

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 20 August 2017



Responsorial Psalm

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,
says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

In the Gospel this weekend Jesus withdraws from Jewish territory and crosses into the region of Tyre and Sidon. He is escaping from his opponents who are exasperated at the way he allows his disciples to break with the tradition of the Jewish elders, ignoring the laws about being clean or unclean. If Jesus is trying to escape from this problem, he is heading for a big disappointment. He comes face to face with the same question in a much larger form. A pagan woman comes to him, hoping that he will have mercy on her and heal her daughter. Matthew refers to her as a Canaanite woman – the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed by the Hebrews. This woman symbolizes all those who are regarded as unclean by Jesus' own people. Will Jesus answer her plea or not? Jesus' silence suggests an unwillingness to answer the woman's needs. This, at least, is how the disciples interpret it at first, and they plead with Jesus to do them a favour by getting rid of the woman. Jesus explains his exclusive mission: he is sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. This woman, therefore, is not his problem. She is outside the territory of his pastoral concern.

The woman, however, has no intention of bowing to these theological traditions which leave her out in the cold and abandon her daughter to a life of torment. She stops Jesus in his tracks and pleads with him. Jesus responds by using a harsh parable, one which voices his own people's traditional attitude to the likes of this woman: "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Only Jews have a right to be treated as "children" of God apparently. Yet the woman is not diverted by this and remembers the reason why she is there. She tells Jesus that even dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table. In her response she has outwitted Jesus in a way that none of his learned opponents ever managed. She recognized that people were rejecting Jesus. She, however, had great faith in him. Jesus recognized this and her daughter was cured.

Only twice in the Gospels does Jesus leave Jewish territory. Although his attitude to the Gentile woman seems out of keeping with the way he usually treats people, it probably does reflect strict Jewish-Christian thinking in the early Church. All the first Christians were Jews. Many of them still regarded Gentiles as unclean. This included Saint Peter at one stage. In the Acts of the Apostles he had to be converted to a new way of thinking and was forced to accept people into the early Church. Saint Paul, although a strict Pharisee himself, comes on the scene as the one who spearheads the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. Paul sets an example for the whole Christian Church – if we believe that Christ died for EVERYONE, then no one should be excluded from the all-embracing reach of God's love. The story of the Canaanite woman reminds us that everyone is welcome in God's house. Do we welcome them 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

Jeff Buller, David Brown, Winnifred Ellis, Bill Grant, David V. Patrick Groves, Bernadette Higgins, Betty Kennedy, Vincent Lythgoe, Marlene O'Neill, Tommy Parkes, Jack Parr, Mary Turton, Pearl Wedding

FIRST COMMUNION

The first meeting for children at Saint Joseph's in Y4 and their parents is on Thursday 14th September in church at 3.30pm. If you have a child in Year 4 and have not already enrolled them on the course, please contact the parish office.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Aug 17 - May nothing stop you from living and growing in your Heavenly Father's friendship, and from witnessing to His infinite goodness and mercy.

Aug 15 - Mary's Assumption regards our future: it turns our gaze heavenward announcing the new heaven and new earth with Christ's victory.

Aug 14 - The journey of entrusting ourselves to the Lord begins every day, starting each morning.

Aug 13 - In Mary we see that humility is not a virtue of the weak but of the strong who don't have to treat others badly to feel important.

Aug 12 - Dear young people, you are the hope of the Church. Do you dream about your future? Then take part in #synod18! <http://goo.gl/WghUvl>

Aug 11 - When something makes us suffer, let us listen to the voice of Jesus in our hearts: "Do not fear! Go ahead! I am with you!"

THANK YOU

Stephen Peak would like to say thank you for all the good wishes and prayers during his illness. Your support has been a great comfort and help to him.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC

If you are interested, or know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please contact the parish office, or speak to one of the priests after Mass. Instruction meetings will be starting in September.

DIRECTORIES

We will be ordering directories for next year in a few weeks so, if you would like a directory, can you please let the parish office know by 31st August, then we can order the correct amount and not have a lot of directories left. The price is £3.50.

