

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

**PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY) (YEAR A) 9 April 2017**



## Responsorial Psalm

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory:  
Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name which is above all names.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

## REFLECTION

Jesus organizes his own procession into a city that is going to kill him. It may seem puzzling, not only to go voluntarily to the place where your innocence will not protect you, but to enter the arena of your own execution in the midst of songs and acclamations. Matthew's Gospel tells us that all the commotion of the first Palm Sunday throws Jerusalem into turmoil as the people seek to discover who Jesus is. The people are told that this is the prophet, Jesus of Nazareth, from the north in Galilee. The northerner has come to question the south. The countryman has come to take over the city. The prophet has come to confront the established authority. By the time the Passion begins there is nothing more to shout about. Processions that follow Messiahs are triumphant affairs. Processions that follow condemned criminals are timid by comparison. Matthew tells us that all his disciples deserted him, one betrayed him with a kiss, another denied him with curses. When the Passion arrives it brings with it a very important question: Can you still associate yourself with this man when all the authorities are against him? Can you still believe in Jesus when you face the direction of Calvary? Jesus himself presses on to the very end. When we speak of the Passion of Jesus we usually mean the suffering and death inflicted on him. But the Passion is not just something that happens to Jesus, it is the power within Jesus – his passion – that enables him to face the violence and the pain. Jesus has a Grand Passion, one that consumes his whole person and drives him through this time of horror. He could have avoided coming south to Jerusalem. He could have compromised and settled for survival. But the Passion within him was greater than his need for security and survival. He is a passionate man. His ardent love insists that he should face the ultimate test of love, the Cross.

Throughout his ministry Jesus revealed the greatness of his own Passion - his undying urge to do his Father's will; his preference for the poor and abandoned; his fury at a religious authority that only invents new burdens and restrictions for people; his energetic love for those who feel unloved and abandoned in any way. In the end the Cross comes as no surprise. It is the penalty for making a habit of such extravagant love. The Cross of Jesus stands at the centre of the Christian story as the sign of the lengths to which love will go in its passion for others. If we ever wonder if we are really loved, we should look at the figure on the Cross. It is difficult to maintain that we are unloved when we know that someone thought we were worth dying for. The Cross is lifted up as sign of our worth. Somebody, that is Jesus and God the Father himself, thought we were worth all that pain and suffering. We remember the death of Jesus not as an arbitrary, heedless act of violence, rather we honour his death as the supreme act of love. The love of one who "did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself" to become as we all are; and as we are to show that, in spite of our sins and the bad and stupid things we sometimes do, God still loves us. This message is the very heart of the Passion story.

**LEIGH  
PASTORAL AREA**

[www.leighdeanery.co.uk](http://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

Alan Blackwell, Bridget Burke, Cooper & Perry Families, Jessica McSorley, Marlene O'Neill, Albert Joseph Sankey, Reginald Squires, Elizabeth Watson, Thanksgiving for 61 years of marriage, Thanksgiving for safe delivery of Joshua, 1<sup>st</sup> Gt. grandson

### EASTER CARDS

... are available in the card rack at the back of church.

### MOTHERS' PRAYERS

Mothers' Prayers will be held 7.30pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April at St Josephs. All mothers and Grandmothers welcome.

### TWELVE APOSTLES

#### WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

If anyone would like to have petitions taken to Our Lady's Shrine, please pass them to Twelve Apostles. All parishioners will be remembered in our Masses and prayers. The departure Mass will be at Twelve Apostles on Easter Monday at 9.00am. All welcome.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### EASTER RAFFLE

If you wish to donate a lily in memory of a loved one, they are £1.50 each and will be placed on the Altar at Easter. Envelopes are at the back of church for your donation. Raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle will be on sale after Mass.

### SACRED HEART

#### REPOSITORY

Easter cards are still available in the shop and at the back of church.

### CHRISM MASS

If you have signed up to go to the Chrism Mass on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April and then cannot go, please inform the parish office. Altar servers from all over the archdiocese are made welcome to serve at the cathedral. Bring your alb and your parents! The coach will be picking up at St Joseph's at 5.30pm then Holy Family at 5.45pm.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Apr 6 - Hope helps believers to be open to the surprises God has in store for us.

Apr 5 - Let us follow in the footsteps of Christ, especially by dedicating ourselves to our brothers and sisters in need.

Apr 4 - Today is the International Day of Mine Awareness. Let us please renew the commitment for a world without mines!

Apr 3 - Lent is, by nature, a time of hope because it leads us to be born anew "of the spirit", by the love of God.

Apr 2 - When the Holy Spirit abides in our hearts, it is he who makes us understand that the Lord is near and takes care of us.

