



The Anglican Parish of  
**S. STEPHEN**

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### This Week

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Mass at 7.30am;

Wednesday 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am

Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

My soul is thirsting for the living God:  
when shall I see him face to face?

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

7pm Lenten Study @ the Rectory

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

*Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs*

Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

1.30pm Women's Guild

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

*S. John of God, Religious*

If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

10am Mother's Union

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

*S. Frances of Rome, Religious*

I am the Lord, your God:  
hear my voice.

6.00pm Holy Hour

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

It is steadfast love, not sacrifice,  
that God desires.

Next Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018AD

LENT 4

MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.00 am Sung Mass

5.30 pm Mass

### Entrance Hymn

Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin;  
From earthborn passions set me free  
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
With many a care oppressed;  
Let me Thy loving servant be  
And taste Thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me  
Amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery  
Be Thou my Health and Life.

Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point Thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me  
When floods the tempest high;  
When on doth rush the enemy,  
O Saviour, be Thou nigh!

Lord Jesus, think on me  
That, when the flood is past,  
I may th' eternal brightness see  
And share Thy joy at last.

Lord Jesus, think on me  
That I may sing above  
To Father, Spirit, and to Thee  
The strains of praise and love.

Greek Synesius of Cyrene 375-430

tr A W Chatfield 1808-1896

**Entrance:** My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

✙ In the Name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**Communion:** The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King  
and my God. Blessed are they who  
dwell in your house, for ever singing  
your praise.

**Prayer:** As we receive the pledge of things  
yet hidden in heaven, and are nourished  
while still on earth with the Bread that  
comes from on high, we humbly entreat you,  
O Lord, that what is being brought about in  
us in mystery may come to true completion.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a  
living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Send us out in the power of your  
Spirit to live and work to your praise  
and glory. Amen.**

### Final Hymn

My God, I love Thee; not because  
I hope for Heav'n thereby,  
Nor yet because who love Thee not  
Are lost eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me  
Upon the cross embrace;  
For me didst bear the nails and spear,  
And manifold disgrace.

And griefs and torments numberless,  
And sweat of agony;  
E'en death itself; and all for one  
Who was Thine enemy.

Then why, O blessed Jesu Christ  
Should I not love Thee well?  
Not for the sake of winning Heaven,  
Or of escaping hell.

Not with the hope of gaining aught,  
Nor seeking a reward,  
But as Thyself hast loved me,  
O ever-loving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee, and will love,  
And in Thy praise will sing,  
Solely because Thou art my God,  
And my eternal King.

Century Latin tr by Edward Caswall 1814-1878

### The Blessing

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

May God the Father, who does not  
despise the broken spirit, give to you  
a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his  
body on the cross, heal you by his  
wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into  
all truth, speak to you words of pardon  
and peace. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ✙ and the  
Holy Spirit, come down on you and  
remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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### Women's Guild

meets this Wednesday at 1.30pm.

### Mother's Union

meets this Thursday at 10am.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March beginning with Mass  
at 9am.

### Reflection

*The New Testament speaks of God's raising  
Jesus from the dead and of Jesus' rising  
from the dead. In today's Gospel it is the  
latter phrase that is used by John. The  
technique of having hearers misunderstand  
a saying of Jesus is one familiar to the  
Fourth Gospel. The correct understanding  
always follows as here. The result of the  
signs which Jesus worked, and his rising  
from the dead was the greatest of these,  
namely, belief. The effectiveness of all the  
signs portrayed is measured by whether or  
not they bring about the belief of the  
hearers or onlookers.*

### Prayer over the Gifts

Pray my brothers and sisters that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.**

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



### Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Preface is sung, after which all sing*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth**

**are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the Highest.**

**Blest is he who comes**

**In the Name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the Highest.**

*The Eucharistic prayer continues*

The mystery of faith:

**Save us, Saviour of the world,**

**for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free**

*The Prayer concludes:*

in songs of never ending praise:

forever and ever. **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us Lord, we pray... Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Breaking of Bread

