



NEWSLETTER

ST STEPHEN'S

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

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL
Registered Charity No. 1199714

PARISH PRIEST:
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**St Bridget &
St Oliver
Plunkett
Pray for us**



PALM SUNDAY (B) **24 MARCH 2024**



Saturday 23 March	St Stephen's	10am Stations of the Cross Today we host the Stations of the Cross for our Family of Parishes: St Stephen's, Blessed John Bell, and St Peter's. Followed by tea & coffee. <i>5.00pm Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Terry Sargeant
Sunday 24 March	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: Miriam Jones / Parishioners <i>After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments</i>
Mon 25 Mar	St Stephen	St Stephen's & St Bridget's School Y4 church visit & Stations of the Cross
Tues 26 Mar	St Stephen's Arbury Crt	9am Mass: Mona Mannion 10.30am Easter Service
Wed 27 Mar	St Stephen's Cathedral	10am Mass: Daniel Aidan Davies <i>Followed by Coffee/Tea/Toast</i> 7.30pm Chrism Mass

EASTER TRIDUUM 2024

Thursday 28 March	St Stephen's	HOLY THURSDAY 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 29 March	St Stephen's	GOOD FRIDAY 3pm Passion of the Lord Jesus
Saturday 30 March	St Stephen's	HOLY SATURDAY 8pm Solemn Easter Vigil Seamus Tully & Rachel Manning / Parishioners
Sunday 31 March	St Stephen's	EASTER SUNDAY MORNING 10.45am Easter Sunday Mass Byrne & Higgins Family



Clocks go forward 1 hour during the night of Sat 30 / Sun 31

PARISH FUNDRAISING **when you shop on-line**

Access over 3,600 shops
www.easyfundraising.org.uk
and St Stephen's will receive 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.

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!

TEXT GIVING

Text **STSTEPHEN** to
70085 to donate **£2**
70450 to donate **£3**
70460 to donate **£5**
70470 to donate **£10**



Palm Sunday

From Fr John's desk...

Below is an extract from Pope Francis' Palm Sunday homily (2018)

Jesus enters Jerusalem. The liturgy invites us to share in the joy and celebration of the people who cry out in praise of their Lord; a joy that will fade and leaves a bitter and sorrowful taste by the end of the account of the Passion. This celebration seems to combine stories of joy and suffering, mistakes and successes, which are part of our daily lives as disciples. It somehow expresses the contradictory feelings that we too, the men and women of today, experience: the capacity for great love... but also for great hatred; the capacity for courageous self-sacrifice, but also the ability to "wash our hands" at the right moment; the capacity for loyalty, but also for great abandonment and betrayal...

All this joy and praise (*from the crowds greeting Jesus as he enters Jerusalem*) is a source of unease, scandal and upset for those who consider themselves righteous and "faithful" to the law and its ritual precepts. A joy unbearable for those hardened against pain, suffering and misery. Many of these, think to themselves: "Such ill-mannered people!" A joy intolerable for those who have forgotten the many chances they themselves had been given. How hard it is for the comfortable and the self-righteous to understand the joy and the celebration of God's mercy! How hard it is for those who trust only in themselves, and look down on others, to share in this joy.

And so here is where another kind of shouting comes from, the fierce cry of those who shout out: "Crucify him!" It is not spontaneous but already armed with disparagement, slander and false witness. It is a cry that emerges in moving from the facts to an account of the facts; it comes from this "story". It is the voice of those who twist reality and invent stories for their own benefit, without concern for the good name of others. This is a false account. The cry of those who have no problem in seeking ways to gain power and to silence dissonant voices. The cry that comes from "spinning" facts and painting them such that they disfigure the face of Jesus and turn him into a "criminal". It is the voice of those who want to defend their own position, especially by discrediting the defenceless. Faced with such people, the best remedy is to look at Christ's cross and let ourselves be challenged by his final cry. He died crying out his love for each of us: young and old, saints and sinners, the people of his times and of our own.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please remember in prayer:



Anne Bland, Cecilia Taylor,
Rosemary Rylance, Shirley Byrne,
Teresa Grainger, Norman Turner

Mary's Meals

For info contact

www.marysmeals.org.uk



**St Stephen's
Church
Foyer**

SATURDAY

13 April at 7.30pm

(and every 2nd Saturday
of the month!)

LADIES GUILD

2 April 2024

7.30pm



St Stephen's Church Foyer

A warm welcome to the
ladies of St Stephen's
and neighbouring parishes.

Pray Through Singing

Monday

8 April 2024 at 7pm

**St Stephen's Church Foyer/
De Paul Room**



For info. call Sandra on 811230

ST OLIVER'S TOTE 2024

16th March

3 + 14

R/O £104.50



PARISH BONUS BALL 2024

20th March

**Chan
Julie Davies**

Each Win £25



Easter Flowers

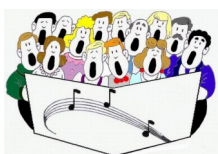
If you would like to make a donation or dedicate
a donation in memory of a loved one for the
flowers this Easter then please take a
form from the church foyer.

CHRISM MASS.

Cathedral of Christ the King - Wednesday 27 March 2024

To book a place on the coach please phone Bernie
at Blessed James Bell parish office Tel: 01925 630127

Pick up St Oswald's 6.10pm - Pick-up St Benedict's 6.20pm
Return approx. 10pm — £5 per person donation



SINGING FOR EASTER

Last Practice for the Easter Ceremonies

Monday 25 March

De Paul Room at 7pm: