

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

5 March 2017



Responsorial Psalm

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

REFLECTION

The story of the Fall of Adam, which we listen to in today's First Reading, endlessly fascinates us because it is also the story of Everyman and Everywoman, of each one of us. At some point in our lives we all face the possibility of a fall when we are tempted to go astray. It can occur in many different ways. It could happen through the betrayal of someone we love, through a lie that has serious effects, or a business practice that destroys the hopes of someone else. There are perhaps many, many more. It is at these times that we are like our first parents, Adam and Eve, who chose to go against God and to be satisfied by eating fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The story tells us that the serpent tempts Eve, who then tempts Adam. Both wish to be like gods and choose for themselves. The effects of sin bring about the fall of others. The results can be disastrous, the relationship with God is broken, their own relationship is damaged and they feel enormous shame. They find it difficult to look at each other anymore. They are expelled from the Garden of Eden and will need to work for their living and experience the suffering of hard labour.

Remarkably God does not forget them and he is incredibly merciful towards them, because he wants them to find a way back into his love. In an ancient legend, which appears in the medieval Mystery Plays, Adam and Eve's third son, Seth, returns to the gates of the garden and asks God's angel to help them. The angel gives Seth some seeds, one of which he places in the mouth of Adam as he lies dying. From his seed God will bring about the new Adam, Christ, who will be born of the Virgin Mary. He will be tempted but will conquer the devil. We receive the hope that we can do the same with God's grace. God is always planting new seeds in our hearts. The Lord forgives us when we return to him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and our hearts are cleansed.

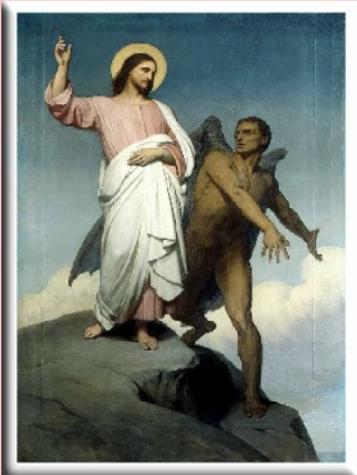
Lent is about the expansion of the heart so that it becomes more loving and generous. Just as the heart's muscle benefits from exercise, so our spiritual heart benefits from Lenten observances and practices. Firstly, prayer opens the heart and helps us to listen to God's Word. When we allow the Word to echo in our hearts and to penetrate down into its depths, it will help us to grow in the knowledge of God's mercy and love. Secondly, the invitation to fast expands our hearts so that we become more aware of the way that we so often focus on satisfying our own needs and desires rather than helping those around us, the poor of the world. Fasting can make us more grateful for what we have received and more generous to others in their need. Thirdly, we can develop our Lenten journey by giving to others, especially charities and other agencies. This helps us to focus on the needs of our neighbours across the world. So, as we begin our journey through Lent, let us pray that by doing something extra we may be more focused on our faith and allow it to touch the lives of those around us.

**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

Bernadette & Family, Caitlin Bradbury, Sydney Butterworth, Joseph Garvey, John Garvey, Gerard Gibbons, William & Thomas James, George Lawton, Don McGrail, Steven Naylor, Josephine Cora Oddie, Ellen Retford, Ken Sroka, Thanksgiving St Jude.

FLOWERS

Although there will not be any flowers in church during Lent, we desperately need more help for Easter. Please contact the parish office if you feel you can help. Call 01942 673517. Thank you.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held at St. Joseph's, 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th March. All mothers and grandmothers welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

TEA & COFFEE MORNING

Tea and coffee will be served after Mass today and every first Sunday of each following month.

SACRED HEART

The second Sunday of the month is our regular time for tea and coffee after Mass. Please stay next week and greet friends old and new.

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?

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

God be praised and thanked for the many who prepared and shared this Service. Let us continue to pray for the Philippines, still struggling to recover from the super-typhoon Haiyan and experiencing regular serious typhoons, causing death and destruction.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Mar 2 - God is always faithful and never stops for a moment loving us, following our steps, and running after us when we have strayed from him.

