



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

## Sunday 29th December 2024

### The First Sunday of Christmas

#### Services Today

**9.30am** Said Mass with Children's Service

**11.00am** Sung Mass with Procession

**Hymns: C27: Responsorial Psalm 148: C6: C28: C29**

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, Come and Listen to me.*

#### Christmas 1 - Prayers at the Crib

Let us pray:

Holy Jesus, to deliver us from the power of darkness

you humbled yourself to be born among us and laid in a manger.

Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty, for you are now alive and reign

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### Christmas 1 – End of Procession

∞ The glory of the Lord shall be revealed ∞ And all mankind shall see it.

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love; gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

#### 667 Sunday after Christmas (The First Sunday of Christmas)

**Introit** When as all the world was in profoundest quietness, and night was in the midst of her swift course: Thine almighty word, O Lord, leaped down from heaven out of thy royal throne. **Psalm** The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. Glory be to the Father...

**Gradual** Thou art fairer than the children of men: full of grace are thy lips. ∞ My heart is inditing of a good matter; I speak of the things which I have made unto the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. ∞ The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious apparel: The Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength. Alleluia.

**Offertory** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who satisfieth thy mouth with good things: making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

**Communion** O Lord our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world.

## Collect

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
though your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so may we share the life of his divinity:  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.

## Old Testament Reading - 1 Samuel Ch2 v18 - 20 & 26

<sup>18</sup> But Samuel was ministering before the Lord – a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, ‘May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to [\[a\]](#) the Lord.’ Then they would go home.

<sup>26</sup> And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people.

## Responsorial Psalm 148:

**‘Praise the Lord for the heav’ns and praise him in the heights’**

## New Testament Reading - Colossians Ch3 v12 - 17

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Gospel - Luke Ch2 v41 - 52**

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.'

<sup>49</sup> 'Why were you searching for me?' he asked. 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

## **Post Communion**

Heavenly Father.

whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth

the life of an earthly home:

help your church to live as one family.

united in love and obedience ,

and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Please remember in your prayers**

Fr John & Carol Luff, Willa Owen, Brian Garner, Jill Stephenson, John Greany,  
Paulo De Augustino, Pamela Parkes, David Amory and Margaret Morris.

We give thanks for the healing of Storm King

## Services This Week

**Monday- Friday 8.00am** - Morning Prayer

**Tuesday 31st December 11.00am** - Said Mass

**Saturday 4th January 10.00-11.30am** - Coffee and Chat in church

**Sunday 5th January 2025**

**The Feast of the Epiphany**

**9.30am** Said Mass with Childrens' Service

**11.00am** Sung Mass with Procession

**2.30pm** Family Service

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](mailto:fml397026@aol.com)

Why was the snowman looking through the carrot bin? He was picking his nose!