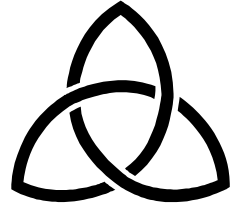


Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 12th July 2026



Sixth Sunday after Trinity (Proper 10)

Services Today

9:30am

Said Mass

11:00am
Hymns

Sung Mass

466: Responsorial Psalm 68: 137: 358: 354

Chorus

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

701 Trinity 9

Introit When I called upon the Lord, he regarded my petition; yea, from the battle that was against me: and he hath brought them down, even he that is of old, and endureth for ever: O cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall nourish thee. **Psalm** Hear my prayer, O Lord and hide not thyself from my petition; take heed unto me, and hear me. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of an eye: hide me under the shadow of thy wings. □. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence: and let thine eyes look upon the thing that is equal. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. □. Thou, O God, art praised in Syon: and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem. Alleluia.

Offertory Unto thee O Lord, lift I up my soul; O my God; in thee have I trusted, let me not be confounded; Neither let mine enemies triumph over me; for all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed.

Communion The sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee.

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

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

Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah Ch55 v10-13

As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
12 You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure for ever.'

Responsorial Psalm 68 'Our God is a God of salvation'

New Testament Reading - Romans Ch8 v1-11

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you
free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do
because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the
likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the
flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in
us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh
desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on

what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Gospel - Matthew Ch13 v1-9,18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

18 'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Post Communion

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please remember in your prayers

Fr John & Carol Luff, Jill Stephenson, David and Barbara Streek, Wendy Clamp,
Mandy Le Tissier, Margaret Boden Heaume, Lindsay Gallagher,
Barbara Renouf, and Helen Sheppard

NOTICES

Monday to Friday 8.00am - Morning Prayer

Tuesday 14th

July 11.00am - Said Mass

Saturday 18th July 10.00am - Coffee and chat in church

Sunday 19th July 2026

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9:30am Said Mass

11.00am Sung Mass

Friendship Lunch

TUESDAY 14TH JULY 12PM

St Stephen's Community Centre

MENU

Chicken Alexander

with mushrooms & peppers in creamy white wine sauce

OR

Chicken in Port & Merlot Jus

*with roasted shallots & chestnut mushrooms
(Gluten-Free & Dairy-Free)*

OR

Spanish Bean Stew

*with peppers & kale in smoky tomato sauce
(Vegetarian & Gluten-Free & Dairy-Free)*

all served with new potatoes & salad

Classic Lemon Tart with cream

RSVP: by Sunday, 12th July

Jill Mabire

Linda Barnes

Aileen Thompson

01481 720 268



Peter de Sausmarez

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A huge increase in modern-day slavery is reported by the Global Slavery Index this year.

At last count, Slavery today is going up by 1,000,000 a year, largely as a result of the increase of conflict, climatic catastrophies and mass migration, and the UK has unfortunately been swept up in this cruel madness and has reached the horrifying proportion that nearly 2 per 1000 of the population are now enslaved, of which 2/3rds are women and children.

So where does Guernsey stand?

Has it therefore got 12 or 13 from its estimated 65,000 population? Surely not, we would spot it straight away, you could not keep something like that secret in such a small and close-knit community.

Peter de Sausmarez, introduced and interviewed by Fr Joe Thompson, will be exploring with illustrations, these and other horrifying revelations at St Stephen's Church, on Saturday 18th July at 10.30, during Coffee, Cake & Chat morning.

He will be joined by Julie Anne Headington, who recently stood in the by-election and who has been working so diligently for Victim Support in Guernsey.

**SATURDAY, 18TH JULY 2026, 10.30
ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

RSVP for catering purposes by **Thursday, 16th July:**
joe.thompson@deanery.gg / **Peter 01481 235571**

All are welcome to join us to celebrate

Fr Joe's Birthday

FRIDAY, 17TH JULY 2026, FROM 6:30 P.M.

ST STEPHEN'S VICARAGE

*Drinks and light finger foods
will be served*



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

I will never forget the expression on the cashier's face when I bought a bag of bird seed and asked her how long it takes for the birds to sprout