



NEWSLETTER

ST STEPHEN'S

COVERING THE DISTRICTS OF BIRCHWOOD, BIRCHWOOD GREEN,
LONGFORD, OREO, SANDY LANE, SANDY LANE GREEN,
CINNAMON LANE, CUNLIFFE HEAD, POULTON,
AND BIRCHWOOD.

TWO WEEK EDITION

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL
Registered Charity No. 1199714

PARISH PRIEST:
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**St Bridget &
St Oliver
Plunkett
Pray for us**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) 22 DECEMBER 2024



Saturday 21 December	St Stephen's	<i>5.00pm Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Joshua Shaw / Parishioners
Sunday 22 December	St Stephen's	10.45am Mass: Reeves, Sheridan, Cunliffe, Gargan Family <i>After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments</i>



To donate £5 to the parish please scan QR code

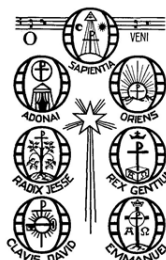
Christmas Mass Times

24 December: Christmas Eve: Mass - 8pm
25 December: Christmas Day: Mass - 10.45am

From Fr John's desk... The Advent 'O Antiphones'

The Great O Antiphons are seven brief prayers that are traditionally sung in Advent on successive evenings starting on December 17. The precise origin of these texts is unknown. They also feature at Mass as the Alleluia verse. The Great O Antiphons are rich in meaning and nuance. Each antiphon begins with the acclamation "O," addresses Jesus by one of his Messianic titles from the Old Testament, and ends with a heartfelt plea for Jesus' coming. The sequence of the antiphons is theologically precise, progressing from before the creation of the universe, through the messianic prophecies of Israel, and culminating with the Incarnation and birth of Christ in Bethlehem.

- 17 December - O Sapientia (O Wisdom)
- 18 December - O Adonai (O Lord)
- 19 December - O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)
- 20 December - O Clavis David (O Key of David)
- 21 December - O Oriens (O Rising Sun)
- 22 December - O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)
- 23 December - O Emmanuel (God-with-us)



The initials of each Latin title form the word *S-A-R-C-O-R-E*. When this is arranged backwards, it spells the phrase **ERO CRAS**, which means **'Tomorrow, I shall be.'** Since the Middle Ages, Christians have been fascinated by this coincidence because Christmas Eve (December 24) falls on the day after the singing of the final antiphon. **'Tomorrow, I shall be!'**

PARISH FUNDRAISING when you shop on-line

Access over 3,600 shops www.easyfundraising.org.uk and St Stephen's will receive donations

How to get started:

Log-on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk
Type '**Parish Development Fund St Stephens**' in the search box and click.

Then follow the instructions for set up - name/email/password and click.
Then access your chosen shops and the parish will receive donations.

Don't forget recommend this to others!

Christmas Flowers:

There is still time to make a donation to the Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one.

Flowers Cost £520

Christmas Mass Times

24 December Christmas Eve Mass 8pm Parishioners

25 December Christmas Day Mass 10.45am Byrne & Higgins Families

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Please remember in prayer:



Anne Bland, Cecilia Taylor,
Rosemary Rylance, Shirley Byrne,
Vin Mulholland, Barrie Cooper,
Michael O'Halloran.

LADIES GUILD

4th February 2025

7.30pm



St Stephen's - De Paul Room

A warm welcome to the ladies of
St Bridget's and St Stephen's
and neighbouring parishes.



St Stephen's
Church Foyer

SATURDAY

11 January at 7.30pm

(and every 2nd Saturday
of the month!)

Pray Through Singing

Monday

10th February 2025 at 7pm

St Stephen's Church

De Paul Room



For info. call Sandra on 811230

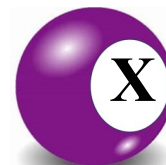
Nest Of Hope 2024

Grand Total £442.75

Thanks to Sandra Buxton and
all who supported in 2024



Draw Resumes in January 2025

PARISH BONUS BALL 2024



Dec24/Jan25

Winner(s)
To be announced

Thursday 26 December	St Stephen's Day 11am Mass: Mary's Friends
Friday 27 December	10am Mass: Catherine Mowatt
 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (C) 29 DECEMBER 2024	
Saturday 28 December	5.00pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Rudd, Babington & Grundy Family
Sunday 29 December	10.45am Mass: Ken McFadden / Parishioners <i>After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments</i>
Tues 31 Dec	10am Mass: Fr Gerard Dakin and LISC
Wednesday 1st January	Solemnity: Mary, Mother of God 10am Mass: Williams Family & Friends <i>Followed by Coffee/Tea/Toast</i>
Thu 2 Jan	9am Mass: Ellen & Thomas Hayes
Fri 3 Jan	5.30pm <i>Exposition & Marian Devotions.</i> 6pm Mass: LISC & Fr Gerard Dakin
 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (C) 5 JANUARY 2024	
Saturday 4 January	5.00pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: John & Sheila Tighe / Parishioners
Sunday 5 January	10.45am Mass: RP Campbell Snr. <i>After Mass: Coffee/Tea/Refreshments</i>



I wish to thank you all for your kind prayers,
cards and gifts this Christmas —
but more so for your continued support and
encouragement throughout the year as we work to
build and strengthen our parish community for the future.
I will remember you and all our parishioners and
your loved ones as I stand before the
Altar of the Lord this Christmas Eve.
A very happy and blessed Christmas to you all. Fr John