MEETINGS FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED CATHOLICS

The Autumn 2017 series starts on 20th September. The series of six meetings runs weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Discussions include practical and emotional issues with information and advice on sources of help, rebuilding lives, the impact on children, legal issues, annul

ment and reassurance about the position of divorced Catholics in the Church.

Groups are small, informative, affirming and confidential. They are run by people who have experienced family breakdown. There is no charge but booking is essential.

There is a one day meeting on Sunday 16th September for those who would find that more convenient. Individual support is also available.

For further information or to make a booking, please contact Frances Trotman on 0151 727 2195.



Reflect:

Today's readings remind us that Jesus came to redeem all humankind and that God is Lord of the whole world and not exclusive to just ourselves.

It's easy to put people into boxes and maybe we sometimes differentiate between others whom we deem to be 'worthy' or 'unworthy' of our support. Yet we are all in need of the gift of other people at times and need to accept that in God's eyes we are all equally precious.

Pray:

O Lord, God of life

Who cares for all creation, give us your peace.

May our security come not from arms, but from respect.

May our force not be of violence, but of love.

May our wealth not be in money, but in sharing.

May our path not be of ambition, but of justice.

May our victory not be from vengeance, but in forgiveness.....

(Prayer extract from the Ecumenical conference, Brazil in 'Livesimply a CAFOD resource for living')

Act:

The news this week tells us of devastation caused by floods in Sierra Leone; famine in Yemen; the deaths of young children due to inadequate medical resources in India; conflict within and between countries in Latin America, in Saudi, in Africa and more reports of the suffering of people throughout the world due to events or situations over which they have no control.

Take time to consider your own life. Where do you stand in the overall global picture? How does your poverty compare with those who have had everything washed away in floodwater; whose families have been torn apart or destroyed in areas of conflict; who have no fresh water to drink; who only have a handful of rice to feed themselves with; who have no shelter.

Challenge:

What can we do in the face of such challenges? It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the suffering of others. And yet we are all God's people. Can we give something tangible such as a donation of goods or food? Can we give of our time in prayer or action? Can we physically do something such as sharing a meal with others, or using the resources we have for the benefit of others. Let us ask the Lord to guide us along his path, to open our eyes to his presence in others.

LEIGH & ATHERTON WRITERS

... invite you to celebrate the launch of their fourth anthology *Home is the Sailor*. This book is a dedication to Kevin Mulhearn who was a valued member, writer, sailor and friend of the writing group for over twenty years. He was also a well liked and constant presence at Sacred Heart church during many years. The book launch will take place at *As in Eden*, 14 Walmesley Road, Leigh on Saturday 2nd September at 6.00pm, Admission free, refreshments available.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,062.23

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

St Edmund Arrowsmith SVP

At all masses this weekend 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, any little you donate helps us to continue our work in our parish community.

SICK

Colette Allerston, Eileen Boardman, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Haisley, Mary Heneghan, Alan & Doreen Lowe, Arthur Lowe, Margaret Quinn

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Olivia Ann Wilcock, Jared Norman Tepper, Lucas Salvatore Mahon, Elodie Ann Mahon, Faye Amelia Collins Hunt.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Albert Edward Keegan, Joan Knight, Maureen Bridget McDonnald
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Lee Thomas Woodward & Victoria Marie McClymont who were married at St Joseph's church on Saturday 12th August.

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.

FEAST DAY MASS

The annual Feast day to celebrate the lives of our patron saints, Edmund Arrowsmith & Margaret Clitherow, will take place on Wednesday September 6th at 7.00pm in Our Lady of the Rosary church.

"FATIMA AT HOME" DAY.

A reminder that, after our recent pilgrimage to Fatima, we have decided to have a "Fatima At Home" Day in October, to celebrate the centenary of the last Apparition of Our Lady to the children.

- Friday October 13th – Holy Hour in St. Richard's church at 7.00pm.
- Saturday October 14th – Mass of Anointing in St. Richard's church at 12.00 noon.

In September we will start having planning meetings to prepare for the occasion so please watch this space for further details.

