

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

18 February 2018



Responsorial Psalm

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.

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

Saint Mark begins his Gospel with a flurry of witnesses to the truth of Jesus and his mission among us. His account of Jesus in the wilderness is very short in comparison to the other Gospels. There are no details of the individual temptations Jesus undergoes. There is a sense of urgency and power. The Holy Spirit, who has descended on him in the form of a dove at his baptism, immediately drives him into the wilderness. This desert is not just a place of individual testing. It is where the wild beasts hold sway. It is where the battle takes place between good and evil. Jesus is not left alone in this warfare, for he has the protective shield of the angels. Throughout his public life of preaching and healing, Jesus will appear as a strong and active person, very much in charge of his destiny. At the end of his life, once Judas has handed him over to his executioners, he will be once again in the wilderness, and he will be totally passive as he is cursed and maltreated by his persecutors. As he begins his public ministry, we gain a hint of this possibility, as he begins his proclamation at the very point his forerunner, John the Baptist, has been arrested. Jesus now becomes his own witness. The time has come for all the prophecies to be fulfilled. God through Jesus is once again asserting authority in the world.

We live out the battle between good and evil against the wider landscape of our world and society. We also fight the same battle within ourselves. Living amongst other people we have a multitude of distractions, and the battle gets displaced into blaming others and being hurt by their actions. In solitude we learn to identify the true sources of evil in ourselves and in our world. Modelling ourselves on Jesus, we also hope that we too have the support of God's angels. Our capacity to deal with sin and evil is strengthened by the way solitude helps us to unburden ourselves of anything that is unnecessary in our lives so that we can focus on God more and more. As we make ourselves more insignificant we become more free to focus directly on what needs to change, again whether within ourselves or in our world. We can become less afraid, less anxious, less sensitive to our own needs and more in tune to the real needs of others.

The journey into the wilderness with its experience of solitude begins our Lenten journey. It equips us to repent and believe the Good News and to proclaim the Kingdom of God in our own lives. Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are the three practices we are advised to use as we attempt this mixture of purification and growth. They are not ends in themselves but the means whereby we become more open to the life of God's Spirit working in and through 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

Stephen Aspden, Frank Bocking, deceased members of the Boon & Campbell families, Anne Charlesworth, Eugenie Cheetham, Walter Cheetham, John & Agnes Coan, Monica Davies, Marie Fitzsimons, Francis Gallagher, Joan Ganley, Joyce & Bill Green, Gerald Hudd, Eileen McNully, May Malley, Alice Milward, Marlene O'Neill, Alan & Lavern Pearson, Annie & Sam Spibey, Eileen Stockton, Kath Trumble, Rhoda Ward, Sick Person, Special Intention.

THANK YOU

Teresa Ashton would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, prayers and Mass cards during her illness.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

We are having our usual Easter Raffle. Donations of Easter eggs, chocolates and gifts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH'S S.V.P.

At all Masses this weekend of 17th/18th February 2018 the SVP will be having a collection. The monies we collect will be used to support parishioners of all ages. So far this year we have been able to assist three families with financial grants following your generous contributions at Christmas.

Please continue to be generous, as any little helps us to continue our work in our parish community.
Thank you, the SVP

WALSINGHAM TRIP

Monday 2nd - Thursday 5th April 2018

There are still some places left on the Walsingham trip. The cost of the trip is £220. Please contact Teresa on 01942 253507 or Margaret on 01942 675368.

ROME PILGRIMAGE 18th - 22nd June 2018

We are pleased to confirm that this is going ahead as we have already 22 people booked. Details and booking forms are available in the church porches. Alternatively please contact Des: 07973 114365

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS WITH ARCHBISHOP M^cMAHON

... On Sunday 11th March at 11.00am into the Metropolitan Cathedral. *Would you like to be involved in the Mass? Do you have a significant anniversary to celebrate?* Please contact Maureen Knight 0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

THE PRIESTS LIVE IN CONCERT

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Friday 1st June
Tickets from £16 available from Liverpool Philharmonic Hall Box Office 0151 709 3789
The proceeds of the concert will be split between Nugent Care and Friends of the Metropolitan Cathedral Liverpool

NUGENT CARE

The origins of Nugent Care date back to Victorian Liverpool and the pioneering work of Father James Nugent (1822-1905) in relation to child welfare, relief from poverty and social reform. Through his ministry, Father Nugent witnessed first-hand the suffering caused by poverty and appalling conditions and took action to remedy the situation. By the time of his death, Father Nugent had given homes and valuable skills to thousands of children, and laid the foundations for the work currently undertaken by Nugent Care.

Allied to the Archdiocese of Liverpool, Nugent Care has provided care and support for those in need for over one hundred and thirty years. While our values have remained constant, our services have adapted to meet the changing needs of today's society.



Pope Francis @Pontifex

Feb 15 - In our daily lives we experience the tenderness of God who lovingly saves us from our sins, fears and anxieties.

