

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B) 22 April 2018



Responsorial Psalm

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

One of the most popular images of Jesus in the Gospels is that of the shepherd who leads his large flock and protects them from harm. In the time of Jesus many herds consisted of thousands of sheep, their sheer number requiring highly skilled men to look after them. The flocks spent most of the year on the vast open uplands, from March to mid-November, and the winter was spent under cover. Hyenas, jackals and wolves roamed the hills, as well as robbers looking to steal some of the sheep. So the shepherd was usually armed. It was a very dangerous job, and the shepherd's care and courage were sometimes legendary. When the young King David was anxious to convince King Saul that he was capable of fighting Goliath, he said:

"Your servant used to look after the sheep for his father and whenever a lion or a bear came out and took a sheep from the flock, I used to follow them and strike them down and rescue the sheep from its mouth. If he turned on me I seized him and struck him down ... God who has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears will rescue me from the power of this Philistine."

Shepherding was a hazardous occupation and living outdoors was rough. During the long dry season shepherds had to move their flocks in search of new pastures and watering places, and because they sometimes trespassed on private land they were unpopular with landowners. In common with tax collectors, they were forbidden to hold public office or give evidence in court.

In his life and death Jesus sought out the lost and the least and the last. When he wanted to speak of a tender God he told the people about a shepherd who, when he loses one of his sheep, leaves the other sheep and goes off in search of the lost one. The shepherd refuses to accept the loss of one sheep as "just one of those things". He searches for the lost sheep until he finds it, and then taking it on his shoulders he returns to share his joy with all his neighbours. This is Jesus' image of pastoral care, a search that continues until a find can be made. We know, of course, that a search is not automatically going to happen. Many losses are not even registered. Where there is no love, there is no loss. Some people are regarded as "no great loss". But all of us hope that when we are lost, someone, somewhere, will be looking for us, just like the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd therefore challenges our own way of leaving people for lost. As Jesus says, "I have come to seek out and save the lost". This is what we should do too. Probably all of us know someone who has wandered away from the Church, who has lost their sense of belonging, who feels they have no community to belong to. How will they know they are welcome back if no one tells them? How will they be helped back if no one offers to make the journey with 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**



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS ST JOSEPH'S

MASSES

Eileen Boardman, Thomas Corner, John Draper, Tim May, Len Pritchard, Alan Ratcliffe, Nithy Thomas, Geoff Whalley, Special Intention.

RED MISSION BOXES

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

GARDENING

Mosses Garden Centre has very kindly donated a large number of plants for our gardens, Keith Hindley is doing a wonderful job planting them all, but would appreciate a little help, with planting and to keeping the gardens tidy. If you are available to help, please speak with Keith.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

THANK YOU

Thank you for the very generous donation of £1,000

EASTER RAFFLE

Please check your raffle tickets, there are a few unclaimed prizes.

FIRST COMMUNION GIFTS

First Holy Communion gifts are on sale at the back of church.



April 19 - Mercy opens the doors of the heart because it makes us feel like we are all children of one Father.

April 18 - The Christian vocation means being a brother or sister to everyone, especially if they are poor, and even if they are an enemy.

April 17 - God asks us little and gives us a lot. He asks us to open our hearts and to welcome Him and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.

April 16 - Those who protect children are on God's side and triumph over those who oppress them. Let us free every child from every form of exploitation.

April 15 - While I continue to pray unceasingly for peace, and invite all people of good will to do the same, I renew my appeal to all those with political responsibilities to ensure that justice and peace prevail.

April 15 - The Church is young because the Gospel is its lifeblood and regenerates it constantly.

April 14 - We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do. #GaudeteExsultate

April 13 - The holiness to which the Lord calls you grows through small gestures in everyday life. #GaudeteExsultate

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.

COMMEMORATING THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

On Friday, 4th of May we keep the Feast of the English Martyrs. Mass will be celebrated in their honour at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart church, Swan Lane, Hindley Green followed by a presentation on the Lancaster Martyrs given by Christopher Robson, representative for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in the Lancaster Diocese. All are welcome and we hope many will come along - bring your Catholic friends from other parishes too! A retiring collection will be taken after the presentation to receive any donations you may wish to make towards the work of ACN which supports Christians who are being persecuted for their faith today.

LIVERPOOL SYNOD 2020

Following on from the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter before Christmas, Liverpool Archdiocese is embarking on a three year project aimed towards a General Synod in 2020. As part of the preparations we will be holding a number of Holy Hours very soon as we focus on prayer for the first year. The Archbishop will be leading some of these Holy Hours in the different areas of the Archdiocese. So, an early notice that Archbishop Malcolm will be leading a Holy Hour in St. Joseph's church, Leigh, on **Wednesday May 30th** at 7.30pm. All welcome. Additional Holy Hours in our Pastoral Area will take place on **Wednesday June 27th** at 7.30pm in St. Ambrose Barlow church, Astley and on **Wednesday July 18th** at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart church, Leigh.



