

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

14 May 2017



Responsorial Psalm

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through me."**

Alleluia

REFLECTION

There can come a time in the life of all believers when everything gets dark. It's at such times that we really need strong faith, but it is precisely at such times when faith can fail us. So many people give up their faith when life goes badly. It's easy to convince ourselves that we have a strong faith when everything is going well. When a crisis arrives we discover what kind of faith we really have, or if we have any at all. There are those who think that if God was with them, and if he really loved them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life would be all plain sailing. So, when a storm does hit them, they experience a deep crisis of faith, thinking that God has abandoned them.

During the Last Supper the apostles were thrown into crisis when Jesus started to talk about his death. On hearing this, their hearts were troubled and filled with fear. Knowing that their faith would be severely tested, Jesus tried to prepare them for the ordeal. He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, and believe also in me." Since the apostles already believed, in effect what he was saying was, "You must go on believing in God and in me."

At a time of crisis people can sometimes feel that God has abandoned them. But Jesus assured the apostles that, even though he was leaving them, he was not abandoning them. Rather, he was going to prepare a home for them, and would later return to take them home. So, no matter what happened, no matter how difficult life might become, they must go on believing, go on trusting in him and in God the father. Trust is perhaps one of the greatest things we can give to another person. At that hour we must believe that somehow there is a purpose to it all, and that good will somehow come out of the bad things that are happening to us. Then the unbearable becomes bearable, and in the darkness a glimmer of light appears.

What real faith does is to assure us that God is with us in the midst of the crisis. It is this feeling, this conviction, that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, which will help us through any crisis. When the English singer, Charlie Lansboro, became a Catholic, he said, "I believe in God completely. I can't imagine my life without my faith. But it took me a long time to get there."

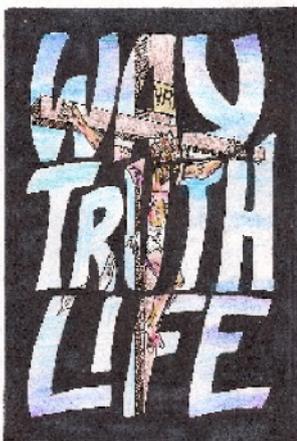
Our life of faith can be a long journey. Like any other journey it will have its ups and downs, joys and sorrows, triumphs and challenges. Faith reminds us that God will be there for us in the end, even when trouble strikes, both in this world and the next. It is not ourselves who keep the faith – it is the faith that keeps us. Gandhi once said, "A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope, because they believe in the ultimate triumph of truth." So when things seem to be going bad may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: "Believe in God, and believe also in me."

**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

Birthday, Caitlin Bradbury, Brian Crawley, Joan Ganley, Bernadette Higgins, Kieran Moss, Michael Morgan, Eva McHugh, Kathleen Rowson, Peter Smith, Joyce Tuttle, Michael Tuttle,

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Yesterday, Saturday 13th May our Year 4 children celebrated their First Holy Communion at a special Mass at 10.00 am. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

MAY PROCESSION

This years May Procession will be held today, Sunday 14th May at 12.00 noon, after the 10.30am Mass. Please come along to hour of Our Lady. You are invited to bring a small bunch of flowers to place at her Altar.

PIETY STALL

There are First Communion cards and a few rosary beads available in the card rack at the back of church.

GARDENING DAY

Our next Gardening Day will be this Saturday, 20th May at 10.00am. Please come along if you are able to and help to keep our gardens lovely.

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed after Mass each weekday during the month of May.

ST JOSEPH'S PLAYERS

St Joseph's Players will be holding their annual thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday 17th May, in the Green Room, St Joseph's Presbytery at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

PIETY STALL

There is a collection of gifts and cards available for First Holy Communion on the Piety Stall.

SACRED HEART

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

THE HOLY ROSARY

The Rosary will be prayed before Mass on Tuesday or Thursday during May.

FIRST COMMUNION

During the month of May our Year 4 children will make their First Holy Communion. We welcome them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith. Please note that the first few benches at the front of the church will be reserved for our children and their families.

REPOSITORY

Communion cards and small gifts are available in the little shop and in the baptistery at the back of church.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

May 11 - With Mary, as a pilgrim of hope and peace I travel to Fatima tomorrow. Let us see in her that everything is God's gift and He is our strength

May 10 - God is greater than nothingness, and a lit candle is enough to overcome the darkest of nights.

May 9 - Everyone has something to give to society; no one is excluded from contributing to the good of all.

May 8 - May Jesus, who vanquished the darkness of sin and death, grant peace to our days.

May 7 - Let us be challenged by the words and actions of Jesus, and welcome his call to a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love.

