



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

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**St Bridget &
St Oliver
Plunkett
Pray for us**



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) 5 MAY 2024

Saturday 4 May	St Stephen's	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Parishioners
Sunday 5 May	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: James Bolton, Arthur Tinkley Abigail Tinkley After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments
Tues 7 May	St Stephen's	No Mass Today
Wed 8 May	St Stephen's	11am Requiem Mass: Robert A Sudell Followed by Coffee/Tea/Toast
Thu 9 May	St Bridget Sc St Stephen's	FEAST OF THE ASCENSION 9am Mass: Private Intention 11am Mass: Damian Farrell
Fri 10 May	St Stephen's	5.30pm Exposition & Marian Devotions. 6pm Mass: LISCF

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (B) 12 MAY 2024

Saturday 11 May	St Stephen's	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass: Margaret Mitchell
Sunday 12 May	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: Jack Lomas / Parishioners After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments

Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

- 09 May. Solemnity: Ascension of the Lord Jesus
- 10 May. Optional: St John of Avila (Priest & Doctor)
- 12 May. Optional St Nereus & St Achilleus (Martyrs)



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

*"In this world
Sow seeds of
righteousness,
and in the
resurrection
gather them in."
St. Ephraem the Syrian*

From Fr John's desk...

At his Sunday address in St Peter's Square following the Regina Caeli prayer on 21 May 2023 Pope Francis spoke about the meaning of the feast of the Ascension of Jesus to heaven. Pope Francis said, the Ascension...

"...is a feast we know well, but which can raise several questions — at least two. The first question: Why celebrate Jesus' departure from earth? It would seem that his departure would be a sad moment, not exactly something to rejoice over! Why celebrate a departure? First question. Second question: What does Jesus do now in heaven? First question: Why celebrate? Second question: What does Jesus do in heaven?"

Why we celebrate.

Because with the Ascension, something new and beautiful happened: Jesus brought our humanity, our flesh, into heaven - this is the first time - that is, he brought it in God. That humanity that he had assumed on earth did not remain here. The risen Jesus was not a spirit, no. He had his human body, flesh and bones, everything. He will be there in God forever. We could say that from the day of the Ascension on, God himself "changed" — from then on, he is not only spirit, but such is his love for us that he bears our own flesh in himself, our humanity! The place awaiting us is thus indicated; that is our destiny. Thus wrote an ancient Father in the faith: "What splendid news! He who became man for us - to make us his brothers, presents himself as man before the Father to bear with himself all those who are joined with him" (St. Gregory of Nyssa, *On the Resurrection of Christ*, 1). Today, we celebrate "heaven's conquest" — Jesus, who returns to the Father, but with our humanity. And so, heaven is already a little bit ours. Jesus opened the door and his body is there.

So what does Jesus do in heaven?

Jesus is there for us before the heavenly Father, continually showing our humanity to him — showing him his wounds. I like to think that Jesus, prays like this in front of the Father — showing him his wounds. "This is what I suffered for humanity: Do something!" He shows him the price of redemption and the Father is moved. This is something I like to think about. This is how Jesus prays. He did not leave us alone. In fact, before ascending, he told us, as the Gospel says today, "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). He is always with us, he looks at us, and "he always lives to make intercession" (Heb 7:25) for us. To show the Father his wounds, for us. In a word, Jesus *intercedes*. He is in the best "place", before his Father and ours, to intercede on our behalf.

Intercession is fundamental. This faith helps us too: it helps us not to lose hope, not to be discouraged. Before the Father, there is someone who shows him the wounds and intercedes. May the Queen of heaven help us to intercede with the power of prayer.

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, Barrie Cooper.

Mary's Meals
For info contact



BINGO Night *St Stephen's Church Foyer*

SATURDAY
11 May at 7.30pm
(and every 2nd Saturday of the month!)

LADIES GUILD
7 May 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

27th April
4 + 13—No Winner
Rollover £145



PARISH BONUS BALL 2024



1st May
Imelda Wrigley
Wins £25