

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B) 11 February 2018



Responsorial Psalm

You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is a story of role reversal. Mark's version of this story follows last weekend's Gospel where Jesus is surrounded by disciples and heals many sick people. When he tried to find space on his own, Jesus' disciples tracked him down. As today's passage opens, Jesus is alone, in an unidentified town. Did Mark insert this passage in his Gospel here deliberately? Did he hide any clues that would have located the story elsewhere in Jesus' ministry? We don't know, but the way the story is told heightens the tension of the Gospel. It gets off to a bad start. Under the Law a leper was forbidden to approach anyone, but the leper in today's Gospel approaches Jesus. Perhaps he thinks he has nothing to lose. He must already think he is as good as dead; a non-person cut off from all other human contact. He approaches Jesus, drops to his knees and says, "If you want to, you can cure me." Jesus does the unthinkable and touches him, saying, "Of course I want to! Be cured!" Mark says Jesus felt sorry for him. The original Greek word means that he felt great compassion.

Many different things happen in this story. First, the man is made clean, and Jesus, conscious of what the Law required for the man to be declared free from leprosy, tells him to go and show himself to the priest, making the offering prescribed by Moses as evidence of his recovery. It's not stated what this offering would have been, but presumably once the priest had declared a leper clean, the sight of the victim offering sacrifice in the Temple proved that he or she had been pronounced cured. Jesus tells this man to say nothing about this to anyone, but just as the visible testimony of his cure was evident, so now is his verbal acknowledgement of Jesus' power a testimony of God's work. The man who was recently cut off from all human contact is now publicly holding court at the heart of the community from which he was once excluded. Jesus, however, now has to stay outside the town, where there are no others. The one who cleansed the leper takes the place of the one he has healed. Role reversal indeed.

This miracle is about one person, but it has a universal implication. When Jesus cleansed the leper and took on his condition, we have the sign of what happened to humanity when the Son of God came into the human world. In the beautifully poetic creation story, God created us in his image and likeness. In the incarnation, God in Christ comes among humans in our image and likeness. In today's Gospel Jesus takes on the isolated condition of the former leper who is restored to fuller humanity. On the Cross, full role reversal takes place. Jesus pays the penalty for all sin – he exchanges places with us by dying for us. We become more fully human by Jesus' death because he has destroyed what makes us less human. If the totally innocent Jesus took on the entire burden of our sin in reaching out to us, can we ever excuse failing to reach out to a sister or brother who is dehumanized by exclusion, persecution, marginalization? The answer, of course, is that we can't. Who are the equivalent of lepers in our community today? And how do we reach out to them?

**LEIGH
PASTORAL AREA**

www.leighdeanery.co.uk

**St. Edmund
Arrowsmith
Parish**

**St. Joseph,
Sacred Heart,
Twelve Apostles,
and
Our Lady of the
Rosary
churches**



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL

£1,627.27

Many thanks for your continued generosity. The retiring collections in our parish next weekend will be in support of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

SICK

Winifred Beattie, David Belshaw, Eileen Boardman, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Haisley, Alan & Do-reen Lowe, Mary Marsh, Doug Wakefield

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Stephen Paul Clews & Gabriella Rebecca Lee-Harris who were married at St Joseph's church on Saturday 3rd February 2018.

DECEASED

Michael Mullahy, Rhoda Ward

Eternal rest grant unto them

FAMILY FAST DAY

Friday 23rd February

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brother and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday 23rd February can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity?

With malnutrition still killing almost 3 million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough to eat.

And this Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed.

WHY FAST?

In 1960, a group of Catholic women did something extraordinary. They organised the first Family Fast Day to support mothers and babies in Dominica who were suffering from malnutrition. They received overwhelming support. From this CAFOD was born.



LOURDES

A Place for All

ONE ARCHDIOCESE

ONE PILGRIMAGE

Friday 20th - 27th July 2018

Each year our dedicated team of healthcare professionals and Hospitalité team of volunteers help people to realise their hope of time spent at Our Lady's Shrine.

