



# Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen



Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Services Today

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

**11.00am** **Sung Mass with Procession**  
**Hymns: 509: Responsorial Psalm 31: 86: 82: 511**

*Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall. Then stay with us,  
O Lord Jesus Christ, Light in our darkness*

### Blessing of Palms

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Palms are distributed then the following Gospel is read from:-

### Matthew Ch 21 v 1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'

4 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

5 'Say to Daughter Zion,  
"See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!  
'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'

11 The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Dear friends, Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love, so that united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

### Start of Procession

Let us proceed in Peace

**In the Name of Christ. Amen**

### HYMN for procession: No 509

#### At the end of the Procession

Deliver me from mine enemies O God

**Defend me from them that rise up a-against me**

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah; grant us the faith to know you and love you; that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

**Amen.**

## **The Service then continues as normal starting with the Collect**

### **681 Palm Sunday**

**Introit** O Lord, remove not thy succour afar from me; have respect to my defence, and hear me: deliver me from the mouth of the lion; yea, from the horns of the unicorns hast thou regarded my cry.  $\text{V}$  My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me: and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint.

**Gradual** Christ became obedient for our sakes unto death: even the death of the Cross.  $\square$ . Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him: and given him a Name which is above every name.

**Offertory** Thy rebuke hath broken my heart, I am full of heaviness: I looked for some to have pity on me, but there was no man: neither found I any to comfort me; they gave me gall to eat, and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

**Communion** O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it: thy will be done.