

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST 24 JUNE 2018



Responsorial Psalm

I thank you for the wonder of my being.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

As for you, little child, you shall be called
a prophet of God, the Most High.

You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

Today we are celebrating the birth of someone who showed signs that he was a prophet even before he was born. Normally we only celebrate saints on the day of their death and, in fact, only celebrate the birthdays of three people: Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist. Why does John the Baptist merit this honour? Even at his birth his family were full of wonder as they asked, "What will this child turn out to be?" If we look at events and signs that surround his birth, we can begin to appreciate why, as Jesus said, "Of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John." Firstly, John's parents represent the righteous people of the Old Testament. Elizabeth, getting very old, was blessed with this child. Zechariah, his father, receives the news from the angel in the Temple with all its ancient rituals. The name of John is given, which breaks with tradition. John brings together the New and the Old. He is the hinge between the two testaments. And even in the womb he jumped for joy on recognition of Jesus when the pregnant Mary visited Elizabeth. Even before his birth he was the precursor of Jesus. But also in his death, beheaded by Herod, he points forward to Jesus' death under Pilate in Jerusalem. Secondly, at his birth his father Zechariah recognizes this little child as a "prophet ... who will go before the Lord to prepare the way for him." Through preaching repentance he will make ready the way for Jesus and finally have the singular honour of baptising him. John's baptism was to be in water alone and he directs our attention to Jesus' baptism, which will be in the Holy Spirit. But thirdly, John will show his humility. He knows that he is only one voice crying in the wilderness while it is Jesus who IS the Word of God. He shows that it is Christ who is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world and he, John, is unworthy to baptise him or untie his sandals. His role is clear: he must give way to Christ. "He must grow greater, I must grow smaller."

How can we celebrate this feast of John the Baptist's birthday? By celebrating Mass, of course, but most importantly by living out his words and putting into practice the lessons of his life. If we are going to recognise Jesus for what he is, then we must see him against the long history of the Old Testament. We cannot appreciate the new without knowing what came before. We can then appreciate how Jesus fulfils what the prophets foretold. Once we have recognised Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, then we too need to repent and confess our failings so that he can heal us. And finally, as Christians who have been sent to evangelise and to point the way to Christ, we need the humility of John. For all Christians, we are called to be sure that we are pointing to Christ and not to ourselves. We are also here to prepare the way for his coming. For from now on, after Midsummer's Day, the days will start getting shorter until Christ comes at Christmas and the light starts to increase once again in our lives. So, too, we are called to decrease and let him increase.

**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

Catherine Curran, Betty Kennedy, Annie Leather, Jim & Elsie McHugh, Maria McHugh, Michael McHugh jnr. Michael McHugh snr, Harry O'Hara, Mary & Michael O'Hara, C.M. Paul, Theisamma Zachina, Special Intention.

FIRST COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION

If you have a child who will be in Year 4 in September, they will be eligible to celebrate Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. To enrol for the course, please collect an application form after Sunday Mass.

CATHOLIC TIMES

There are a couple of free Catholic Times available at the back of church. If you would like to start receiving this weekly paper, please let the parish office know, so that we can order some. Thank you.

COFFEE MORNING

Unfortunately, next Sunday 1st July, we have had to cancel coffee morning. Normal service will be resumed on the 8th.

NEW HYMN BOOKS FOR SACRED HEART

Those parishioners who attend Sacred Heart church will be well aware of how long and desperately we have been in need of new hymn books. A similar problem at St Joseph's almost two years ago was successfully solved by inviting people to donate a hymn book to the church, perhaps in memory of a loved one. At present we have a small reserve of money to put towards hymn books but it is insufficient to buy as many as are needed. If you would like and can afford to donate a hymn book, please put £6 (the cost of each book) in an envelope and pass it into the Priest's House, along with the name of the person the hymn book is to be dedicated to. That person's name will then be inserted into the hymn book's front cover alongside a request for prayers. If you require any further information please speak to Fr Kieran or Deacon Tony. As always, many thanks for your support and generosity.



Jun 21 - Praying together, walking together, working together: this is the way that leads to Christian unity. #WCC70

Jun 21 - Dear young people, help us adults whose hearts are often hardened. Help us to choose the path of dialogue and harmony.

Jun 20 - A person's dignity does not depend on them being a citizen, a migrant, or a refugee. Saving the life of someone fleeing war and poverty is an act of humanity. #WithRefugees @M_RSection

Jun 20 - We encounter Jesus in those who are poor, rejected, or refugees. Do not let fear get in the way of welcoming our neighbour in need. #WithRefugees @M_RSection

Jun 19 - Choosing to follow Christ helps build a more just, more friendly, more humane society, that is closer to the heart of God.

Jun 18 - Let us try to express the joy of God's Kingdom in every way possible!