We who are many are one body in Christ

**For we all share in the one bread.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Grant us your Peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**



### Penitential Rite

*Let us now call to mind our sins and the infinite mercy of God.*

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.**

**We have not been true to the mind of Christ.**

**We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**We confess to you, Lord all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.**

**Our self-indulgent ways, and our exploitation of other people.**

*Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

**Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.**

*Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.*

**Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts; our dishonesty in daily life and work.**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.**

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

✚ Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

### Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### Today's Readings

**First Reading: Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17**

The Lord sets out the conditions of his covenant with his people.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25**

The figure of the crucified Christ is the power and wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual Hymn

**My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!**

**May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire!  
As Thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to Thee,  
Pure warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
be Thou my Guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold sullen stream  
over me roll;  
Blest Saviour, then in love,  
fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

Ray Palmer 1808-1887

### The Holy Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

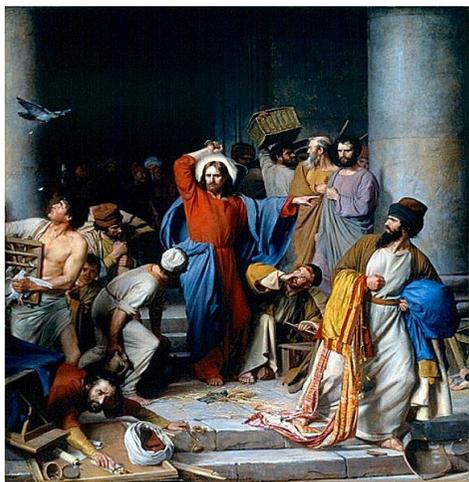
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to *S. John 2:13-25*.

**+ Glory to you + Lord Jesus Christ +**

Jesus uses the image of the destruction of the Temple to foretell his own death and resurrection.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



As Lent moves on, the cross comes into clearer focus. Today the story of the cleansing of the Temple is recounted for us. What was at issue for the Jews was the authority by which Jesus could claim to do this. The answer is found in the phrase “and when Jesus rose from the dead”. John, the writer, interprets the death and resurrection of Jesus as the basis for his authority. This idea is paralleled in the first reading, where the Ten Commandments are given their authority by being spoken by the mouth of God.

### **Today – Lent 3**

In the eyes of the world the figure of the crucified Christ is a symbol of ridicule and contempt. For us it is the source of our salvation and the revelation of God’s wisdom.

### Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Faithful

*In peace let us pray to the Lord.*

+ For Peter our Bishop, our clergy and people and all the Church of God: that by our words, our worship and our actions, we may be seen as the body of Christ and the temple of God's Holy Spirit.  
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ For all world leaders: that they may maintain peace and seek the common good of all people.

+ For those who cannot find God, or who feel that they are beyond God's forgiveness: that they will be able to entrust themselves to the gentle mercy of Christ, whose heart burns with love for us all.

+ For all who suffer in mind and body, that God may bring them healing and wholeness. For: **Richard Wrightson, Verity Matzoll, John Russell, Moira Oliver, Rhys Evans, Anabelle Morrow, Jamie Stow, Colin Lee, John & Norma McLeod, Jocelyn Caddies, Stephanie Bower, John & Frances Moules, John & Dorothy Davidson, Joyce Searl, Sheila & Derek Cahoon, Dianne Taylor, Peter Williams, Robyn Roach, Pam Platts, Ruth Jones, Lynda Cox, Linda Frost, Geoff Borham, Tom Blunden, Lani Fear, Bruce George, Alan Joass, Frank Clarke, Robbie Coddington, Barbara Winter, June Wood, Jack Ryan,**

+ For those who have died in recent days, **Jean Johnston,** those whose memory we treasure and all whose anniversary occurs at this time: **Irene Randall,** may the Lord welcome them into the joy of his heavenly presence.

+ Let us commend ourselves and all people to the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, S. Stephen and all the Saints, as we offer our own special needs and thanksgivings.