Apr 1 - Even in the hardest and most disturbing moments, the Lord's mercy and goodness are greater than every thing.

Mar 31 - Fasting with a proud heart does more harm than good. The first fast is for humility.

### Reflect:

Today we walk with Jesus to the shadow of the Cross. Jesus' heart is full of sorrow in the garden of Gethsemane. He knows his friends will desert him. When he is handed over, the soldiers twist him a crown of thorns and mock him as though he is nothing. Perhaps Jesus even feels abandoned by God, as he cries out, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" (Matthew 26:14-27:66)

Yet Christ endures all of this, trusting and praying and holding onto God. In this way, he reveals his divine dignity, both fully God and fully human.

Christ's passion is an immense sacrifice of love for each one of us, setting us free.

### Pray:

Loving God, we watch as silent shadows sweep across the earth. For all those who are living as slaves today, in refugee camps or in merciless working conditions, we pray we may hold hope in our hearts for the coming of dawn. Amen.

### Act:

Be inspired by the hopes and determination of our sisters and brothers who are living as refugees. Read messages of solidarity from women, men and children living in refugee camps to the UK at <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Refugee-messages-to-UK>

(Rachel McCarthy from CAFOD's Theology Programme.)

### Challenge:

On the cross, Jesus trusted that his suffering made some kind of sense, to be revealed when the Father chose. Every day of his human life, he wanted to do whatever he could to alleviate the suffering of those around him. But he was thwarted. He had to die in the hope that he would live again in our flesh. Our challenge now is to follow in his footsteps, to see the suffering of all the people whom God puts in our lives and strive with great effort to grieve with them and do whatever we can to alleviate their suffering. Who do you know in your life who is suffering? How can you help them?

### GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION - HOLY PLACES

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has written to every Diocese asking for generosity in the Holy Places collection.

*The Lenten Journey, which we are travelling, invites us to raise our eyes to the goal: we are following Our Lord Jesus Christ first to Golgotha and then, having descended with Him into the tomb, to experience the ever new and life-giving power of His Resurrection. The Holy Places of our faith are eloquent witnesses of this extraordinary event, which has changed the course of history and opened up a new hope for humanity.*

*Today, as we know, living the Christian faith in the Middle East is not at all easy. Especially in Iraq, Syria and Egypt, where Christian communities have experienced an "ecumenism of blood", individuals are daily pressured to abandon their land, or even their faith. Christians are often subjected to forms of oppression and discrimination that undermine their living conditions. Keeping hope alive in such circumstances is both difficult and vitally important. Consequently, the small Christian presence in the Middle East has great need of the support and attention of the entire Church.*

*Constant prayer is the first and greatest assistance they seek. Also required, however, is concrete economic aid, taking into account what St. Paul wrote at the time of the first collection for Jerusalem: "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).*

*His Eminence*

*Vincent Gerard Cardinal NICHOLS*

*Archbishop of Westminster*

*Archbishop's House*

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**PARISH TOTAL** £1,897.29

Thank you for your generosity.

### SICK

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

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Winifred Williams, Roy Gibson, Graham Anthony Hardy  
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

## Easter Triduum



#### Maunder Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

Our Lady of the Rosary 7.30pm Watching till 10.00pm  
St Joseph's 7.30pm Watching till 10.00pm

#### Good Friday

St Joseph's	Morning Prayer	9.00am
	Stations of the Cross	10.00am
	Walk of Witness	11.00am
Sacred Heart	The Lord's Passion	3.00pm
St Joseph's	The Lord's Passion	3.00pm
St Joseph's	Meditation at the Cross	7.00pm

#### Holy Saturday

St Joseph's	Easter Vigil	7.30pm
Twelve Apostles	Easter Vigil	8.00pm

### LEGION OF MARY

Frank Duff founded the L.O.M. on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1921 and he died on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1980. The cause for his beatification is underway and there are prayer leaflets at the back of all churches. We invite you to take a leaflet and pray for this cause. Should you be granted any favours through his intercession, please let the legion of Mary (Lynne Burgess) 01942 607868 or the parish office know and we can pass this on. The Legion of Mary visit the bereaved, sick and housebound to have a chat and pray with the person they are visiting. Please let us know if you would like a visit or if you know someone who would. Thank you.

### ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

St Mary's are looking for a head of department for Religious Studies required for September 2017. The closing date is noon, Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Full details of the post are available to download from the school's web site

[www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.st-maryshigh.wigan.sch.uk)

Please contact Miss T Foster, Human Resources Manager if you require more information or would like to visit the school 01942 884357

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As our schools finish for the Easter break, may Fr Colin and Fr Kieran wish you all a holy and restful time.



