



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent



**9:30am** Said Mass with Children's Service

**11.00am** Sung Mass

**Hymns:** **18: Responsorial Psalm 146: 7: 1: C21**

**4.00pm** Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

## AT THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD PURPLE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,  
to you be praise and glory for ever!

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth  
as a burning and shining light.

May we your servants rejoice in his light,  
and so be led to witness to him

who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom  
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare,  
for you were very near:**

**As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

## 659 Gaudete

**Introit** Rejoice ye in the Lord, and again I say, rejoice ye; let your moderation be known unto all men, the Lord is at hand: be careful for nothing, nor troubled; but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. **Psalm** Lord, though art become gracious unto thy land: thou has turned away the captivity of Jacob. Glory be to the Father...

**Gradual** Shew thyself, O Lord, thou that sittest upon the Cherubim: stir up thy strength and come. Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel: thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. Stir up thy strength, O Lord: and come and help us. Alleluia.

**Offertory** O Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land; thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob: thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people.

**Communion** Say to them that are of a fearful heart: Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come and save you.

*A reminder that during Advent we do not sing the Gloria,  
so please remain kneeling after the Kyries for the Collect.*

## **Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your  
to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## **Old Testament Reading - Zephaniah Ch3 v14 - 20**

Sing, Daughter Zion;  
shout aloud, Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
Daughter Jerusalem!  
<sup>15</sup> The Lord has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.  
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.  
<sup>16</sup> On that day  
they will say to Jerusalem,  
'Do not fear, Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.  
<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is with you,  
the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you;  
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,  
but will rejoice over you with singing.'  
<sup>18</sup> 'I will remove from you  
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,  
which is a burden and reproach for you.  
<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal  
with all who oppressed you.  
I will rescue the lame;  
I will gather the exiles.  
I will give them praise and honour  
in every land where they have suffered shame.  
<sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you;  
at that time I will bring you home.  
I will give you honour and praise  
among all the peoples of the earth  
when I restore your fortunes<sup>[a]</sup>  
before your very eyes,'  
says the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm 146:

**'I will praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord as long as I live'**

## New Testament Reading - Philippians Ch4 v4 - 7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Gospel - Luke Ch3 v7 - 18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?' <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>10</sup> 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' <sup>13</sup> 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them. <sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, 'I baptise you with <sup>a</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with <sup>b</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

## Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever

### Please remember in your prayers

Fr John & Carol Luff, Willa Owen, Brian Garner, Jill Stephenson,  
Paulo De Augustino, John Greany, Storm King, Pamela Parkes,  
Maddie Sarre and Margaret Morris.

## NOTICES

**Monday - Friday 8.00am** - Morning Prayer  
**Monday 16th December 2.00pm** - Melrose Carol Service  
**Tuesday 17th December 11.00am** - Said Mass  
**Friday 20th December 6.30pm** - Christmas Cheer at the Vicarage  
**Saturday 21st December 10.00-11.30am** - Coffee and Chat in church

### **Sunday 22nd December Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9.30am** Said Mass Children's Service  
**11.00am** Sung Mass

**St Stephen's Church**  
**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
**THIS AFTERNOON at 4.00pm**



### **Fr Joe and Aileen**

invite you to join us in our home on  
**Friday the 20th of December from 6:30pm.**  
to share in some Christmas Cheer.  
All are welcome.

Please bring your own drinks. Snacks will be provided.



### **Christmas at St Stephen's**

**Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve**  
3.00pm Children's Crib Service  
11.00pm Carols for Christmas  
11.30pm Midnight Mass  
**Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day**  
9.00am Quiet Christmas Mass of Remembering  
10.30am - Sung Mass  
**Thursday 26th December St Stephen's Day**  
10.30am - Sung Mass

Please join us for refreshments  
**In the Vestry after the 11am Mass**  
*After Mass please put the kneelers back on the shelf. Thank you!*  
Deadline for notices for next bulletin – **6.00pm Thursday**  
To Fliss or email [fmil397026@aol.com](mailto:fmil397026@aol.com)

What happened to the man who stole an advent calendar? ..... *He got 25 days*