

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY (A) LENT**  
**INTRODUCTION TO MASS**

Our Mass today is offered for Sheila Tighe,  
Moira Bennett and the People of the Parish

Welcome to all of you – parishioners of St Stephen’s and St Bridget’s and others who are joining us for Mass this morning through the parish Website. And our thanks to Ian Atkin for making this happen. Today is Laetare Sunday; Rejoice Sunday – a mid-way stage on our lenten journey to rejoice in the Salvation already won for us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. You may think – in this time of isolation and anxiety in the wake of the Covid-19 virus – that we have little to rejoice in. It is not for us to speculate on the will of the Almighty our calling is to rejoice in the Lord – to rejoice that he has us in his care and love – each and everyone of us: Always. So as our opening hymn suggests let us use these days to learn the gift of simplicity and in Jesus find true liberty and life.

So, let us now ask pardon for our sins and for the times we have doubted the Lord and his promises, for our lack of charity and love.