

St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

16th DECEMBER 2018



Responsorial Psalm

Sing and shout for joy
For great in your midst is the
Holy One of Israel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

REFLECTION

This weekend we hear the prophetic words of John the Baptist. They are words of judgement and yet we are told that he announced the "Good News". How can judgement be Good News? In last weekend's readings John was introduced as one who preached a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He wants the people to change their ways but they are reluctant. They want to stay as they are. But John has been sent to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord who will bring them salvation. He warns them of the judgement to come and their consciences are touched. They ask him, "What must we do?" in Luke's Gospel, especially, Jesus links salvation to what we do with our possessions. So many of his parables will warn of the danger of riches and the accumulation of possessions, whether it is the story of the rich man and Lazarus or the farmer who hoards everything and does not share his produce. Now John does not just tell his listeners that they must produce fruits, he specifies what each group should do in practice. He demands change that is not just superficial but makes them uncomfortable, for they are called to share their possessions more justly. He tells them to share their food, and even their clothing, with those in need. The tax collectors who exploit the people must restrain their greed and act fairly. Soldiers must be satisfied with their pay and not misuse their power to rob and blackmail. John's words of judgement arouse the people from their complacency and prepares them to receive the Good News of salvation which Christ Jesus will bring.

We may sometimes wish that God would leave us alone. But John the Baptist and the prophets tell us that this is the worst thing God could do. Left to ourselves we get lost following whatever desire we have for possessions, money or just a comfortable, quiet life. Do we still hoard our possessions and close our hearts to those in need, even though we have plenty? Do we benefit from, or at least approve of, the excessive charges and bonuses big businesses award themselves? And, as John the Baptist noted, there are many people in all kinds of powerful positions who do not seem to mind corrupting themselves for the sake of getting more. But we may also face the challenge of changing even though our lives may be happy and normal. We may be deaf to the call of God to serve in a more demanding way. John the Baptist still points to a deeper freedom beyond the enticement of comfort or possessions. His is a word of judgement which makes us ready to receive the words of Jesus. And it is a word of judgement that leads to the Good news of salvation. This is why today we rejoice because we know that beyond the pain and inconvenience of change we can rejoice in Christ's presence as he comes to us this Christmas. "Be happy," writes St. Paul, "the Lord is very near."

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

Rev. Dcn. Tony Arrowsmith, Annie Butterworth, Julie Costello & Family, Ian Davies, Madge Farrell, Jack Fisher, Margaret & Kevin Fleming, The Kedwood Family, Mark Prescott, Joe & Tony Shovelton, Edith & Joseph Smith, Sheila Smith, Grace Speakman, Deceased Members of the Yates Family,

SANCTUARY LAMPS

As we receive a lot of Mass intentions at St Joseph's we are not always able to accommodate people's requests for a particular date. Sorry if we have not been able to celebrate Mass on a particular date - it is best to book as far in advance as you can. Another way of remembering loved one or praying for a particular intention, while supporting the upkeep of the Church, is to sponsor a Sanctuary Lamp. For a suggested donation of £5 the Sanctuary Lamp will burn all week for a person or particular intention - the details of which will be published in the newsletter each week. If you need any more information, please speak to Fr Colin or phone the parish office. The Sanctuary Lamp at St Joseph's will burn for a full week, from Saturday to Saturday. Please remember if you are requesting a specific date for the sanctuary Lamp or a Mass to give us your contact details incase the date you want has already been taken. Up to 2 Sanctuary Lamps can be lit each week.

This week the Sanctuary Lamps will burn in remembrance of Catherine Curran & Harry O'Hara

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The last day for Christmas Memorials to be handed in is the 18th December. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas Draw raised £530.00. Thank you to all who supported it and congratulations to the winners. All prizes have been claimed, a list of winning numbers is at the back of church.

LITTLE CHURCH

Little Church are once again collecting copper of CAFOD. Please bring any spare change you have and help them to help other children in need. Thank you.

JESUIT MISSIONS

The Jesuit Missions, London send their thanks and wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas season to the many kind parishioners who have given their used postage stamps throughout the year. The Stamps are sold in London and provide a valuable source of income for their Mission causes overseas.

SACRED HEART

EXPOSITION

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.30am to 11.55am every Tuesday when there is midday Mass at Sacred Heart church.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

CAROL SINGING

Wednesday 19th December 7.30 - 8.30pm. Carol Singing, seasonal refreshments to follow. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

There is a list at the back of church for our Christmas Raffle Draw.

DEACON TONY ARROWSMITH

On Wednesday morning we heard the very sad news that Deacon Tony Arrowsmith had died. Please pray for Tony, his wife, Theresa and his son Neil. Deacon Tony was a parishioner at Sacred Heart for many years. He was a deacon for 14 years and served the church of Sacred Heart, the Parish of St Edmund Arrowsmith, the Pastoral Area and beyond. His funeral will take place on Tuesday at 12.00noon at Sacred Heart Church. Let us pray for Deacon Tony; may he now know the fullness of life in the Kingdom of Heaven. May he rest in peace, Amen.

