

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) 8 April 2018



## Responsorial Psalm

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me.  
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe".  
Alleluia!

## REFLECTION

In today's Gospel the disciples are gathered in a locked room. The recent violence has made them security conscious. They have become runaways from a society they fear to be hostile, so they lock themselves in what they hope is a safe house. For all their defensiveness, however, they cannot keep out the pressing love of the Risen Jesus. He appears amongst them. His greeting is peace. Their response is joy. For the evangelist John, Easter Sunday is Pentecost, and the gift of the Spirit is the breath of the Risen Jesus. The disciples breathe in and the Spirit becomes part of them. But one of their number, Thomas, is missing. When he arrives he refuses to believe the disciple's story. Thomas is part of the apostolic group, but he is also a very independent person. He cannot be loyal to the group while being disloyal to his own inner self. This would render his loyalty worthless. For Thomas honesty is more important than loyalty. So he refused to become part of this company of believers, for it is not enough for him to shelter in a faith that he cannot credit for himself. He may want to believe, yearn to accept as true what the others say, but his wish cannot turn into faith. Doubt cannot be transformed into faith simply by willing it. After all, the other disciples only come to believe in the Risen Jesus because they actually see him. The insistent honesty of Thomas is what makes him doubt. For Thomas to say he believed would be like play-acting and make-believe. For Thomas it was more important to believe rather than go along with everyone else just to feel part of the group.

We learn from the Gospel that Thomas comes to believe in the Risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples – that is, when he sees the Lord for himself. We can appreciate, however, that the character of Thomas is larger than the apostle Thomas: he represents all those who have not seen the Lord but are asked to believe in him. The story of Thomas leads to the beatitude aimed at the generations of people who will not see the Risen Lord: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe." It is not that we are asked to do what the apostle Thomas could not do – believe in Jesus simply on the testimony of others. Thomas was not gifted by the Spirit, and no one can believe in Jesus without the Spirit of God. As we hear in today's reading from one of Saint John's letters: the principal witness to the Risen Jesus is the Spirit, "since the Spirit is truth." We can only pray "My Lord and my God" because we allow the Spirit of God to pray in us. In the grace of the Spirit we proclaim Jesus our Lord. If faith is one of the principal gifts of the Spirit, it is also a form of life that has to be nurtured, helped to grow, loved into maturity. It is not a precious stone to be locked in a vault. Faith is a life, and like any life it can wither if forgotten or overlooked. Faith can die from a lifetime's neglect. We need to pray about our faith, think about our faith, live the life of our faith. Faith demands our action. That does not mean that we will never have doubts but, if like Thomas, we care about what we believe in, that care in time will bring us into the presence of the Risen Lord.

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

John Paul Daley, Peter Stott, Albert Sankey, Eddie Trumble, Get Well

### THANK YOU

Than you to the family of Eddie Belch for their kind donation of £200 in his memory. May he rest in peace.

### COFFEE MORNING

Coffee Morning resumes today.

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to Ged Maloney for his wonderful art work once again this Holy Week and Easter.

### RED MISSION BOXES

Can collectors please empty the Red Mission Boxes and bring them to the Presbytery on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Thank you.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### RAFFLE

Please check your raffle tickets, there are still still some unclaimed prizes.



April 5 - Let us go forward with the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, knowing He is always by our side!

April 4 - It is my sincere hope that everything necessary may be done in order to continue compassionately accompanying little Alfie Evans, and that the deep suffering of his parents may be heard. I am praying for Alfie, for his family and for all who are involved.

April 4 - Love is the only invincible weapon, because it has the power to disarm the forces of evil.

Apr 3 - May Christ who conquered the darkness of sin and death, grant us peace in our days.

Apr 2 - As we contemplate Christ's empty tomb, let us renew our belief that nothing is lost with Him!

Apr 1 - Today we repeat that wondrous proclamation: "The Lord is truly risen, as He said!". A Blessed Easter to you all!

Apr 1 - Our faith is born on Easter morning: Jesus is alive! This experience is at the heart of the Christian message.

Mar 30 - Look upon Christ Crucified: our hope for eternal life is born in Him.

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTIONS SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL

Devotions with opportunity for individual confession. Beginning at 3.00pm at Holy Family church, Boothstown.

## THE LEGION OF MARY ACIES CEREMONY



The Acies ceremony will be held at Sacred Heart church, Leigh on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 7.00pm, followed by Holy Mass at 7.30pm.

Active and Auxiliary members will make their annual consecration to Our Blessed Lady during Mass. Please come and join us on this special occasion. Light refreshments will be served after Mass.

### GIFT ENVELOPES

The Gift Aid Envelopes are now available, please collect your envelopes after Mass today. If you are a tax payer and are not currently signed up to Gift Aid, please consider doing so. It costs you nothing and the church receives an extra 20p from the government for every pound you give.