Mar 1 - Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death.

Feb 28 - Prayer is the key that opens God's merciful heart.

Feb 27 - When the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up.

Feb 26 - I invite you to persevere in prayer, so that Jesus' wish may be fulfilled: "that they may all be one".

Feb 25 - Proclaiming to all the love and tenderness of Jesus, we become apostles of the joy of the Gospel. And joy is contagious!

Feb 24 - The Christian heart is always full of joy. Always. Joy received as a gift and kept in order to be shared with everyone.



Reflect:

'Water, land, air and climate are the commons, but the common good is about the direction in which those commons need to be treated. We can't share resources and see them as simply resources – they're about the interrelationship between ourselves and the natural environment and how we need to understand ourselves as deeply interwoven – both between one another socially but also interconnected with the natural environment. Just as the common good is the good for all and the good for each, conversion also is about changing individuals and changing communities so ecological conversion is a community event as well as an individual event. An ecological conversion isn't just about turning to the natural environment, it's also about turning to Christ and this is, I think, very commonly misunderstood that just as Francis of Assisi believed that our attention to the natural world was part of our commitment to Christ as Lord, so Pope Francis believes that ecological conversion is a deeply Christological and theological...'

Celia Deane-Drummond CAFOD climate change reflections: One Climate, One World cafod.org.uk/campaign Published Aug 6, 2015

Pray:

God of life, help us to see your gifts are meant to be shared by all, not just exploited by a few. Lead us to take action to make a change not just for ourselves, but for all creation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Act:

Make an extra effort to recycle this week. Add something to each of your recycling bins everyday.

Challenge:

Consider the amount of food you eat each day. Many people survive on only one meal a day. Where can you cut back on the amount of food you consume this week? Place the money you save in a Family Fast Day envelope.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,860.52

Thank you for your generosity.

NUGENT CARE

Nugent Care have written to say thank you for the Crib Offerings that they received from our Parish: a total of £260.83 was sent. Last Year Nugent Care helped 6,000 people across all their services in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, so the money they receive goes a long way to help those in need.

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:
Emily Jane Caufield & Jessica Jean Caufield.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Ellen Margaret Retford, Thomas Stridgeon

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
Lent Fast Day - Friday 10th March

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN LENT

Tuesdays, 7.00pm at Saint Richard's,
Wednesdays, 6.30pm at Saint Joseph's
Thursdays after 12.00noon Mass at Sacred Heart
Fridays 7.00pm at Saint Ambrose Barlow.



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, Atherton, StAB = Saint Ambrose Barlow, Astley, HF = Holy Family, Boothstown

Sat 4 March

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

Mon 6 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Mr Crompton R.I.P.
StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL SERVICE Ellen Margaret Retford
SH 12.00noon MASS Anne Sharples R.I.P.

Tue 7 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
OLR 10.30am FUNERAL SERVICE Thomas Stridgeon
SH 12.00noon MASS Julia Gallagher L.D.

Wed 8 March

Weekday of Lent

StAB 7.30am MASS
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 12.00noon MASS Boon & Campbell Families
StJ 6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 9 March

Weekday of Lent

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
StJ 9.00am MASS Peter Lythgoe Anni
SH 12.00noon MASS Thomas McLoughlin
followed by Stations of the Cross

Fri 10 March

Weekday of Lent

HF 6.30am MASS
StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer
12A 9.00am MASS IN SCHOOL, all welcome
StJ 12.00noon MASS Kevin O'Rourke R.I.P.

Sat 11 March

Weekday of Lent

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
OLR 12.00noon MASS Kevin Sutton LD
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Margaret Taylor L.D.

Sun 12 March

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Kathleen & Thomas Jones Anni
SH 9.30am MASS Freda Taylor (anniv.)
StJ 10.30am MASS Josephine Cora Oddie Anni
OLR 11.00am MASS Maureen Sweeney LD
StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 3rd March are on the notice board (past our publishing deadline).

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 247, N Flynn; £5, 309, A Sharkie; £3, 468, E West; £2, 149, J Evans.

Bonus Ball No. 26 B Edwards

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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