



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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (B) 24 OCTOBER 2021

Saturday 23 October	St Bridget's	5.00 pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Florence & William Burland
Sunday 24 October	St Stephen's St Bridget's	09.45am Mass: Steve Mellor 11.30am Mass: Patrick Shiels
Tuesday 26 October	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Annie Kane
Wednesday 27 October	St Bridget's	10am Mass: Private Intention
Thursday 28 October	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Megan Wilson, Asson Jacques
Friday 29 October	St Stephen's St Bridget's	1pm Wedding Service of Philip J. Marren to Alexandra Ryder 5.30pm <i>Exposition & Devotions</i> 6pm Mass: People of the Parish
Saturday 30 October	St Stephen's	9.30am <i>Exposition & Devotions</i> 9.30am <i>Confessions</i> 10am Mass: Private Intention

- Sanitise your hands
- Wear a face covering
- Holy Communion distributed bench by bench.

PARISH FUNDRAISING 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

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 donations.

Don't forget recommend
this to others!

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (B) 31 OCTOBER 2021

Saturday 30 October	St Bridget's	5.00 pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Helena Fearnley
Sunday 31 October	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Ann Maria Tighe 11.30am Mass: Jim Toohar

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...

- 2 Nov. Comm. The Faithful Departed
3 Nov. Optional: St Winefride (*Virgin & Martyr*)
Optional: St Martin de Porres (*Religious*)
4 Nov. Memoria: St Charles Borromeo (*Bishop*)
5 Nov. Optional: St Elizabeth (St. Zechariah)
(*Parents of St John the Baptist*)

From Fr John's desk... On this World Mission Sunday we continue the Holy Father's message - the final part of which will be published in the newsletter next weekend

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2021
PART TWO

...in the Acts of the Apostles...we read how the fragrance of the Gospel spread as it was preached, awakening the joy that the Spirit alone can bestow. The Book of Acts teaches us to endure hardship by clinging firmly to Christ, in order to grow in the "conviction that God is able to act in any circumstance, even amid apparent setbacks" and in the certainty that "all those who entrust themselves to God will bear good fruit" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 279).

The same holds true for us: our own times are not easy. The pandemic has brought to the fore and amplified the pain, the solitude, the poverty and the injustices experienced by so many people. It has unmasked our false sense of security and revealed the brokenness and polarization quietly growing in our midst. Those who are most frail and vulnerable have come to feel even more so. We have experienced discouragement, disillusionment and fatigue; nor have we been immune from a growing negativity that stifles hope. For our part, however, "we do not proclaim ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor 4:5). As a result, in our communities and in our families, we can hear the powerful message of life that echoes in our hearts and proclaims: "He is not here, but has risen (Lk 24:6)! This message of hope shatters every form of determinism and, to those who let themselves be touched by it, bestows the freedom and boldness needed to rise up and seek with creativity every possible way to show compassion, the "sacramental" of God's closeness to us, a closeness that abandons no one along the side of the road.

In these days of pandemic, when there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, there is urgent need for *the mission of compassion*, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care and promotion. "What we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20), the mercy we have experienced, can thus become a point of reference and a source of credibility, enabling us to recover a shared passion for building "a community of belonging and solidarity worthy of our time, our energy and our resources. The Lord's word daily rescues and saves us from the excuses that can plunge us into the worst kind of scepticism: "Nothing changes, everything stays the same". To those who wonder why they should give up their security, comforts and pleasures if they can see no important result, our answer will always remain the same: "Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death and is now almighty. Jesus Christ is truly alive" and wants us to be alive, fraternal, and capable of cherishing and sharing this message of hope. In our present circumstances, there is an urgent need for missionaries of hope who, anointed by the Lord, can provide a prophetic reminder that no one is saved by himself.

Like the Apostles and the first Christians, we too can say with complete conviction: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Everything we have received from the Lord is meant to be put to good use and freely shared with others. Just as the Apostles saw, heard and touched the saving power of Jesus (cf. 1 Jn 1:1-4), we too can daily touch the sorrowful and glorious flesh of Christ. There we can find the courage to share with everyone we meet a destiny of hope, the sure knowledge that the Lord is ever at our side. As Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves: the Church's evangelizing mission finds outward fulfilment in the transformation of our world and in the care of creation.

LADIES GUILD

NEXT MEETING: 9 November
7.30pm
St Bridget's Church Hall

The *Ladies Guild* is open to ladies of both St Bridget's and St Stephen's parishes and those of neighbouring parishes who wish to come and join. The guild meets every two weeks. Please just come along and you will be made most welcome.

St Stephen's Church Cleaning

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER
6.00pm

Spare an hour and come and help!

BINGO

St Bridget's Church Hall

SATURDAY
13 November 7.30pm
(and every 2nd Saturday of the month!)

St Bridget's Piety Stall
has now re-opened.

St Stephen's Piety Stall
Christmas Cards
on sale now!



BAPTISMS

Let us remember in our prayers Gabriella M Bennett-Dowd who will be baptised at St Bridget's and Brooklyn Heidi Veron who will be baptised at St Stephen's on Sunday 24 October.