If you are interested in travelling to Lourdes contact us in total confidence via our website Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk or call 07484 911 623

Ave Maria!



Live simply

Reflect:

Today's healing of the leper in St Mark's Gospel challenges in several ways. The leper has a deep faith that Jesus can heal him – how deep is our own belief that we can be healed of the things that trouble us. In asking Jesus to heal him the leper is asking to be accepted as he is with all the ugliness and horror of the illness with which he is touched – can we accept our own ugliness, the parts of our own being that we would rather hide away and do not want anyone else to see? Jesus's response to the leper is pure positivity 'Of course I want to! Be cured'. Can we believe that God loves us so much that he accepts us just as we are? Can we share this same acceptance in our encounters with others?

Pray:

Lord, let my faith not be swamped by horror at the misery and hopelessness of so many in our world, in Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere. Instead, I ask your blessing on those who devote themselves to compassionate care of the needy. They are the unsung champions of your love today. I ask the grace to be numbered among them.

Act:

Recognise and accept the areas of your life which need to be healed. Place them before the Lord to do with as he will.

Challenge:

As Christians we are called to heal others. Spend time this week being sensitive to the needs of others you encounter, allowing God's Holy Spirit to work through you to bring healing to those who need it.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer Unity Service for all our Leigh Area, the gift to our world of Suriname (on N. Coast of S. America), FRIDAY, 2nd. MARCH, 7:30pm, Bedford Methodist Church, Breaston Avenue (off Warrington Road), LEIGH, WN7 3DJ. Singers (Male, female, any age) Practices: Mondays, 18th. & 25th. February, 7:30 to 8:30pm at Bedford Methodist Church.

GIVE UP CLOTHES FOR GOOD

TK Maxx are having their annual campaign to raise money for children's charities. Any old clothes you no longer want would be greatly appreciated, just put them in a bag and take them to TK Maxx on the retail park in Leigh. Help beat children's cancer soon. Thank you.

Leigh Catenians Association

invite you to a

Ladies Evening Dinner Dance

Starring local vocalist Steven Green
At the Masonic Hall, Leigh,
Friday 23rd February 2018,
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Full three course dinner plus dancing,
formal dress.

Price £30 per person

All enquiries to Maurice McCarthy 01942 518895

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

12A = Twelve Apostles, StJ = Saint Joseph, SH = Sacred Heart, OLR = Our Lady of the Rosary

Sat 10 February

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Robinson

Sun 11 February

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

World Day of Prayer for the Sick and those who care for them

Day for the Unemployed

StJ 8.30am

MASS Monica Davies (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Nora Heneghan L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS People of the Pastoral area

OLR 11.00am

MASS Margaret Ridyard L.D.

Mon 12 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 6)

StJ 9.00am

MASS William Fairclough (Anniv.)

Tue 13 February

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 12.00noon

MASS Winifred Keeley L.D.

Wed 14 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

StJ 9.15am

MASS Noel Clancy R.I.P.

(12A) 10.00am

MASS in SCHOOL, everyone welcome

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Eveline Donohue (Anniv.)

SH 7.00pm

MASS The McGuinness family

Thu 15 February

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

StJ 10.00am

FUNERAL MASS Rhoda Ward

SH 12.00noon

MASS Kathleen Hall (anniv.)

Fri 16 February

Friday after Ash Wednesday

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at Moss Bank Court Mary O'Neil L.D.

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Joe Fox (Anniv.)

Sat 17 February

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

StJ 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation *

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Frank Twentyman (Anniv.)

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS of SUNDAY John Fisher

Sun 18 February

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am

MASS Stephen Aspden R.I.P.

SH 9.30am

MASS Patrick Gallagher

StJ 10.30am

MASS Joe & Tony Shovelton (Anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Eileen West

*Please note, confessions finish at 11.45am

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 064, D Davies; £5, 155, N Jones; £3, 158, B Welding; £2, 318, K Jones.
Bonus Ball No. 38 C Ackers



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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