Jun 17 - Let us share the journey of refugees and migrants with concrete gestures of solidarity. #sharejourney

Jun 16 - Invite the Holy Spirit to be part of your activities. Call upon Him before you even start: "Come, Holy Spirit!"

Jun 15 - Love is always at the service of others. Because love is seen in actions, not words.

LIVERPOOL SYNOD 2020

Liverpool Archdiocese has embarked on a three year project aimed towards a General Synod in 2020. As part of the preparations we are holding a number of Holy Hours as we focus on prayer for the first year. 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.

SHARE THE JOURNEY

War, persecution, natural disaster and poverty force millions of people from their homes. Many of them are children, who become separated from their parents and are extremely vulnerable. Inspired by Pope Francis, we respond with compassion and call on governments to protect the human dignity of people on the move. We want to send a strong message to world leaders who, in autumn this year, will agree two new compacts (or agreements) at the United Nations: one on refugees and one on migration. We aim to walk 24,900 miles - the distance around the world. - in solidarity with our sisters and brothers forced to flee. Join our journey.

We are organising a walk of 4-5 miles on Sunday 15th July, beginning at 2.00pm from the Mather Room and finishing there with refreshments. If you are interested in joining in, please put your name on the sheet in the porch. We need numbers so that everyone can be registered with CAFOD and all the miles walked can be totalled up. For more information about **Share the Journey**, please visit cafod.org.uk



NEWS AND UPDATES ABOUT ADOREMUS

Liverpool Archdiocese - Mid-June updates

1. The new way to enrol parishioners and any others interested in attending *Adoremus* is by booking directly online. (It is active 11 June.)

<http://www.jumpdp.com/adoremus2018/>

Tickets are available for the Saturday Echo Arena event with Bishop Barron and other speakers

Delegate Commissioning Liturgy for parish delegates

Parishes and Deans will receive lists of delegates booked through diocesan booking forms

The Bishops Conference will send out tickets to your booked parish delegates directly in the summer

2. The *Adoremus* Parallel programme for Friday-Sunday 7-9 Sept is official! Individuals/parish groups/coaches are welcome to these supporting events. Almost all events are free but some require advanced booking. Links to booking online are included in the Parallel Programme descriptions.

3. Talks in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress - free and open to the public.

Liverpool Carmelite Monastery - last Sunday of the month through August - next talk on The Unexpected Gift: Spiritual Journey of a Deaf Person, Sunday, 24 June 3.30 - 5.30pm

Widnes Pastoral Area - Thursdays in June 1.00-2.30pm and repeated 7.30 - 9.00pm at Widnes Pastoral Centre, Mayfield Ave, Hough Green WA8 8PR

Series of Conferences on the Most Holy Eucharist, St Mary's Shrine, Warrington WA1 2NS, 11-14 June 7.00pm with low Mass before at 6.00pm.

4. *Adoremus* & Young People

Programme for High Schools on Friday, 7 Sept.

Adoremus Youth Congress for ages 13-20 at the Arena auditorium on Saturday, 8 Sept

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL	£1,784.76
Day for Life	£ 515.23

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

At Masses for Friday's holyday of obligation there will be the annual collection for *Peter's Pence* which is sent directly to the Holy See to fund the Pope's charitable initiatives in the favour of the Universal Church.

SICK

Winifred Beattie, David Belshaw, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Sr. Megan Hainsley, Kitty Jones, Mary Marsh, John Prince.

DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them ...

BAPTISMS

Welcome into our community through Baptism to:
Isaac Alan Catwright, Tansi Dottie Alyssa Dean

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Governors from Catholic schools in the area are warmly invited to attend a training session 'Governance in a Catholic School'.

This will be held at St. Joseph's Primary School, Mather Lane, Leigh, WN7 2PR on the evening of Monday 9th July from 6.00-8.00pm

The session covers material which is specific to the governance of a Catholic school and will not deal with matters common to governors of all schools. It is therefore particularly important that governors who may not be Catholic and have never before attended any 'Catholic' governor training are particularly encouraged to attend. There is no charge. Bookings please to i.beck@rcaol.co.uk or to f.coldicutt@rcaol.co.uk or telephone 0151 522 1071.

TWELVE APOSTLES SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

Twelve Apostles RCPS are looking for a Foundation Governor to start in September. This is a voluntary role and you don't need any qualifications or expertise just a commitment to making a difference to our young children's future. If anyone is interested or would like to find out more about the role, please contact Father Kieran or Mrs Newton the Headteacher on 01942 674312 for an informal chat.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Pope Francis has confirmed that he will be travelling to Ireland to take part in World Meeting of Families 2018, which is taking place in Dublin from 21 - 26 August. Pope Francis will attend the Festival of Families in Croke Park on Saturday 25th and is celebrating an open-air Mass in Phoenix Park on Sunday 26th August. If you would like to attend please visit www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/Tickets/Tickets-Registration for tickets and registration.

