



# 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

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) 28 NOVEMBER 2021



Saturday 27 November	St Bridget's	4.00pm LIGHTING OF THE OUTSIDE TREE. 5.00 pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Holy Souls/ Anne & Peter Leatham
Sunday 28 November	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Holy Souls 11.30am Mass: Holy Souls/ Stephen Abbott
Tues 30 Nov	St Stephen's	9.30am Mass: Holy Souls <i>St Stephen's School Advent Mass</i>
Wed 1 Dec	St Bridget's	10am Mass: Private Intention
Thur 2 Dec	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Winn Wightman
Frid 3 Dec	St Bridget's	5.30pm Exposition & Devotions 6pm Mass: People of the Parish
Sat 4 Dec	St Stephen's	9.30am Exposition & Devotions 9.30am Confessions 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](http://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](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 donations.

Don't forget recommend  
this to others!

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) 5 DECEMBER 2021



Saturday 4 December	St Bridget's	5.00 pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Private Intention
Sunday 5 December	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Mary McCue 11.30am Mass: Private Intention

### Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

- 30 Nov. Feast: St Andrew (*Apostle & Patron of Scotland*)  
1 Dec. Optional: St Edmund Campion SJ  
(*Priest & Martyr*)  
3 Dec. Memoria: St Francis Xavier  
(*Priest*)  
4 Dec. Optional: St John Damascene  
(*Priest & Doctor*)



*St Andrew  
Pray for us.*

### 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...* Pastoral Letter from His Grace the Archbishop for First Sunday of Advent 2021

Dear Friends,

The opening prayer of Mass today, the first Sunday of Advent, invites us to “run forth to meet Christ”. It is with this spirit of hope and joy that today I present to you the Pastoral Plan for the archdiocese. This is the first of the fruits of Synod 2020; of your prayer, listening, discerning and planning. The Synod journey gave us an experience of being what Pope Francis calls 'the Synodal Church' – a Church that listens carefully to how the Holy Spirit speaks through the lives, wisdom and concerns of all its members. The four years of the Synod invited us all to ask ourselves: what kind of Church is God calling us to become here in the archdiocese? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us at this critical point in history? I put before you today a vision for the future of the Church in this archdiocese which has arisen from the way the Synod members voted in June 2021.

The Synod considered nineteen recommendations. The three that received the most votes were concerning evangelisation, lay ministry and young people. You will see how the Pastoral Plan tries to respond to these. But all nineteen were clearly endorsed by the people of the archdiocese. If we are to truly embrace these and all that we have learned from our journey over these years, then Christ must be our starting point. The first Sunday of Advent is the right time for us to reflect on this as we once again prepare ourselves to welcome Christ.

In the writing of the Pastoral Plan, guided by the Synod, four issues have been highlighted that will underpin every part of our planning and thinking for the years ahead. We must be immersed in the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of humanity today; we need to be brave and creative in renewing local structures; we will develop leadership to attend to changing needs; and finally we must make sure that synodality is embedded in every aspect of archdiocesan life. Thinking carefully about these issues, alongside all that the Synod has given us, has led me to place before you six action areas that will be our focus in the years to come.

1. Becoming a Church that accompanies people through life.
2. Becoming a Church that honours the vocation of all the baptised.
3. Becoming a Church where synodality is embedded.
4. Becoming a Church that renews its organisational structures and administers its property to serve its mission.
5. Becoming a Church where young people and young adults flourish.
6. Becoming a Church that cares for its priests.

I have used the word “becoming” not because we haven’t already been doing many of these things and often doing them very well, but because we are going to develop and strengthen our Catholic life, decision making and action in these areas.

The call of Pope Francis, and of popes and ecumenical councils before him, to be a Church which accompanies people, walks with people, is the key change in attitude and approach that I want to place before you. Walking with others, accompanying others, will influence the way we live and work as Catholic Christians in the archdiocese. It will help us re-think our approach to Catholic life. Being together on the road has led us to this plan. It will serve as the way forward for us in the archdiocese in the years to come. I commend it to your prayers and your action.

I wish you and your families a blessed season of Advent as we, together, become more and more the Church that God is calling us to be. *May God bless you, Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP*

**St Stephen's Church Cleaning**

**TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 6.00pm**

Spare an hour, come and help!

**SATURDAY BINGO**

**St Bridget's Church Hall**

**11 December 7.30pm**

**LADIES GUILD**

**NEXT MEETING: 30 November**

**7.30pm**

**St Bridget's Church Hall**

Exploring this Season of Waiting, Hope & Expectation

## Four Evenings of Poetry for Advent

**6.30-7.30pm**

**St Andrew's Church Hall**

Led by

**Fr John McLoughlin (St Stephen's)**

**Rev Gill Hitchen (St Andrew's)**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December