#### Reflect:

It is now over a year since we started the initiative to try to attain the liveSimply award for the deanery. Consider the changes you have made in your life which may have moved us closer to attaining the award.

Can you make renewed efforts inspired by this season of Easter when we celebrate Christ's resurrection and as we see the changes around us as the earth brings forth the new life of Springtime?

#### Pray:

God of creation, make us ever mindful that the choices we make and the actions we take have repercussions for our brothers and sisters around the globe. Give us wise minds and generous hearts that we may share the riches of your creation according to each other's needs and not according to our greed.

#### Act:

Check your lightbulbs – are they energy efficient?

#### Challenge:

Do you have bulky items that you no longer want but are still in a decent condition? One way to do your part to prevent the spread of waste culture is to get other, like-minded people involved. Websites like Freecycle and Gumtree are extremely useful community-based platforms to find and get rid of unwanted items of any description in your local area.

## LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,023.88

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

### SICK

Winifred Beattie, David Belshaw, Eileen Boardman, Marie Fletcher, Kitty Jones, Alan & Doreen Lowe, Mary Marsh.

### DECEASED

Patricia Ferroni, William Speakman, Dorothy Burrows, Bernard Thomas Prendergast.  
Eternal rest grant unto them ...

## LOURDES

A Place for All  
ONE ARCHDIOCESE  
ONE PILGRIMAGE

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://Liverpool-lourdes.org.uk) or call 07484 911 623



LIVERPOOL  
LOURDES  
PILGRIMAGE

## Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress 2018

*Eucharist is... thanksgiving*

When we give thanks at Mass, the past is renewed, the present is transformed, and the future is made already present. In this thanksgiving, hope is generated by recalling past mercies. What we know from the past of the power and love of God gives us confidence in the continued mercy of God despite whatever may be going on in our lives to try us



## BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 10.30am - 4.00pm**

Boys in Year 2 & 3 are invited to come and meet the Choristers and have the opportunity to sing in the largest Catholic church in the UK. This is an opportunity to explore what being a chorister is all about. For further details please visit the Cathedral website. [www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetro cathedral.org.uk)

## St Joseph's Players Present "AN IDEAL HUSBAND"

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St, Leigh  
A Comedy by Oscar Wilde  
Produced by Donna Wood

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets adults £8 16yrs & under £4.50  
Available from Spectrum Blinds, Chapel St, Leigh or pay on the door



The Three Towns Operatic Society  
proudly present

## Orpheus in the Underworld

Music by Offenbach

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 7.30pm**

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

Tickets: £11 & £13 Concessions available. Contact

01942 676594, 01942 605369

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

Also available online at [www.thethreetowns.net](http://www.thethreetowns.net)

A comic, adventurous helter-skelter journey from Greece, up to Mount Olympus and down to the Underworld.

Enjoy the famous Can-Can and other lively, foot-tapping melodies.

## MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

### Sat 7 April

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joan Glover

### Sun 8 April

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)**

*Day of Divine Mercy*

StJ 8.30am

MASS Edith Smith (anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Frances Shortis (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Thomas Kennedy (anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Margaret Ridyard L.D.

### Mon 9 April

**SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

StJ 9.00am

MASS Eileen Hurst R.I.P.

### Tue 10 April

*Weekday of Easter*

SH 12.00noon

MASS Julia Gallagher

SH 7.00pm

Legion of Mary pray the Rosary

SH 7.30pm

MASS Legion of Mary Acies function, all welcome

### Wed 11 April

*Memorial of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr*

OLR 11.00am

FUNERAL MASS Bernard Thomas Prendergast

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Alf Keavney (Anniv.)

### Thu 12 April

*Weekday of Easter*

StJ 9.00am

MASS Margaret Coleman

SH 12.00noon

MASS Brian Wilfred Ogden L.D.

### Fri 13 April

*Weekday of Easter*

(OLR) 10.00am

MASS at Moss Bank Court Terry Jones (anniv.)

SH 1.00pm

FUNERAL MASS Dorothy Burrows

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Marlene O'Neill R.I.P.

### Sat 14 April

*Weekday of Easter*

StJ 11.00am

Exposition & Reconciliation

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Albert Sankey (Anniv.)

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Joyce Butler (get well)

### Sun 15 April

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)**

StJ 8.30am

MASS Ellen & Joseph Joyce (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Patrick O'Sullivan Jnr. (anniv.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Joni Horton R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £50 No. 377 P Leonard, £10 No. 251 N Flynn, £5 No. 418 N Jones, £3 No. 238 B Edwards, £2 No. 260 F Rasburn

**Bonus Ball** No. 39 R 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](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

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