



# NEWSLETTER

## ST STEPHEN - ST BRIDGET

COVERING THE DISTRICTS OF: WINWICK, LONGFORD, ORFORD,  
HOUGHTON GREEN, CINNAMON BROW, FEARNHEAD, POULTON,  
RISLEY AND BIRCHWOOD.



PARISH PRIEST: FR JOHN McLOUGHLIN  
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ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL  
Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 232709

**ST STEPHEN'S & ST BRIDGET'S CHURCHES  
ARE NOW CLOSED DUE TO AN INCREASE  
IN COVID-19 INFECTIONS. THE FOLLOWING MASSES  
WILL BE CELEBRATED BY FR JOHN IN PRIVATE.**

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 21 FEBRUARY 2021

Mass available at: [www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk](http://www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk)

<b>Sunday</b>	21 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> Len Pidgeon, Ida Teasdale, K J Devsia
<b>Tuesday</b>	23 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> K J Devsia <b>FUNERAL (Cemetery):</b> Patricia Evans
<b>Wednesday</b>	24 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> Ida Teasdale
<b>Thursday</b>	25 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> LISCF
<b>Friday</b>	26 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> Harry Cunningham

### SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Mass available at: [www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk](http://www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk)

<b>Sunday</b>	28 Feb	<b>Mass:</b> Jean Holden, Catherine Fox, People of the Parish
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### PARISH FUNDRAISING raise money when you shop on-line

Access over 3,600 shops  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
and St Stephen's and  
St Bridget's will receive  
charitable donations from  
the sites you shop at.

#### How to get started:

Log-on to  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
Then type '**Parish  
Development Fund  
St Stephens**'  
in the search box and click.  
(despite the one title the  
fund is for both parishes.)

Then follow the  
instructions for set up -  
name/email/password  
and click.

Then access your chosen  
shops and the parish will  
receive charitable gift  
form the stores you use.

Don't forget recommend  
this to others!

### Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

- 22 Feb. Feast: See of St Peter The Apostle  
23 Feb. Optional: St Polycarp (*Bishop & Martyr*)  
26 Feb. Lent Family Fast Day



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

### TEXT GIVING:

#### St Bridget's

- Text **STBRIDGET** to **70085** to donate **£2**  
Text **STBRIDGET** to **70450** to donate **£3**  
Text **STBRIDGET** to **70460** to donate **£5**  
Text **STBRIDGET** to **70470** to donate **£10**

#### St Stephen's

- Text **STSTEPHEN** to **70085** to donate **£2**  
Text **STSTEPHEN** to **70450** to donate **£3**  
Text **STSTEPHEN** to **70460** to donate **£5**  
Text **STSTEPHEN** to **70470** to donate **£10**

*From Fr John's desk...*

## **First Sunday in Lent (B)**

*A reflection by Sr Mary Anne FCJ,*

*based at the FCJ Centre at St Hugh's, Wavertree, Liverpool.*



Today is the first Sunday in Lent and the Gospel shows Jesus just about to start his public ministry. Before he is ready to say, 'The time is fulfilled, ... the Kingdom of God is near', he is driven to the wilderness and there tempted. When I think about the temptations of Jesus, the long narrative that we find in Matthew's Gospel comes to mind, and so today's reading catches me by surprise. Just one sentence is all that Mark gives us, and yet there is a lot to ponder.

First of all, Satan is not made into the main character here. You blink, and you miss him completely. He is given part of a sentence and then we don't hear about him anymore. It's as if Mark is telling us that Jesus is faced with darkness, with evil, and is able to see it as it really is and overcome it. I know in my own life that it is not that easy. And yet it is encouraging to know that Mark seems to be saying that Jesus has broken the foothold of evil and so it will not have the last word in the life of Jesus ... or in my life.

In the wilderness, Jesus is not alone. There are no human friends, but there are wild beasts and angels. These two are positive presences, accompanying him in his solitude, helping him to prepare to proclaim God's Kingdom. The angels connect him with God, his 'Abba' and possibly remind him of his mission, while the wild beasts connect him with creation, with what is of-the-Earth. It is interesting to notice that these wild beasts do not seem to be scary or threatening to Jesus, they are good companions. This is a hopeful sign – Jesus has come to bring all creation to fulfilment. There is hope and an echo of the Garden of Eden here, or of Isaiah's prophecy: 'the lion lies with the lamb'.

There is much in our world at this time that seems like the wilderness. The COVID pandemic is causing much suffering all over the world. There is poverty in our city as well as in countries far away from us. Our entire planet is in great danger of irreversible damage as division and injustice abound. What can we learn from Jesus about facing the wilderness?

It seems to me that this Gospel is inviting me to keep three things in mind. First, I need to remember that Jesus is God-with-us. He has been through the wilderness first, has faced the darkness and knows how to guide me through it. Second, I must be on the lookout for angels – the messengers of God – who remind me of God's constant presence with me and the mission that God has entrusted to me. And finally, I need to look to the wild beasts, to God's creation, taking time to contemplate its beauty and let it guide me to God's light.