Reflect:

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the differences between the good shepherd and the hired hand – in the degree of commitment and responsibility, the depth of relationship, the time and care, and even love, that is given – differences that set Jesus apart from false prophets, but that might also prompt me to question myself. What does the image of the good shepherd and the hired hand say about my commitment, the depth of my relationships, the time and care and love that I give?

Pray:

Through our lips
Let Christ speak.
Through our hands
Let Christ act
Through our hearts
Let Christ love
And through our sharing
Let Christ work.
Amen

Annabel Shilson-Thomas CAFOD

Act:

The Good Shepherd chooses to make sacrifices for his sheep. Find ways this week to make positive choices for the good of others.

Challenge:

Plan meals around what you already have. Once you've planned your week's meals, only buy what you need.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY MASS

Pentecost Sunday, 20th May 2018, 3.00pm
Holy Rosary Parish Church, Altway, Aintree, L10 2LG
Everyone is invited to celebrate Dementia Action Week 21st - 27th May, especially those people living with dementia, their carers, family, friends and parishioners from all churches. Mass will be followed by refreshments in the parish hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,846.60

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

The retiring collection in all our churches this weekend will be on behalf of the Priests' Training Fund.

SICK

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

DECEASED

Eileen Boardman, Anne Charlesworth, Celia Grogan, Len Pritchard.

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

PRIESTS' TRAINING FUND

Today, Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The second collection will be the annual collection for the Priests' Training Fund which is the chief source of income that enables the Archdiocese to train our future priests. It takes six or seven years to train a priest and costs approximately £100,000.

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 911623



LIVERPOOL
LOURDES
PILGRIMAGE

ADOREMUS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE & CONGRESS 2018

Eucharist is ... pilgrimage

The culmination of a pilgrimage may be a Mass, but the source and summit of any week as a Catholic Christian is the Eucharist. We don't have to journey with passport and suitcase to find the healing that we need, the healing of forgiveness and inclusion in God's family. We just have to journey to church for Mass.

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Sunday 6th 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

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 24th to Saturday 28th 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 15th – Saturday 19th May 2018 at 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

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.

CAFOD
just one world

Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to www.cafod.org.uk/lent

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 21 April

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Brian Keavney

Sun 22 April

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

StJ 8.30am

MASS John Davey (R.I.P.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Eileen McNulty L.D.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Ellen Squires (Anniv.)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Tom Rasburn (Birthday Memorial)

Mon 23 April

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT GEORGE, MARTYR, PATRON OF ENGLAND

StJ

NO MASS

Tue 24 April

Weekday of Easter

SH 12.00noon

MASS Frances Shortis (birthday anniv.)

Wed 25 April

FEAST OF SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST

12A 10.00am

MASS Winifred Robinson

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Stephen Aspden (R.I.P.)

Thu 26 April

Weekday of Easter

SH 12.00noon

MASS Caitlin Bradbury (anniv.)

Fri 27 April

Weekday of Easter

SH 10.00am

MASS Simon Puthenparakel (anniv.)

StJ 12.00noon

FUNERAL MASS Eileen Boardman

Sat 28 April

Weekday of Easter

12A 5.30pm

NO Exposition, Reconciliation, noon Mass today.

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Eileen Boardman L.D.

Sun 29 April

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Year B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Joan Ganley (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am

MASS Special Intention (Birthday)

OLR 11.00am

MASS Winifred Peake R.I.P.

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 257 F Rasburn, £5 No. 217 M Collins, £3 No. 053 M Gibbon, £2 No. 463 N Flynn

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.

FR. GORDON ABBS

After all the recent talk of a shortage of priests, it is good to be able to have an extra one – at least for a while! This week we are happy to welcome Fr. Gordon Abbs into the Deanery. Fr. Gordon is a diocesan priest currently on sabbatical. He will be staying in the area, based at Sacred Heart, Leigh, and when not away on the different courses he has to attend, or playing golf, he will be helping out in the area. He will be taking up a permanent appointment somewhere in the Archdiocese in September. He is a longtime friend of both Fr. Kieran and Fr. Paul (the Big One!) and, unfortunately, he supports Manchester United! So, whilst it will be great having an extra priest for a few weeks, please remember that our next step as a Deanery is to move towards having just three priests. We need to do quite a bit of work to prepare ourselves for those days ahead.

PASTORAL AREA TEAM

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