



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 21st December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



## Services Today

**9:30am**

Said Mass with Children's Church

**11:00**

Sung Mass

**Hymns**

**6: Responsorial Psalm 80: 11: 2: 186**

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

## AT THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle;  
to you be praise and glory for ever!

Your light has shone in our darkened world  
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary;  
grant that we who have seen your glory  
may daily be renewed in your image  
and prepared like her for the coming of your Son,  
who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours:  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children who long for your coming. Amen.**

## 660 *Memento nostri*

**Introit:** Drop down ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Saviour.

**Psalm:** The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Glory be to the Father...

**Gradual** The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him: yea, all such as call upon him faithfully. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name.

**Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people. Alleluia.

**Offertory:** Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

**Communion** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son: and his Name shall be called Emmanuel.

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

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

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

**Please remember in your prayers**

Fr John & Carol Luff, Willa Owen, Brian Garner, Jill Stephenson, Paulo De Augistino,  
Margaret Morris, David and Barbara Streek, Wendy Clamp, Mandy Le Tissier,  
Margaret Boden Heaume, Lindsay Gallagher, Barbara Renouf, and Helen Shepherd

**Collect**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Old Testament Reading - Isaiah Ch7 v10-16**

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' 12 But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' 13 Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy  
ng and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

**Responsorial Psalm 80:**

**“Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved”**

**New Testament Reading - Romans Ch1 v1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. 5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. 6 And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Gospel - Matthew Ch1 v18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' 22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### Post Communion

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour.  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



On the large black chest  
at the back of church  
is a small "prayer tree".

This enables all members and  
visitors to the church over  
Christmas to leave, as a prayer, the  
things that worry or upset them  
safe in the knowledge that God will  
hear and answer because  
'nothing is impossible for God'.  
(Luke 1:37)

You simply have to write your prayer  
on a sticker, attach to a fabric leaf,  
place in the basket and it will be  
attached to the tree for you.  
Happy Christmas!

### POINSETTIA PRAYERS

We invite you & your family to bring a poinsettia  
to St Stephen's over the next week  
in our lead up to Christmas Eve.

Your poinsettia plant will be part of our  
Christmas decorations in the church and  
we will care for it over Christmas and Epiphanytide.

We have labels for you to write your name or a family  
member's name to place in your poinsettia pot.

Once you have put your label in the pot, please place  
your poinsettia on the floor next to the font,  
and it will be used to decorate the church.

Your poinsettia may stay decorating St Stephen's  
through Epiphanytide leading to Candlemas,  
whereafter you may care for it at home  
until next Christmas.

"Poinsettia Prayers" are an opportunity for our  
St Stephen's community to pray for you & your family  
while caring for your poinsettia,  
and for you & your family to pray in your homes for  
our St Stephen's community.





## NOTICES

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>/Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 8.00am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 11.00am - Weekday Mass

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December The First Sunday of Christmas

9:30am Said Mass with Children's Church

11.00am Sung Mass



**St Stephen's Church**

*Christmas Services*

**ADVENT SERVICES**

9:30am Said Mass & Children's Church  
11:00am Sung Mass

Advent I - 30th November: HOPE  
Advent II - 7th December: PEACE  
Advent III - 14th December: JOY  
Advent IV - 21st December: LOVE

**CAROL SERVICE**

Sunday 21st December  
3:00pm Nine Lessons and Carols  
followed by Christmas Cheer  
in the Vicarage

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Wednesday 24th December

3:00pm  
Christingle Service

11:00pm  
Carols

11:30pm  
Midnight Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Thursday 25th December

9:00am  
Quiet Christmas Mass

10:30am  
Christmas Day Mass

**ST STEPHEN'S DAY**  
Friday 26th December

10:30am  
St Stephen's Day Mass

**EPIPHANY**  
Sunday 4th January

9:30am Said Mass & Children's Church  
11:00am Sung Mass

6:30pm Choral Evensong  
with Town Church Choir  
at St Stephen's

We warmly invite you to join us in worship and celebration this Holy season.

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)

Last Night I had a dream that I was stuck inside a snowglobe

It really shook me up!