CREATION TIME

1st September – 4th October 2017

Pope Francis has asked us to mark this period with prayer, reflection and action in relation to the Earth and our place upon it and so the Liverpool Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool have produced a resource for parishes called *Reflections During Creation Time: Praying with the Gospels, stories from our time and Laudato Si'*. Like the resource we used last year, this one can be used as a course or as a series of one-off sessions following each of the five Sundays and comprises the Sunday's Gospel, case studies, quotations from Laudato Si as well as opportu-

nities for reflection, prayers and an invitation to action. There will be sessions at St Ambrose Barlow, St Richard's and St Joseph's. Further details will be in next week's newsletter.

ST JOSEPH'S BROWNIES

Do you have a daughter age 7-10 years who may be interested in joining Brownies? St Joseph's Brownies will have a number of places available from the start of the new school term on 11th September. We meet in the Mather room, Mather Lane (just behind St Joseph's church) on Monday evenings 6.00-7.30pm. Brownies do lots of different activities as well as serving the community. It's a great way to meet new friends. If interested please do the following.

- 1: Go online to: www.girlguiding.org.uk. and register your daughter on "join us". Then,
- 2: Please text your name and your daughter's name to our leader in charge: - Jayne Jones on: 07906 138961 who will then contact you.

RETROUVILLE

A Lifeline for Married Couples

Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse?
Have you thought about separation or divorce?
Are you constantly fighting or do you simply shut down?
Does talking only make it worse?
Hope is a phone call away..
All enquiries confidential and without obligation
Text or call 07887 296983
www.retrouvaille.org.uk

A SEED OF LOVE

Sunday 1st October 2017, 3.00pm

The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ The King
A celebration Mass for people living with a disability
Principal Celebrant Archbishop Malcolm McMahon
All welcome

For more information contact Mary Beatham:
07341 864180 Mary.beatham@nugentcare.org

St Joseph's Players Present

TIME, MURDERER, PLEASE

By Charles Dyer

Produced by Doreen Johnson

Tuesday 12th September to

Saturday 16th September

Comedy Thriller

St Joseph's Hall

Tickets adults £8, 16yrs and under £4

Bar Raffle & Refreshments Available

Leigh Model Railway Exhibition 2017

2nd & 3rd September

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

Admission £5 under 15s free when
accompanied by an adult

12 working layouts

10 trade stands

2 show you how's + displays

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 19 August

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Mary Langan (decd.) & deceased family members.

Sun 20 August

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

StJ 8.30am MASS Alice Wilcock (anniv.)
 SH 9.30am MASS Edith Thorne (90th birthday)
 StJ 10.30am MASS Pauline & Katheen Reynolds (anniv.)
 OLR 11.00am MASS Aiden Newill L.D.

There will be no Sunday evening Mass in the pastoral area until September 3rd.

Mon 21 August

Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope

StJ 9.00am MASS Baby Clara May Travers L.D.

Tue 22 August

Memorial of the Queenship of Mary

SH 12.00noon MASS In thanksgiving

Wed 23 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year I, Week 20)

12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson
 StJ 12.00noon MASS Margaret Grogan R.I.P.

Thu 24 August

FEAST OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

StJ 9.00am MASS Don McGrail R.I.P.
 SH 12.00noon MASS Curtis McFarlane L.D.

Fri 25 August

Weekday in Ordinary Time

OLR 10.00am MASS Mary
 StJ 12.00noon MASS Marlene O'Neill R.I.P.
 StJ 2.15pm FUNERAL SERVICE Maureen McDonald

Sat 26 August

Memorial of Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Mother of God

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation
 12A 12.00noon MASS John Robinson
 12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Henry L.D.

Sun 27 August

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

StJ 8.30am MASS Pearl Wedding
 SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area
 StJ 10.30am MASS Carolyn Andrea Burke R.I.P.
 OLR 11.00am MASS Rita Vint (anniv.)

There will be no Sunday evening Mass in the pastoral area until September 3rd.

Sacred Heart Lottery The next draw will take place on 8th September.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 216 D Lee, £5 No. 355 M&D Flannery, £3 No. 136 1 Betty, £2 No. 284 M Roach

Bonus Ball No. 17 B Woods



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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 Email: kjmogrady@hotmail.com

Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
 Tel: 0161 790 2390
 Email: frpaulmgrady@hotmail.com

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

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