Feb 14 - When we confess our sins with humility and sincerity, we receive forgiveness and are reunited with God and our brothers and sisters.

Feb 13 - We need the Holy Spirit to transmit the faith. We cannot do it alone.

Feb 12 - I feel deep pain for the many children torn from their families and forced to become child soldiers. This is a tragedy!

Feb 11 - To serve human life is to serve God and life at every stage: from the womb of the mother, to the suffering and sickness of old age.

Feb 11 - May the sick always be shown love in their fragility and respected in their inviolable dignity.

Feb 10 - The Lord is present in our lives, showing us all His love and encouraging us to respond with generosity.

Feb 9 - Christians are called to keep alive the memory of how much God has done through 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 23 February

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2 March

Stations of the Cross

St Joseph's church Wednesdays in Lent 7.00pm

Sacred Heart church Thursdays in Lent following a noon Mass

MISSIO

"I am in the last year of my seminary formation; I hope and pray that God who started this beautiful work in me will see to its completion"

These are the earnest words of a young trainee priest in Sri Lanka. This sentiment has been echoed time and again by countless young men throughout the world, who have shared their fears and struggles in completing their formation to the priesthood. Many are poor and expected to support their families as their parents become older, many are Catholic minorities in a hostile environment, but one thing is certain - their desire to love and serve in Christ's name.

You can help these young men fulfil their calling by having a Mission Box and putting your loose change in, it is surprising how it mounts up. Collectors are also needed to empty the mission boxes three times a year, it is not a taxing job and help is much needed. Please contact the parish office if you would like to have a mission box or become a collector.

Thank you

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,736.98

Many thanks for your continued generosity.
The retiring collections in our parish this 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 & Doreen Lowe, Mary Marsh, Doug Wakefield

DECEASED

Brian Fahy, Michael Mullahy, Baby Jack Michael Slater
Eternal rest grant unto them

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our parish through baptism to:-
Alice Elizbieta Radley, Isaac Christopher Brewer-Garvey

MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note, on Wednesday the 12.00 noon Mass at St Joseph's has been moved to 9.00am. Fr Colin is at a funeral later in the day.

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.

In light of recent news reports you may wish to know CAFOD Has a statement about Safeguarding vulnerable communities on cafod.org.uk [and a copy is on our parish noticeboard].



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!



Reflect:

In Mark's Gospel, the desert marks beginning of Jesus' battle with Satan; the ultimate test will be in Jesus' final hours on the cross. In a similar way, our Lenten observances are only a beginning, a preparation for and a reinforcement of our ongoing struggle to resist the temptations we face in our lives. During Lent, we are led by the Holy Spirit to remember the vows of Baptism in which we promised to reject sin and to follow Jesus. Just as Jesus was ministered to by the angels, God also supports us in our struggle against sin and temptation. We succeed because Jesus conquered sin once and for all in his saving death on the cross.

Pray:

Loving Creator
Transform our hearts so that we
Walk more humbly
Live more simply
And become the change we wish to see in the world.
Kieran O'Brien

Act:

Have you given up something for Lent? Give the money you have saved to charity.

Challenge:

What tempts each of us in our lives today? When do we find ourselves turning away from the Lord? It is easy to feel overwhelmed at times by the temptations we encounter, but God is with us....This week concentrate on one particular area of temptation, speak to God about the difficulties you encounter trying to deal with it and ask God to help you overcome what is tempting you.

WALK WITH ME LENT BOOKLETS

Booklets are now available, please feel free to take one.

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, 19th & 26th 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 Parsonage 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 17 February

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

Mon 19 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Michael Mullahy

Tue 20 February

Weekday of Lent

SH NO MASS

Wed 21 February

Weekday of Lent

StJ 9.00am MASS Alf Case (Anniv.)
12A 10.00am MASS Winifred Robinson
StJ 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thu 22 February

FEAST OF THE SEE OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

StJ 9.00am MASS Marlene O'Neill (Anniv.)
StJ 10.45am FUNERAL SERVICE Baby Jack Michael Slater
SH 12.00noon MASS Nora Heneghan L.D.
SH followed by Stations of the Cross

Fri 23 February

Weekday of Lent

SH 10.00am MASS Owen Lovell L.D.
StJ 12.00noon MASS Deceased members of the Yates Family

Sat 24 February

Weekday of Lent

12A 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation *
12A 12.00noon MASS John Thompson
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS of SUNDAY Mary Tyrer

Sun 25 February

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Teresa Atherton R.I.P.
SH 9.30am MASS Philomena Gaughan (birthday anniv.)
StJ 10.30am MASS Ellen Mullany (Anniv.)
OLR 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

*Please note, confessions finish at 11.45am

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10, 136, Betty; £5, 224, J Waterfield; £3, 350, M Houghton; £2, 193, J Causby
Bonus Ball No. 13 E& L Ellis



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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