LIVERPOOL  
LOURDES  
PILGRIMAGE

### Lourdes - A Place for All

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes contact us (the Liverpool Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Association) in total confidence via our website or by calling 07484 911 623.

To volunteer for any of our support teams please visit our website at: [Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk](http://Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk)

### NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

Visiting Lindisfarne, Seahouses and Durham, Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017, led by Fr Ron Johnson. £295 per person. Please call 0151 733 5492 for further information.



The Three Towns Operatic Society

proudly present

**H.M.S. Pinafore**

and

**Trial by Jury**

by Gilbert & Sullivan

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm

St. Joseph's Hall, Chapel Street, Leigh. WN7 2PR

Two shows for the price of one! Tickets: £11 & £13  
Concessions available.

Contact 01942 676594, 01942 605369

or call in at The Baby Centre, 15 Queen Street, Leigh  
01942 665615

### ST JOSEPH'S PLAYERS

Present

*Agatha Christie's*

## GO BACK FOR MURDER

Produced by Donna Wood

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh, WN7 2PR

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets adults £8 16yrs and under £4

Box Office Spectrum Blinds (Stones Carpets) Chapel St.

Bar Raffle & Refreshments

### April 29<sup>th</sup> - Fête du Vin

St Ambrose Barlow Church Hall

At 7.30pm £10.00 per person

Come along to an evening of wine tasting  
Bread and cheese included to help soak it up

Spare bottles of wine will be auctioned

Sponsored by the Catenian Association

Please contact Des (07973 114365)

or Eamonn (01942 892967) for tickets

## 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 8 April

12A 5.30pm

### Sun 9 April

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.00am

StR 6.30pm

### Mon 10 April

StJ 8.30am

StJ 9.00am

### Tue 11 April

StJ 8.30am

12A 9.00am

SH 12.00noon

12A 6.30pm

### Wed 12 April

StJ 8.30am

StJ 12.00noon

12A 12.00noon  
7.30pm

### Thu 13 April

StJ 8.30am

OLR 7.30pm

StJ 7.30pm

### Fri 14 April

StJ 9.00am

StJ 10.00am

StJ 11.00am

SH 3.00pm

StJ 3.00pm

StJ 7.00pm

### Sat 15 April

StJ 7.30pm

12A 8.00pm

### Sun 16 April

StJ 8.30am

SH 9.30am

StJ 10.30am

OLR 11.15am

StR

### Weekday of Lent

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

MASS Anthony Sutton RIP

MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr. (anniv.)

MASS James Winstanley Anni

MASS Special Intention (J & A)

SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

### Monday in Holy Week

Morning Prayer

MASS Alf Case (Birthday memorial)

### Tuesday in Holy Week

Morning Prayer

School Holy Week Mass in church led by Year 3 (all welcome)

MASS Julie Gallagher L.D.

RECEPTION into church Roy Gibson

### Wednesday in Holy Week

Morning Prayer

MASS Albert Sankey Birthday memorial

FUNERAL MASS Roy Gibson

CHRISM MASS AT THE CATHEDRAL. Coach leaves St Joseph's at 5.30pm

### THE SACRED TRIDUUM

#### HOLY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Maureen Sweeney

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Marlene O'Neill Birthday Memorial

#### GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Morning Prayer

Stations of the Cross

Walk of Witness sets out

THE LORD'S PASSION

THE LORD'S PASSION

Meditation at the cross

#### HOLY SATURDAY

EASTER VIGIL MASS Tom Slater R.I.P.

EASTER VIGIL MASS Vinnie Johnson

#### EASTER DAY

MASS Cooper & Parry Families

MASS Frances Shortis (get well)

MASS Kathleen & Philip McLoughlin, Gordon, Mary & Keith Turner R.I.P.

MASS Austin Woods

NO Sunday evening Masses in our Pastoral Area today or next Sunday

**Sacred Heart Lottery** The numbers drawn on 31<sup>st</sup> March were 4, 7, 27. There was no winner of £78. The jackpot for 21<sup>st</sup> April (after school holidays) was estimated at £100. Tickets will be on sale again from 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £

**Bonus Ball** No.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:kjmogrady@hotmail.com)

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady

Tel: 0161 790 2390

Email: [frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com](mailto:frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com)

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

Priest Fr. Colin Fealey

Tel: 01942 673517/ 01942 731280

Email: [stjosephs@live.com](mailto:stjosephs@live.com)

Priest: Fr. Paul Seddon

Tel: 01942 883395

Email: [paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paul.clitherow@yahoo.co.uk)

