



Welcome to the Parish Church of St Stephen St Stephen's Day 2024



10.30am Sung Mass with Procession

Before the Service C31 v1&3
Hymns: C37: Responsorial Psalm 119v161-168:
C34: C35: C36

At the beginning of the Procession

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

Prayer at the Statue: Let us pray: O Lord God, we give thee thanks for the example of thy chosen servant Stephen; as a deacon he preached the good news of thy kingdom; he saw thy glory, and as the first martyr he committed his spirit to his Saviour. Grant to us, we beseech Thee, so to imitate what we revere that we may learn to love even our enemies: for we celebrate him who could even plead on behalf of his persecutors with thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who with Thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

At the end of the procession

✠ Be glad O ye righteous and rejoice in the Lord
✠ **And be joyful all ye that are true of heart.**

Grant, O Lord, that, in all our sufferings here upon earth for the testimony of thy truth, we may steadfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and being filled with the holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of thy first Martyr St Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for thee, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

664 Etenium sederunt. Princes moreover did sit, and did witness falsely against me, and the ungodly pressed sore upon me: O Lord my God, stand up to help me; for thy servant is occupied continually in thy commandments. **Psalm** Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way: and walk in the law of the Lord. Glory be to the Father...

Gradual Princes also did sit and speak against me: wicked men have persecuted me. √ Help me, O Lord my God: save me for thy mercies' sake. **Alleluia** Alleluia. Alleluia. √ I see the heavens opened: and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. Alleluia.

Offertory The Apostles chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost: whom the Jews stoned, calling upon God, and saying; Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit.

Communion Lo, I see the heavens opened, and Jesus standing on the right hand of the power of God: O Lord Jesus receive my Spirit, and lay not this sin to their charge for they know not what they do.

Collect

Gracious Father,
who gave the first martyr Stephen
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Acts Ch7 v51-60

⁵¹ 'You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: you always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him – ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.'

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their

voices, they all rushed at him,⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Responsorial Psalm 119(v161-168):

'Lead me O Lord in the path of your commandments

Second Reading Galatians Ch2 v16b-20

¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in ^a Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.¹⁷ 'But if, in seeking to be justified in Christ, we Jews find ourselves also among the sinners, doesn't that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, then I really would be a law-breaker.¹⁹ 'For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel - Matthew Ch10 v17-22

Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.²¹ 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.²² You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord,
we thank you for the signs of your mercy
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
through Jesus Christ our 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

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

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

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? *deep pan 'crisps and even*