

# St. Edmund Arrowsmith

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2018



## Responsorial Psalm

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
Let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel this weekend we hear the story of Mary's visitation to her cousin, Elizabeth. During this visitation Elizabeth spoke these wonderful words to her: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The theme of being blessed, if we believe in God, runs throughout the Gospels. Wonderful things happen to those who believe. There are many examples. Jesus said to the centurion, "Go, may it be done for you as you have believed," and his servant was cured. To the woman with the haemorrhage he said, "Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well", and her bleeding stopped. To the two blind men he said, "May it be done to you according to your faith," and they received their sight. The central theme of the Gospel is the blessedness of those who believe. All of Jesus' preaching had as its aim the development of faith in people's hearts. However, it is not simply a matter of believing, but of trusting and acting on their belief. We sometimes may hear people say, "It's OK for you, you've got great faith." But it's not like that. Faith doesn't always make life easy. In fact, the opposite is more likely to be the case. It's because we have faith that we refuse to give up. Faith challenges us to persevere, to struggle on, often with no guarantee of a happy outcome.

Mary is blessed because she not only believed but also acted on her belief. Immediately after the visit from the angel Gabriel, she went to visit Elizabeth. From this we see that her faith was more than mere words. She lived out her calling to be the Mother of God's Son from the very outset. Mary was the first and most perfect disciple of Jesus. This is why she has become our role model over many centuries. We too will be blessed if, like Mary, we hear the Word of God and act on it. Christmas can be a great help to our faith. Somehow we can feel that God is very close to us at Christmas because this is when he became like us. The central essence of the Good News is that God made himself present to us in the life of Jesus who walked on this earth. At the first Christmas there were those who believed and those who did not believe. The Gospel stresses the blessedness of those who believe the Good News. As we enter into the final week of Advent let us prepare for the Lord's coming by living out the Good News of God each day and by sharing this message with others.

**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

Jeffrey David Allinson, Lily Ahsworth, Bob Bates, Kitty & Ernest Clarke, James Hall, The Hurst Family, Michael & Kieth Monaghan, Marlene O'Neill, Alice & William Pennington, Maurice & Isabella Phillips, William & Sandra Phillips, Frank & Martha Prescott, Andrea Southern, Eileen & Jack Withington, Sylvia Withington, New Home

### SANCTUARY LAMPS

22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> the Sanctuary Lamps will burn in remembrance of Joan & Vincent Ganley and Phillip John Aldred.

29<sup>th</sup> Dec. - 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. The Sanctuary lamps will burn in remembrance of

Betty Reeder & Brian Crawley.

### 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.

### COFFEE MORNING

Coffee Morning has been cancelled today, sorry for any inconvenience.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS DRAW

The Christmas Draw raised £406.80. Thank you to all who supported it. Please check your tickets, 3 unclaimed prizes, tickets sold at church. A list of winning numbers at the back of church.

### OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

#### CHURCH CLEANING

A big thank you to those who came to help clean our church. Your help was most appreciated.

### RED MISSION BOXES

The amount raised by the Red Mission Box Collection during 2018 was £6,640.00.

The individual Church Collections were:

St Joseph's £5,996

XII Apostles £ 312

Our Lady's £ 332

Thank you to all our dedicated collectors, box holders and donators, your efforts are very much appreciated.

WE do need more collectors to continue this mission, a maximum of ten boxes every three months. Also new box holders and donators are most welcome. Please contact your church or the parish office if you can help.

### 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](http://www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/support-groups)

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

PARISH TOTAL £2,045.43

Many thanks for your continued generosity.

### SICK

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

### NUGENT CRIB APPEAL 2018

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.

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



#### Reflect:

Today's familiar Gospel tells us of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. It reminds us that other people are important in each of our lives as they can enable us to recognise God's action in our lives.

#### Pray:

Pray the 'Hail Mary', slowly, taking the time to reflect how Mary and Elizabeth must have felt as they met and the action of God was revealed in each of their lives.

#### Act:

It's easy to get bogged down in the material side of Christmas. Take time out this week to thank God for the gift of his son, Jesus.

#### Challenge:

Most of us will have sufficient food, and more, for our needs this week. But there are people in our community who are struggling to survive on an almost daily basis. When you do your last minute food shop don't forget to donate something to those who are collecting for food banks.