TIME OUT FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are already fed up with the TV adverts telling you that 'the holidays are coming', if your ears are tired of the Christmas songs playing in the shops, then there is an antidote... The Sundays of Advent are time to slow down and reflect on the true message of the season, so come along to the Green Room on December 2nd, 9th and 16th at 3pm to spend an hour in quiet and prayer, making yourself truly ready for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

XII Apostles Mass 5.30pm

St Joseph's Carol Service 5.30pm, Mass 6.00pm

Our Lady of the Rosary Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

St Joseph's 8.30 & 10.30am

Sacred Heart 9.30am

Our Lady of the Rosary 11.15am



Pope Francis @Pontifex

12 Dec Let us beg the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, to continue accompanying and protecting the peoples of the American continent. #VirgendeGuadalupe

11 Dec "Comfort, comfort my people" (Is 40,1). How does the Lord give comfort? With tenderness. #SantaMarta

10 Dec Keep the faith. In this second week of Advent, we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas. #SantaMarta

10 Dec Every human person, created in God's image and likeness, is a value unto themselves and is subject to inalienable rights. #HumanRightsDay

9 Dec Advent is a time to recognize the emptiness needs to be filled in our lives, a time to smooth the rough edges of pride, and to make room for Jesus who comes. #Advent



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £1,738.14
S.V.P. £ 589.00
Many thanks for your continued generosity.

SICK

Winifred Beattie, Marie Fletcher, Sr. Teresa Frost, Kitty Jones, Mary Marsh, Margaret Quinn, Margaret Warren

LATELY DEAD

Dcn Tony Arrowsmith, William Boon, Kenneth Crossley, Ada Cullen, Susan Derbyshire, Jack Fisher, Catherine Rowson.
Eternal rest grant unto them.....

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE - DECEMBER 2019

Thank you to those who have returned booking forms for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year. The booking forms and deposits will be sent to All Saints Travel this week. A meeting will be arranged sometime in the New Year.

CAFOD FUN RUN

The 35th CAFOD Fun Run will take place on Thursday 27th December at Wavertree Athletics Centre and Park, Liverpool L15 4LE. Registration will be from 12pm and the runners and walkers start at 1pm on the 4km or 8km run and 2km walk. It's a great way to support people overseas through CAFOD (and get out after Christmas!) and a chance to do some light training now! Further details from 0151 228 4028 or liverpool@cafod.org.uk.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR DEPRESSION

Warrington's peer support group for anyone facing depression or a related mental health condition now runs weekly at The Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1SR every Monday evening, 7pm. It's free and offers a safe space to offload, to be heard and to receive support to help work through difficult times. No need to book or be referred. For more details please see www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/support-groups



Reflect:

In today's Gospel reading, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation and encourages the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life.

Pray:

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
Sing and shout for joy,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

Act:

John the Baptist gives us some very practical ways to live our lives in a way which is true to the Gospel. Can we choose to do one of these?

Challenge:

John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans. Can we identify one specific change we might make in our lives to prepare the way of the Lord?

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

In 2019 we could see changes to abortion law in England and Wales to decriminalise abortion which would:
Allow abortion, for any reason at all up to 24 weeks of pregnancy

Make it lawful for anyone, medically qualified or not, to supply pills or instruments for abortion

Make it much easier for abusive men to coerce women into having an abortion

Please use the cards the church porch to ask the Prime Minister to stop abortion decriminalisation in our country



NUGENT CRIB APPEAL 2018

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving.

If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Pope Francis

Please help us to continue the work of our founder, Father James Nugent, by giving your support to our 2018 Crib Appeal. All proceeds will be used to help children and adults in need across the Archdiocese.

During winter, we need to be conscious of individuals huddled in doorways, sleeping rough on our streets and families whose Christmas will be spent in cramped temporary accommodation or a hostel room with their children.

Our Housing Support Unit (HSU) works with partners across the city to help homeless people and those in crisis through our New Beginnings Project by providing temporary accommodation, practical support and advice, which enables people to get back on their feet, live independently and move on to their own permanent tenancy.

People often come to us with nothing, so our HSU team provide starter packs of essential equipment to help them transition into temporary accommodation and permanent residence.

Your Support Matters

Your donation to our Christmas Crib Appeal this year will help provide the basic needs of someone facing homelessness:



MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

Sat 15 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Mary Winifred Price

Sun 16 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

StJ 8.30am MASS J Maxwell (anniv.)
SH 9.30am MASS Nora & Jack Pearson and departed loved ones .
StJ 10.30am MASS David Nicholson R.I.P.
OLR 11.00am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

Mon 17 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 9.00am MASS Alan Ratcliffe
StJ 11.45am FUNERAL SERVICE Jack Fisher
SH 12.00noon MASS Frances Taylor R.I.P.

Tue 18 December Weekday of Advent

SH 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Rev. Dcn. Anthony Arrowsmith
StJ 2.00pm FUNERAL SERVICE Kenneth Crossley

Wed 19 December Weekday of Advent

12A 10.00am School MASS in Church John Robinson
StJ 12.00noon MASS Alf Keavney (anniv.)

Thu 20 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 10.00am FUNERAL MASS William Boon

Fri 21 December Weekday of Advent

StJ 12.00noon FUNERAL MASS Ada Cullen

Sat 22 December Weekday in Advent

12A 10.00 - 11.45 Exposition & Reconciliation
12A 12.00noon MASS John Robinson (anniv.)
12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson

Sun 23 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

StJ 8.30am MASS Terence Keavney (anniv.)
SH 9.30am MASS Frances & Fred Shortes
StJ 10.30am MASS Eileen Boardman R.I.P.
OLR 11.00am MASS Sick Person

Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club £10 No. 201 J Causby, £5 No. 254 N Flynn, £3 No. 278 M & D Flannery, £2 No. 208 J Causby

Bonus Ball No. 17 B Woods



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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