May 6 - Rejoice! Hidden within your life is a seed of resurrection, an offer of life ready to be awakened!

May 5 - In every age, the Risen Christ tirelessly seeks us, his brothers and sisters, wandering in the deserts of this world.

Orlivesimply

Reflect & Act:

It is easy to blame governments for the problems affecting millions of people in the world to day, but we each have a collective responsibility to make a difference. 'Whatever we do, whatever choices we make, other people and the earth itself are affected.' ('The Call of Creation: God's Invitation and the Human Response', Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales, 2002.)

This week consider what is your personal impact on poverty and the environment.

Challenge:

Having identified the areas in which your life impacts negatively on others and the environment, take steps to change this. (See the deanery website for ideas)

Pray:

Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty. Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God, you gave us responsibility for the earth, a world of riches and delight. Create in us a desire to live sustainably, so that those who follow after us may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice, you give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom. Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £ 1,683.42
Priests' Training Fund £ total not yet received

At all masses on the weekend of the 13th/14th May 2017 the SVP will be having its quarterly collection. The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages who might struggle during the upcoming months.

Please continue to be generous, our last collection raised over £500, any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.
Thank you, the SVP.

SICK

Colette Allerston, Eileen Boardman, Carolyn Burke, Sr. Teresa Frost, Mary Heneghan, Bernadette Higgins, Kitty Jones, Arthur Lowe, Josie & Aiden Newill.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Niall Dearnley, Pat Windyk.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Ava Grace Brown,

ARC Renewal Conference/Gathering

5th –12th August 2017
Bewerley Park, North Yorkshire HG3 5JB

"I realise now how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right"
Acts 10:34-35

A relaxed conference catering for all
Established for 34 years, we offer; daily talks, children's groups, Youth groups, Mass, worship and many opportunities to share in community life.
Excellent facilities on site - low cost camping and residential (some en suite) disabled (en suite) places available.

Contact Caroline Shevelan or Chris Rolfe-Moore
07769680259 crolfemoore@hotmail.co

EASTER

During Easter we are asked to pray for these intentions:
New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work.

World Communications Day Sunday 28 May
The Church especially at Pentecost Sunday 4 June

NORTHERN SAINTS PILGRIMAGE

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

RESPONSE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER

As mentioned at all the Masses last weekend, we will be having a Deanery Open Meeting in Saint Joseph's Parish Hall on Wednesday May 24th at 7.45pm. This is in response to the Archbishop's letter concerning the shortage of priests and the numbers of people attending Mass - if you did not get a letter then there should still be some available at the back of church. The initial meeting on the 24th is to reflect on the Archbishop's letter and reflect together on the way ahead. All welcome.



The Three Towns Operatic Society
proudly present

H.M.S. Pinafore

and

Trial by Jury

by Gilbert & Sullivan

Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th 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

The Baby Centre, 15 Queen Street, Leigh 01942 665615

Marian Prayer for the Easter Season

*Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia,
For he whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,
Has risen, as he foretold, alleluia;
Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

*Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.*

*God our Father, you give joy to the world by the
Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ. Through the prayers of His Mother, the
Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eter-
nal life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.*

*O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to thee.
Holy Mary, pray for us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
pray for us now and at the hour of our death.
Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation!
Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!*



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

Sat 13 May

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 14 May

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Tom & Betty Kennedy Birthday Memorial

SH 9.30am MASS Marian Woodward R.I.P.

StJ 10.30am MASS Reginald Squires Anni.

OLR 11.15am MASS Peter Purcell

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Mon 15 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Edel Quinn

Tue 16 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

SH 12.00noon MASS Philomena Gaughan (anniv.)

Wed 17 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

12A NO MASS

StJ 7.30pm MASS Bernadette Higgins (sick)

Thu 18 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

StJ 9.00am MASS Joyce Tuttle (Anni)

SH Rosary before Mass

SH 12.00noon MASS Edward Ford L.D.

Fri 19 May

Weekday of Easter

StJ 8.30am Morning Prayer

OLR 10.00am MASS Special Intention

StJ 12.00noon Requiem MASS Niall Dearnley

Sat 20 May

Weekday of Easter

OLR 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

OLR 12.00noon MASS Maureen Sweeney

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Timothy Stott

Sun 21 May

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

StJ 8.30am MASS Marie Fitzsimons

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Eddie Trumble (Anni)

OLR 11.15am MASS Brenda O'Dwyer

StR 6.30pm SUNDAY EVENING MASS in our Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Lottery The numbers drawn on 5th May were 3, 13, 18. There was no winner of £172. Last Friday's jackpot was estimated at £210.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10

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 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

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