### Pastoral Area Pilgrimage to POLAND

17th - 21st June 2019

Over the last few years we have had very successful visits to the Holy Land, Fatima and Rome

We are offering a 4 night stay in Krakow, with visits to Wadowice, birthplace of St John Paul, the extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birchenu and to the Polich National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Dinner bed and breakfast in 3 star hotel within minutes of the Central Square of Krakow. Price of £519 PLUS Airfare (Manchester-Krakow) currently approx £78.00. Please contact Des 07973 114365 for bookings. Information is available at the back of Church. A meeting will be held in mid-January for interested parishioners.

Please note, there will **not** be a newsletter next week. The times for the Masses week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> December are printed on the last page of the newsletter

## MASS AND SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

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

### Sat 22 December

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY John Thompson

### Sun 23 December **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)**

StJ 8.30am MASS J 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

### Mon 24 December **Weekday of Advent**

StJ 9.00am MASS Maggie Farrell (anniv.)

#### VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY

12A 5.30pm MASS Margaret Beckett (LD)

StJ 5.30pm Carol Service

StJ 6.00pm MASS Grace Speakman (sick)

OLR 11.30pm Carol Service

OLR Midnight MASS Ann Fealey

### Tue 25 December **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

StJ 8.30am MASS Maurice Gallagher (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am MASS Honora and James Pemberton

StJ 10.30am MASS Kieron & Melvin Moss & Stephen Cleworth

OLR 11.15am MASS Austin Woods

### Wed 26 December **FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR**

StJ 12.00noon MASS Mark Prescott (anniv.)

### Thu 27 December **FEAST ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

SH 12.00noon MASS Bernie Bates R.I.P.

### Fri 28 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

StJ 9.00am MASS The Kedwood Family

### Sat 29 December **FEAST OF SAINT THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, (Becket) BISHOP & MARTYR**

StJ 12.00noon MASS Peter McDonnell R.I.P.

12A 5.30pm MASS John Robinson

### Sun 30 December **FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

StJ 8.30am MASS Benjamin & David Robinson (Anniv.)

SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Thomas, Theresa, Teresa & Margaret Grogan R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am MASS Brian Rasburn (LD)

**Our Lady of the Rosary 500 Club** £10 No. 240 A Jones, £5 No. 313 B Edwards, £3 No 127 Christina Swift, £2 No. 245 M Moore

**Bonus Ball** No. 19 U Lightford

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW PARISH

### Christmas Eve

Holy Family Mass 6.00pm

St Richard's Mass 6.00pm

St Ambrose Barlow 8.00pm

Holy Family Carol Service 11.30pm

Holy Family Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

Holy Family 9.00am

St Richard's 9.00am

St Ambrose Barlow 11.00am

Holy Family 11.00am



Fr Kieran and Fr Colin would like to say a very big thank you to all of you for your kindness and support during 2018. Especially to all those who clean our churches, do the gardening, read at Mass, to the Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans, Singers and Musicians, money counters, gift aid teams, collectors, Catechists, organisers of various parish events, to everyone who in any small way contributes to the life of our parish. Your help and support is much appreciated.

*Fr Colin & Fr Kieran*



*Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.*



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SH 9.30am MASS People of the Pastoral Area

StJ 10.30am MASS Thomas, Theresa, Teresa & Margaret Grogan R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am MASS Brian Rasburn L.D.

### Mon 31 December Seventh Day Within the Octave Of The Nativity

StJ 9.00am MASS Joe & Tony Shovelton

### Tue 1 January MARY MOTHER OF GOD

OLR 11.30am The Rosary will be prayed, lead by the Legion of Mary

OLR 12.00noon MASS Peter Galloway

### Wed 2 January Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church

StJ 12.00noon MASS Norah Heneghan (anniv.)

### Thu 3 January Weekday of Christmas

No MASS

### Fri 4 January Weekday of Christmas

StJ 12.00noon MASS Annie Butterworth (Anniv.)

### Sat 5 January Weekday of Christmas

SH 11.00am Exposition & Reconciliation

SH 12.00noon MASS Ben Twist R.I.P.

12A 5.30pm FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY People of the Pastoral Area

### Sun 6 January FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

StJ 8.30am MASS Sheila Smith (B'day Memorial)

SH 9.30am MASS John & Norah Henehgan R.I.P.

StJ 10.30am MASS Kathleen & Pauline Reynolds R.I.P.

OLR 11.00am MASS Edith Nuttall L.D.



### 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

Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady

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Deacons: Rev Robert Hewertson, Dennis Vint

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