YOUNG PERSONS GROUP AT SACRED HEART

Fr Kieran is keen to establish a youth group based at Sacred Heart church for young people in the Pastoral Area. It will be for young people who are in Year 6 - Year 13. This group will begin in September. There will be more information given nearer the time.

LEGION OF MARY

June is the month that the Church dedicates to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you would like to have your home and family consecrated to the Sacred Heart, the Legion of Mary can arrange this.

Contact Lynne Burgess: 01942 607868, or the parish office: 01942 673517, or speak to any member of the legion or one

of the priests.



Reflect:

In today's Gospel, we read of the Birth of John the Baptist and how his name reveals the role he has to play in being the forerunner of Jesus. God calls each one of us in a particular way. He called John the Baptist; he called Mary; more recently he has called well-known figures like Oscar Romero and Mother Teresa, and many other people we've probably never heard of. How does each of us feel about this idea of being personally called by God? How do I feel about God's personal love for me, and God's personal call to me? What might that call be?

(Taken from Pray as You Go)

Pray:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
For he has anointed me to bring the good news to the afflicted.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives,
Sight to the blind,
To let the oppressed go free,
To proclaim a year of favour from the Lord
(Luke 4.18-19)

Act:

Some supermarkets have started to react to the call of the consumer to be more environmentally friendly. Take advantage of the opportunities provided to limit your use of plastic wrapping and extra packaging. This will help to encourage supermarkets to do even more

Challenge:

Think about your own friendships, acquaintances and experiences. God has put you in touch with a unique network of people and places. How can you live out his call to bring his light to others? Ask for God's help in living out his calling.

STRATFORD TRIP

Don't forget that the Parish trip to Stratford takes place this Thursday June 28th. The coach will be leaving St. Richard's church, Atherton, at 9.00am and will then stop outside St. Joseph's, Leigh, at 9.15am. Please make sure that you are there on time since we will have to leave straight away in order to get to Stratford in good time. The coach will leave Stratford in the evening at 7.00pm, allowing us a lovely day out together and hopefully a good experience in the theatre in the afternoon watching "Macbeth".

RESTORED LIVES

RECOVERY FROM DIVORCE & SEPARATION

The Restored Lives course is a series of six meetings starting on Wednesday 19th September 2018. The course is for any person who has been impacted by the end of a serious relationship whether separated, currently going through a divorce or already divorced, either recently or any time in the past. Meetings are free, confidential, informative and affirming.

For further details please contact Maureen O'Brian 07967 753371 or Jacqui Sellek 07793 825815

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE

Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 22nd July 2018

Celebrating St Joachim & St Anne, grandparents of Jesus. A day of faith and fun for all the family - bring a picnic lunch - all welcome.

11am Reconciliation, 12 noon Mass followed by picnic lunch, fun & games, children's entertainment

2.30pm The Walsingham story, 4pm Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction

MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 23 June

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral area

Sun 24 June

StJ 8.30am

SOLEMNITY OF THE BIRTH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

SH 9.30am

MASS Anne Charlesworth (R.I.P.)

StJ 10.30am

MASS Audrey Ashurst & Roy Parr R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am

MASS Margaret & George Cartledge (Golden Wedding)

MASS Austin Wood

Mon 25 June

Weekday in Ordinary Time (Year II, Week 12)

StJ 9.00am

MASS Bernadette Higgins (anniv.)

SH 12.00noon

MASS Dr Claude Lalge R.I.P.

Tue 26 June

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12A 9.00am

School MASS of Thanksgiving

SH 12.00noon

MASS Sylvia Davey (anniv.)

SH 1.15pm

School MASS of Thanksgiving

Wed 27 June

Weekday in Ordinary Time

12A 10.00am

MASS John Thompson

StJ 12.00noon

MASS Deceased members of Boon & Campbell Families

Thu 28 June

Memorial of Saint Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr

StJ 8.30am

MASS Special Intention

StJ 7.00pm

VIGIL MASS Eileen Boardman R.I.P.

Fri 29 June

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES

Holyday of Obligation

StJ 9.15am

MASS Mary Gibbon (birthday)

StJ 12.00noon

MASS J B Griffin (birthday memorial)

SH 7.00pm

MASS Kathleen Roberts R.I.P.

Sat 30 June

Weekday in Ordinary Time

SH 11.00am

Exposition and Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon

MASS Jack William (birthday)

12A 5.30pm

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY McCoy Family

Sun 1 July

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

StJ 8.30am

MASS Sheila Smith (anniv.)

SH 9.30am

MASS Mary Ellis R.I.P.

StJ 10.30am

MASS Peter Lancaster R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am

MASS Winifred Peake

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 117 C Swift, £5 No. 300 C Ellis, £3 No. 264 C & T Ellis, £2 No. 130 A Unsworth

Bonus Ball No. 8 A Simpson



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
Tel: 01942 673517/01942 731679
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Priest: Fr. Paul Grady
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