



NEWSLETTER

ST STEPHEN - ST BRIDGET

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



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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.**

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Mass available at: www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk

Sunday	28 Feb	Mass: Jean Holden, Catherine Fox, People of the Parish
Tuesday	2 March	Mass: Mary Malone
Wednesday	3 March	Mass: K J Devsia
Thursday	4 March	Mass: Denis Byrne
Friday	5 March	Mass: Fr John Laide

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 7 MARCH 2021

Mass available at: www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk

Sunday	7 March	Mass: Val Lomas, Ida Teasdale, 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
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

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
from the stores you use.

Don't forget recommend
this to others!

Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

1 March. Feast: St David - Patron of Wales.
5 March. Women's World Day of Prayer



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...

CHURCH RE-OPENING.

If there are no other complications in the government process to end this current lock-down then the St Stephen's and St Bridget's churches will re-open for Mass from Sunday 14 March 2021 (Fourth Sunday in Lent).

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH BOILER.

The saga of the boiler continues! The short version of the story is that the boiler has outlived its life. It is now turned off because it is emitting dangerous levels of fumes in the boiler house due to a crack in the flue. The flue is also constructed of asbestos. The boiler is a very expensive item to replace. I am trying the possibility of finding a replacement boiler from a redundant building—maybe a closed church or school or commercial property. Say a prayer we get a good one and at a reasonable cost or else its warm winter woollies to be worn for Mass next winter!

Second Sunday in Lent (B)

A reflection by Sr Mary Anne FCJ,

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



On this second Sunday of Lent we are presented with the Gospel account of the Transfiguration. The Gospel begins with the intriguing 'six days later' making me wonder what went before; Jesus speaking of the self-sacrificing love required by the Gospel and teaching his disciples of his coming Passion.

So now we meet three of the disciples who have been taken aside, up a high mountain and away from the crowd. They have been shocked, maybe even shattered by Jesus' statement that he is going to suffer in Jerusalem, but here Jesus invites them to encounter and understand something new as he is revealed to them in a new way.

But something significant is revealed to Jesus too; On this mountain top he encounters both Moses, the law giver, and Elijah, the prophet, and Jesus hears the voice of his Father confirming his mission and identity. He is affirmed not only as the one who fulfils the Law and the Prophets but as the beloved Son of God. Jesus is affirmed in who he is, and in the direction he has chosen. He knows the essential rightness of the cross.

For the disciples this is something breath taking, dazzling not only to the eye but to their understanding – they are both terrified and amazed at what they see. They are witnesses to what the whole of the Jewish history and faith has longed and hoped for. They will indeed bear witness after the resurrection, but first they have to hold the experience for themselves, letting it deepen, understanding it further, pondering it until the time is right.

What might this Gospel say to us today, on the second Sunday of Lent in 2021, part way through a pandemic? We have certainly had opportunity in the past year to understand more deeply the challenging experience of self-sacrificing love – the small and dramatic ways of putting the needs of others first. We have seen the power of love revealed in carers putting their lives on the line, families enduring separation for the sake of the most vulnerable, parents holding down jobs whilst schooling their children, each of us encountering isolation for the common good of society. And when we meet that strong love, we recognise its transforming power. We understand something anew about humanity, and we encounter that affirming love of God ourselves.