “Do not worry about tomorrow”, he is not condemning human resourcefulness. We do have to plan for tomorrow because we live in the real world. What he is condemning is the fretting and worrying that keep us from lifting up our gaze beyond the material values and cares of this world. We are in constant danger of becoming immersed in the cares of the world and of becoming enslaved to material things. Jesus reminds us that we are God's precious children, and that only in God can we find rest. We must put our future in the hands of God and pray only for his will to be done in each of our lives, and everything else we need will come to us through his loving grace.

**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

Eddie Leach, Mary Littlewood, Don McGrail, Jack Parr, Frank Twentyman,

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.

TEA & COFFEE MORNING

Tea & Coffee will be served after Mass on Sunday 5th March also every first Sunday of the month after.

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

LENT REFLECTIONS

Care of our common home

Fridays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March & 7th April, 12.30- 1.30pm. Meet in the Green Room in St Joseph's house after Mass. Are the Sunday readings relevant? What does the Pope say?



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Feb 23 - Do not underestimate the value of example, for it is more powerful than a thousand words, a thousand "likes", retweets or YouTube videos.

Feb 22 - Jesus entrusted to Peter the keys to open the entrance to the kingdom of heaven, and not to close it.

Feb 21 - God knows better than we do about what we need. We must have faith, because his ways are different from ours.

Feb 20 - If evil is contagious, so is goodness. Let us be infected by goodness and let us spread goodness!

Feb 19 - Let us be moved by the Holy Spirit in order to be courageous in finding new ways to proclaim the Gospel.

Feb 18 - How often in the Bible the Lord asks us to welcome migrants and foreigners, reminding us that we too are foreigners!

Feb 17 - A youthful heart does not tolerate injustice and cannot bow to a "throw-away culture" nor give in to the globalization of indifference.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

The gift of the Philippines

The largest Unity Service in the world. It is translated into 1,000+ different languages & dialects.

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 last singers' practice on Monday 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 still required. Please ask your friends. Please ring 01942 676962.



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 4th March at St. Charles' Presbytery, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,842.14

Thank you for your generosity.

SICK

Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Joan Ganley, Mary Heneghan, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Mary Sutton.

BAPTISMS

We extend a welcome into our parish through baptism to:
Leon Turner, Jessica Louise Morris, Zain Angeio Sassi Briggs

RECENTLY DECEASED

Edna McLoughlin, Ellen Margaret Retford, Thomas Stridgion, John Davin.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...



LENT

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions:
Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

Candidates for the Sacraments - especially on Sundays
Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 3rd March
Lent Fast Day - Friday 10th March
Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.
Ashes are blessed and imposed during Mass after the Gospel and homily.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

9.15am St Joseph's School Mass in church, all welcome.
9.45am Our Lady of the Rosary
11.00am 12 Apostles School Mass in school all welcome
12.00noon St Joseph's
7.00pm Sacred Heart

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place every Thursday in Lent at the Sacred Heart church after 12 noon Mass and every Wednesday in Lent, beginning on Wednesday 8th March at 6.30pm at St Joseph's church.



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.



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 25 February

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

Mon 27 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 8)

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Phyllis Bailey Birthday Memorial

Tue 28 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Edna McLoughlin

Wed 1 March

ASH WEDNESDAY

Day of Fast and Abstinence

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.15am MASS Deceased Members of the Davey Family
OLR **9.45am** MASS Mary Price (LD)
12A 11.00am MASS IN SCHOOL
StJ 12.00noon MASS Kath Trundle
SH 7.00pm MASS Mary Frain (get well)

Thu 2 March

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Stephen Naylor RIP
SH 12.00noon MASS Canon Gerry Wharton L.D.

Fri 3 March

Friday after Ash Wednesday

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OL 10.00 am MASS **Moss Bank Court** Special Intention (K and T Jones)
StJ 12.00noon MASS Deceased Members of the Naylor Family
SH 1.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Nadine Caldwell

Sat 4 March

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
SH 12.00noon MASS Margaret Aitcheson R.I.P.
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Wayne Johnson S.I.

Sun 5 March

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
SH 9.30am MASS Kitty Gallagher R.I.P.
StJ 10.30am MASS The Warner Family
OLR 11.00am MASS Dorothy McDonagh (LD)
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 17th February were 13, 18, 23. There was no winner of £86. The next jackpot was estimated at £110. The lottery took a half-term holiday (one week) so the next draw will take place on Friday 3rd March.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 122, C Baxter, £5 No. 393 C & T Ellis, £3 No. 456 Josh, £2 No. 438 C Ellis
Bonus Ball No. 4 M Collins

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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