



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen

Sunday 9th February 2025

The Fourth Sunday before Lent

9.30am Said Mass with Children's Church

11.00am Sung Mass

Hymns: 343: Responsorial Psalm 138: 345: 390: 377

Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,
move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing
Spirit of the living God,
fill our lives with love!

671 (v)

Introit O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our maker: for he is the Lord our God. **Psalm** O come let us sing un- to the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Glory be...

Gradual Bring presents, and come into his courts: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord discovereth the thick bushes in his temple doth every man speak of his honour.

Alleluial Alleluia. Alleluia O Praise the Lord all ye nations; praise him, all ye people. Alleluia

Offertory O hold thou up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not; incline thine ear to me, and hearken unto my words: shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O Lord; thou that art the Saviour of them that put their trust in thee.

Communion I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

Collect

O God,
you know us to be set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
grant to us such strength and protection
as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
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 Ch6 v1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

⁵ 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.'⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'

Responsorial Psalm 138: 'Great is the glory, the glory of the Lord'

New Testament Reading - 1 Corinthians Ch15 v1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas^[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of

whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

Gospel - Luke Ch5 v1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.'⁵ Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Post Communion

Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

NOTICES

Monday - Friday 8.00am - Morning Prayer
Tuesday 11th February 11.00am - Mass
Saturday 15th February 10.00am - Coffee and Chat in Church

Sunday 16th February
The Third Sunday before Lent
9:30am Said Mass with Children's Church
11.00am Sung Mass

Payment to Charity Forms

I'm afraid it's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to Tax!

As you know, if you have made donations to a charity of more than £500 in any year then that charity can claim back the tax you have paid on that donation. St Stephen's is a registered Charity, so we can claim the tax rebate on **any** payments you have made to the church.

This is a very valuable and vital source of income for the church at no cost to you, so may I ask you all to complete the forms (found on the black chest) and return them to me as so as possible. If you have any questions as to what and how you can claim, please ask me. This is all treated with the strictest confidence.

Tony

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 don't know why my fishing friend is worried about the recent flu virus.
He never catches anything!*

Saints of the Month

ST CYRIL AND METHODIUS



We celebrate two brothers this month, Cyril (or Constantine) and Methodius, who became known as ‘Apostles to the Slavs’.

The boys were born in Thessalonica in Greece and lost their father when Cyril was fourteen. Cyril went on to become a lecturer at the Imperial University of Constantinople and was priested, while Methodius became well known in Byzantine politics and was made a Deacon and abbot of a monastery.

About the year 860, Cyril was asked to go as a missionary to the Khazar people in modern day Turkey. This was short-lived and he returned to his university. Some have suggested that Methodius may have joined him in this missionary journey, but it is not clear if that was the case.

In 862 the Prince of Moravia requested for missionaries to be sent to his Slavic subjects (probably for more political than religious purposes). The Emperor of Constantinople readily agreed and sent Cyril and Methodius. Their first assignment appeared to have been the training of assistants to help them. In 863, they began the task for which they would be best remembered, that of translating the Gospels and essential liturgical books into what is now known as Old Church Slavonic.

For the purpose of their mission, they devised the Glagolitic alphabet, which in its descendant script, the Cyrillic, is still used by many languages today. The brothers believed that, for the success of their mission, it was essential they were able to translate the Gospels and the Liturgy into the vernacular of the Slavs, which proved absolutely correct (as would be seen in the Reformation a few centuries later).

All was going well until they came across missionaries from Rome who were insisting on the liturgy used being according to the Roman rite. Not wanting to cause dissension, the two brothers went to Rome to see the Pope and ask for his blessing on their liturgy. They took with them the relics of St Clement as a gift for Rome, they were warmly welcomed by the Pope as a result. Anastasius Bibliothecarius, the chief archivist and librarian of the Church of Rome, would later call Cyril "*a man of apostolic life*" and "*a man of great wisdom*". According to legend Methodius was ordained as a priest by the Pope himself.

Cyril died shortly thereafter on the 14th February 869. Methodius went back to his missionary work among the Slavic people. He was forced to abandon the Slavic rite and use the Roman rite after a confrontation with other bishops. Methodius died on 6th April 885 in Moravia. Though their missionary work was limited, the brothers laid the foundations for the spread of the Gospel among the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe and Asia.

Father Joe