



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen Christmas Day 2024



10.30am Sung Mass with Procession

Before the Service C11

Hymns: C5&C6: Responsorial Psalm 97: C26: C16: C9

At the beginning of the procession

∞ Let us proceed in peace. ∞ **In the Name of Christ, Amen.**

Prayer at the Crib: Let us pray:

O God the Son, highest and holiest, who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death; bring us with the shepherds to kneel at your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end. **Amen.**

At the end of the procession

∞ The Word was made flesh ∞ **and dwelt among us.**

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ; grant that as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

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Introit Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be called, Angel of mighty Council.

Psalm O sing unto the Lord a new song: for he hath done marvellous things. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God: O be joyful in God, all ye lands. ∞. The Lord hath declared his salvation: In the sight of the heathen hath he openly shewed his righteousness. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. ∞. A hallow'd day hath dawned upon the earth; come, ye nations, and worship the Lord: for on this day a great light hath descended upon the earth. Alleluia.

Offertory The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; thou hast laid the foundations of the round world, and all that therein is: righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat.

Communion All the ends of the world: have seen the salvation of our God.

Collect

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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 Ch52 v7-10

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
'Your God reigns!'
⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm 97: 'The Lord is King, let the earth rejoice'

New Testament Reading Titus Ch3 v4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Gospel - Luke Ch2 v1-14

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while ^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

Post Communion

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Please remember in your prayers

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

NOTICES

Thursday 26th December - St Stephen's Day
10.30pm - Sung Mass

Friday 27th December 8.00am - Morning Prayer

Sunday 27th December
The First Sunday of Christmas
9.30am Said Mass with Children's Service
11.00am Sung Mass with Procession

THANK
YOU



A
BIG
THANK YOU

to all those who help clean and decorate
our Church for Christmas.



WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles!

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

What is the best Christmas? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!