



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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) 9 MAY 2021

Sunday 9 May	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Ken & Marilyn Tinkley 11.30am Mass: Private Intention (EL C)
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- Only one entrance/exit point.
- You need to wear a face covering.
- Please wait to be seated.
- Same household seating and separate seating accommodated.
- Holy Communion distributed at the end of Mass before leaving.

Tuesday 11 May	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Evie Rebecca & Glover George
Wednesday 12 May	St Bridget's	10am Mass: Ida Teasdale
Thursday 13 May	St Stephen's	ASCENSION THURSDAY 9.30am Mass: Colin Kurikose Sabu
Friday 14 May	St Stephen's St Bridget's	Funeral Service: James A Wilson 6pm Mass: Fr John Laide LISCF

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) 16 MAY 2021

Sunday 16 May	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Marjorie Lomas 11.30am Mass: Tom Mulvaney
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Please follow the Sunday Mass attendance restrictions.

Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

12 May	Optional: Sts Nereus & Achilleus (<i>Martyrs</i>) Optional: St Pancras (<i>Martyr</i>)
13 May	Solemnity: Ascension of the Lord <i>* also the anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool</i>
14 May	Feast: St Matthias (<i>Apostle</i>)
15 May	Optional: Our Lady of Fatima

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 a charitable gift
form 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

From Fr John's desk... Having been released from my quarantine last Sunday evening. NHS phoned me on Tuesday afternoon to say I couldn't be released until Friday morning. What a palaver — and too long to explain here - but suffice it to say, as the saying goes, 'the left hand does not know what the right is doing!' Which is the reason why, I believe, we really need a full independent investigation as to the entire handling of the covid-19 pandemic when the time is right. So my apologies for not being allowed to celebrate Mass publicly last Wednesday and Thursday.

Pope Francis' Reflection for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord on 13 May 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Solemnity of the Ascension embraces two elements. On the one hand it directs our gaze toward heaven, where the glorified Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (cf. Mk 16:19). On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church: why? Because Jesus, Risen and Ascended into heaven, sends his disciples to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Therefore, the Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.

It is what we are invited to do in today's Gospel passage, in which the event of the Ascension occurs immediately after the mission that Jesus entrusts to the disciples. It is a boundless mission — that is, literally without boundaries — which surpasses human strength. Jesus says, in fact: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15). The task which Jesus entrusts to a small group of common men lacking great intellectual capacity seems truly too bold! Yet this small company, insignificant compared to the great powers of the world, is sent to bring the message of Jesus' love and mercy to every corner of the earth.

But this plan of God can be accomplished only with the strength that God himself grants to the Apostles. In this sense, Jesus assures them that their mission will be supported by the Holy Spirit. And he says this: "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8)...

The Lord's Ascension into heaven, while inaugurating a new form of Jesus' presence among us, calls us to keep eyes and hearts open to encounter him, to serve him and bear witness to him to others. It is a matter of being men and women of the Ascension, that is, those who seek Christ along the paths of our time, bringing his word of salvation to the ends of the earth. On this journey we encounter Christ himself in our brothers and sisters, especially in the poorest, in those who suffer in their very flesh the harsh and humiliating experience of old and new forms of poverty. As at the beginning the Risen Christ sent his Apostles with the power of the Holy Spirit, so too does he send all of us today...

SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS

A reminder that EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were living in the UK by 31 December 2020 have until **30 June 2021** to apply for the Settlement Scheme. Those who do not apply are at risk of losing their rights to live and work here or access important services such as healthcare. Please note that Irish citizens do not need to apply.

All the relevant information can be found on the official Government website:

www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

from the European Commission:

www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know

or from the charity Settled:

www.settled.org.uk

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Archbishop McMahon will be coming to Warrington in the Autumn to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with those young people who are currently in Year 8 at High School. An invitation will be issued to young people in Year 8 at St Gregory's Catholic High School and at Cardinal Newman High School in the next few weeks. However, if your child is in Year 8 at another High School and would like to be confirmed this year, please contact the parish office by the end of April. Thank you.

Fr John