



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 28th April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services Today

9:30am Said Mass

11:00am Sung Mass with Sermon

Hymns: 112: Responsorial Psalm 22: 310: 115: 113

Followed by the Church AGM

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

687 Easter 5 / The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introit O sing unto the Lord a new song, alleluia; for the Lord hath done marvellous things, alleluia. In the sight of the nations hath he shewed his righteous judgements, alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm With his own right hand, and with his holy arm: hath he gotten himself the victory. Glory be...

Alleluia Alleluia. Alleluia. V. The right hand of the Lord hath pre-eminence: the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass. Alleluia. V. Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. Alleluia.

Offertory O be joyful in God all ye lands; sing praises unto the honour of his Name; O come hither and hearken all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what things he hath done for my soul, alleluia.

Communion I am the true vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
 you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading - Acts Ch8 v26-40

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south^[a] down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.”²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.

³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?”³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?”^[c]³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.⁴⁰ Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

Responsorial Psalm 22: ‘My God. My God, why have you forsaken me’

Second Reading - 1 John Ch4 v7-21

⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. ¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. ¹² No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. ¹³ And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. ¹⁴ Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. ¹⁸ Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. ¹⁹ We love each other ^[a] because he loved us first. ²⁰ If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, ^[b] that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? ²¹ And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers. ^[c]

Gospel - John Ch15 v1-8

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. ⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

NOTICES

Monday to Friday 8.00am - Morning Prayer
Tuesday 30th April 11.00am Said Mass -
Saturday 4th May 10.00-11.30am Coffee and Chat in church

Sunday 5th May
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Rogation Sunday
9.30am Said Mass
11.00am Sung Mass with Sermon



FRIENDSHIP LUNCH **A LIBERATION FEAST**

Tuesday 14th May at 12 midday

St Stephen's Community Centre -Meeting Room
Menu:-

Braised Steak or Vegetarian Sausage Casserole

Dessert - Apple Pie & Ice-Cream

Specific dietary requirements

please let me know as soon as possible.

Minimum £10 per person,

To book please contact Jean Le Huray
no later than Sunday 12th May Tel. 255207

Please remember in your prayers

Father John Luff, Willa Owen, Lydia Grammer, Brian Garner, Phil Humphrys,
Hugh Lloyd-Jones, David Streek, Jill Stephenson, Bill Rollo, Paulo De Augustino,
David Streek, and a Mother with two young children diagnosed with cancer.

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 fml397026@aol.com

What did the Vineyard do when the Bank Closed?

It started its own branch