



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen



Sunday 14th December  
Third Sunday of Advent

## Services Today

9:30am Said Mass with Children's Church  
11:00 Sung Mass  
Hymns 5: Responsorial Psalm 146: 7: 1: C21

### CHORUS

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts, Shine though the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.*

## AT THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD 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, thou 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.

Stay in touch with St Stephen's: visit our website at

<http://st-stephens-guernsey.org>: Vicar: Father Joe Thompson Tel.01481 720268

## 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 way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient  
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 - Isaiah Ch,35 v1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.  
3 Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
4 say to those with fearful hearts,  
'Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.'  
5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.  
7 The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
8 And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.  
9 No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
10 and those the Lord has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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

**Responsorial Psalm 146:**

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

**New Testament Reading - James Ch5 v7-10**

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew Ch11 v2-11**

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' 4 Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.' 7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**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,  
Margaret Morris, David and Barbara Streek, Wendy Clamp, Mandy Le Tissier,  
Margaret Boden Heaume, Lindsay Gallagher and Barbara Renouf

Please also pray for the family and friends of Joyce Renouf who died recently

## NOTICES

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

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm - ECJS Carol Service**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11.00am - Said Mass**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1.15pm - Little Learner's Carol Service**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm - Funeral for Mike Robins**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 12.00-4.30pm - Vale Upper Juniors Carol Service**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am - 'The Big Clean'**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Coffee and Chat in Church**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9:30am - Said Mass with Children's Church**

**11.00am - Sung Mass**

**3.00pm - Service of 9 Lessons and Carols**

*(Followed by Christmas Cheer in the Vicarage)*



**THE  
BIG  
CLEAN!**


**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
9.30am**

**Church Cleaning!**

**Please come and help  
to make  
our Church sparkle  
for Christmas**



**Celebrating 40 Years at St James**




**Guernsey  
CHAMBER CHOIR**

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Featuring:

- ✓ A Ceremony of Carols
- ✓ Excerpts from Handel's Messiah
- ✓ Fantasia on Greensleeves
- ✓ Traditional & Modern Carols



CONDUCTOR: Helen Grand | ORCHESTRAL LEADER: Mervyn Grand  
ORGANIST: Andrew Warren | GUEST HARPIST: Bonnie Scott

**Tuesday 23rd December 2025 7.30pm**

Tickets at [stjames.gg](http://stjames.gg) or call the Box Office on 711361

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 do you call fake spaghetti? An impasta.