



# 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 CLOSED THIS WEEK BUT  
OPEN FROM NEXT SUNDAY ONWARDS.**

### THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 7 MARCH 2021

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

<b>Sunday</b>	7 March	<b>Mass:</b> Val Lomas, Ida Teasdale, People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday</b>	9 March	<b>Mass:</b> Aileen Patricia Phillips <b>Funeral (Walton Lea):</b> Ron Thompson
<b>Wednesday</b>	10 March	<b>Mass:</b> Ida Teasdale
<b>Thursday</b>	11 March	<b>Mass:</b> Bill & Alice McMahon
<b>Friday</b>	12 March	<b>Mass:</b> LISCF

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (B) 14 MARCH 2021 Both churches are now open

<b>St Stephen's St Bridget's</b>	<b>9.45am Mass:</b> Sheila Tighe <b>11.30am Mass:</b> People of the Parish
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- Only one entrance/exit point.      - Sanitise hands with gels provided
- You need to wear a face covering.      - Leave your name and contact number.
- Please wait to be seated.      - Do not move around the building once seated.
- Same household seating and separate seating accommodated.
- Holy Communion distributed at the end of Mass before leaving.

**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  
from the stores you use.

Don't forget recommend  
this to others!

### 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**

### Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

8 March. Optional: St John of God (Religious & Founder)  
9 March. Optional: St Frances of Rome  
(Wife, Mother, Mystic, Oblate)



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

*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 next Sunday onwards: 14 March 2021 (Fourth Sunday in Lent).

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

*A reflection by Sr Mary Anne FCJ,*

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



Today's Gospel is difficult to explain. It is unusual and maybe uncomfortable for us to see Jesus being angry and even violent. What is Jesus really speaking against here? We might think that Jesus is pointing out abuse and corruption by those who are selling and changing money. Although this might be partly true, there is more to this Gospel than that.

In order for the temple to function, animals were needed for the sacrifice. Pilgrims would have travelled a very long way to get to the temple and so would not have been able to bring animals from their own towns. This meant that it was necessary to have those who would sell doves and cattle.

The coins used in ordinary life were all Roman, or Greek and had the image of the emperor on them, which meant that they were not acceptable in the temple. This is why it was necessary to have money changers in order for people to be able to buy what they needed for the sacrifice in the temple.

Yet in this passage Jesus seems to be saying that all of this has no place in his Father's house. He is not simply protesting against corruption but going further by issuing a challenge to the whole of the temple structure. What is the evangelist John trying to say here?

The temple has always been the place where God is encountered by the people of Israel. John is saying to us that this is no longer the case. It is the person of Jesus that has become the place where God is encountered; Jesus is 'speaking of the temple of his body'. Jesus is not being anti-Jewish here, in fact he is presented as an observant Jew who goes to Jerusalem for the feast, but in the tradition of the prophets, Jesus is challenging the religious institution which seems to have lost its way and is no longer open to encountering the living God. There are echoes of Jesus' death and resurrection in this passage but there is also an invitation for us to look at our own lives.

It is a challenge for us to start to notice the institutionalism of our own Church, and the clericalism that Pope Francis often warns us about, as well as the ways in which we limit how God can act in our own personal lives. We are invited by this Gospel to be open to new ways of encountering God; to notice the ways in which we have become rigid and inflexible, and the ways we have limited God's action in our lives by unnecessary structures or practices. We are invited to let the fresh air of God's word and God's Spirit speak to our lives, surprise us, and lead us down paths that we had not expected. How do we do this? By looking at the person of Jesus. In the encounter with Jesus, the Risen Jesus, the Jesus we meet through the Word and in our prayer, our hearts and minds are transformed and freed. It is by deepening this relationship with Jesus that we can continue to be open, continue to be available to God who wants to be God-with-us.