



# 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:  
FR JOHN McLOUGHLIN  
101, SANDY LANE, ORFORD,  
WARRINGTON WA2 9HS  
TEL 01925 652520  
Email: [prshnews@outlook.com](mailto:prshnews@outlook.com)  
[www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk](http://www.st-stephens-warrington.co.uk)



St Bridget &  
St Oliver  
Plunkett  
Pray for us



### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) 14 APRIL 2024

Saturday 13 April	St Stephen's	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Harry Cunningham /Parishioners
Sunday 14 April	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: Mary McCue After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments
Tues 16 Apr	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Stephen & Freda McNulty
Wed 17 Apr	St Stephen's	10am Mass: Donell & Andria Jenkins Followed by Coffee/Tea/Toast
Thu 18 Apr	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Sabu & Silbi (25th Wedd )
Fri 19 Apr	St Stephen's	5.30pm Exposition & Marian Devotions. 6pm Mass: LISCF

### FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

Saturday 20 April	St Stephen's	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: John Joe Tighe
Sunday 21 April	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: Malcolm Fox / Parishioners After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments

### Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

16 April:	Optional:	St Bernadette ( <i>Visionary &amp; Religious</i> )
17 April:	Optional:	St Stephen Harding ( <i>Abbot of Citeaux</i> )
18 April:	Optional:	St Galdinus ( <i>Bishop of Milan</i> )
19 April:	Optional:	St Alphege ( <i>Bishop of Canterbury</i> )
20 April:	Optional:	St Agnes of Montepulciano ( <i>Abbess</i> )
21 April:	Optional:	St Anselm ( <i>Bishop of Canterbury &amp; Church Doctor</i> )
22 April:	Optional:	St Theodore of Sykeon ( <i>Bishop</i> )

### 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 will  
receive 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.

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!

### EASTER FLOWERS

*In Memoriam*  
*Continued...*



Lillian Louise O'Neill  
Maureen Gallagher O'Neill

*"Do not abandon  
yourselves to  
despair.  
We are the  
Easter People and  
ALLELUIA  
is our song."*

Pope St John Paul II

*From Fr John's desk...The following is an extract (abridged) of Pope Francis' Easter Vigil homily 2024.*

The women go to the tomb at daybreak, yet they still feel the darkness of night. They continue to walk, yet their hearts remain at the foot of the cross. The tears of Good Friday are not yet dried; they are grief-stricken, overwhelmed by the sense that all has been said and done. A stone has sealed the fate of Jesus. They are concerned about that stone, for they wonder: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" (Mk 16:3). Yet once they arrive, they are taken aback when they see the amazing power of the Easter event: "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back" (Mk 16:4).

Let us stop and reflect on these two moments...There are times when we may feel that a great stone blocks the door of our hearts, stifling life, extinguishing hope, imprisoning us in the tomb of our fears and regrets, and standing in the way of joy and hope. We encounter such "tombstones" on our journey through life in all the experiences and situations that rob us of enthusiasm and of the strength to persevere. We encounter them at times of sorrow: in the emptiness left by the death of our loved ones, in the failures and fears that hold us back from accomplishing the good we mean to do. We encounter them in all the forms of self-absorption that stifle our impulses to generosity and sincere love, in the rubber walls of selfishness & indifference that hold back our efforts to build more just and humane cities & societies, in all our hopes for peace that are shattered by cruel hatred and the brutality of war... *'When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.'* This is...the revelation of God's power: the victory of life over death, the triumph of light over darkness, the rebirth of hope amid the ruins of failure. It is the Lord, the God of the impossible, who rolled away the stone forever. Even now, he opens our tombs, so that hope may be born ever anew. We too, then, should "look up" to him...

*Let us look up, then, to Jesus...* Jesus is our Pasch. He is the One who brings us from darkness into light, who is bound to us forever, who rescues us from the abyss of sin and death, and draws us into the radiant realm of forgiveness and eternal life. Let us look up to him! Let us welcome Jesus, the God of life, into our lives, and today once again say "yes" to him. Then no stone will block the way to our hearts, no tomb will suppress the joy of life, no failure will doom us to despair. Let us lift our eyes to him and ask that the power of his resurrection may roll away the heavy stones that weigh down our souls. Let us lift our eyes to him, the Risen Lord Jesus, and press forward in the certainty that, against the obscure backdrop of our failed hopes and our deaths, the eternal life that he came to bring is even now present in our midst.

**April Baptisms:** Our prayers & congratulations to those baptised this April and to their parents and families.

Chester Paul Hill - 6 April  
Rose Ann Adeline Baron - 7 April  
Shirley Kamsiyochukwu Butt - 13 April  
Kody Cotter - 28 April



### MARRIAGE BANNS 2024

Friday 24 May - the Marriage of *Janis Pustlis* and *Ivana Ficova* at St Stephen's Church.

Saturday 15 June - the Marriage of *Norbert Gajos* and *Justyna Sloma* at the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.  
(*Januszewice, Diocese of Kielecka, Poland*)

If anyone know of any reason why the above named couples should not be joined in holy matrimony please would they inform me as soon as possible. Thank you - Fr John

**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](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)



**St Stephen's  
Church Foyer**

**SATURDAY**

**13 April at 7.30pm**  
(and every 2nd Saturday  
of the month!)

### LADIES GUILD

**16 April 2024**

**7.30pm**



**St Stephen's Church Foyer**

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

### Pray Through Singing

**Monday**

**13 May 2024 at 7pm**  
St Stephen's Church Foyer/  
De Paul Room



For info. call Sandra on 811230

### ST OLIVER'S TOTE 2024

Draw Resumes

**13th April**



### PARISH BONUS BALL 2024

**10 April**

**Gina Brandreth**

**Wins £25**