*Lord, may your people turn again to you and serve you with all their heart.*

*With confidence we bring our prayers to you that we may know your mercy and love; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Greeting of Peace

We are the Body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### Offertory Hymn

**Jesu, Lord of life and glory,  
Bend from Heav'n Thy gracious ear;  
While our waiting souls adore Thee,  
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:  
By Thy gracious loving mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**From the depth of nature's blindness,  
From the hardening power of sin,  
From all malice and unkindness,  
From the pride that lurks within:  
By Thy gracious loving mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**When temptation sorely presses,  
In the day of Satan's power,  
In our times of deep distresses,  
In each dark and trying hour:  
By Thy gracious loving mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**In the weary hours of sickness,  
In the times of grief and pain,  
When we feel our mortal weakness,  
When the creature's help is vain:  
By Thy gracious loving mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**In the solemn hour of dying,  
In the awful judgment day,  
May our souls, on Thee relying,  
Find Thee still our Rock and Stay:  
By Thy gracious loving mercy,  
O deliver us, good Lord.**

**Jesu, may Thy promised blessing  
Comfort to our souls afford;  
May we now, Thy love possessing,  
And at length our full reward,  
Ever praise Thee and adore Thee,  
Good and ever glorious Lord.**

*John Cummins 1795-1867 Alt Christopher Bird 1955-*

Theatre on Brunker  
An outreach of  
Saint Stephen's Adamstown



# Trivia Night

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

7.00pm in the **Parish Hall**  
(Next to the Post Office)

193 Brunker Rd, Adamstown

**\$20** per person



**Great Prizes  
& Great Fun!**



BYO Nibbles & Drinks  
**Coffee, Tea & Supper Provided**

Tables up to 8

**Bookings Essential**

**0402462666 or 4956 1263**

## This Weeks Holy Days

March 7

**Ss. Perpetua and Felicity (d. 203?)**



“When my father in his affection for me was trying to turn me from my purpose by arguments and thus weaken my faith, I said to him, ‘Do you see this vessel—water pot or whatever it may be? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?’ ‘No,’ he replied. ‘So also I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian.’”

So writes Perpetua, young, beautiful, well-educated, a noblewoman of Carthage, mother of an infant son and chronicler of the persecution of the Christians by Emperor Septimius Severus.

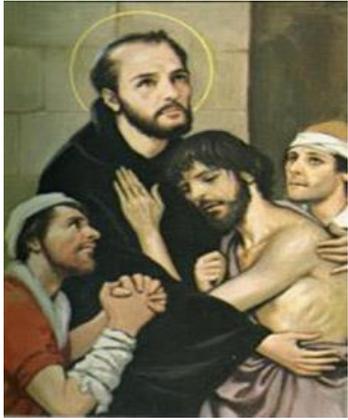
Despite threats of persecution and death, Perpetua, Felicity (a slavewoman and expectant mother) and three companions, Revocatus, Secundulus and Saturninus, refused to renounce their Christian faith. For their unwillingness, all were sent to the public games in the amphitheatre. There, Perpetua and Felicity were beheaded, and the others killed by beasts. Perpetua’s mother was a Christian and her father a pagan. He continually pleaded with her to deny her faith. She refused and was imprisoned at 22.

In her diary, Perpetua describes her period of captivity: “What a day of horror! Terrible heat, owing to the crowds! Rough treatment by the soldiers! To crown all, I was tormented with anxiety for my baby.... Such anxieties I suffered for many days, but I obtained leave for my baby to remain in the prison with me, and being relieved of my trouble and anxiety for him, I at once recovered my health, and my prison became a palace to me and I would rather have been there than anywhere else.” Felicity gave birth to a girl a few days before the games commenced.

Perpetua’s record of her trial and imprisonment ends the day before the games. “Of what was done in the games themselves, let him write who will.” The diary was finished by an eyewitness. Persecution for religious beliefs is not confined to Christians in ancient times. Consider Anne Frank, the Jewish girl who, with her family, was forced into hiding and later died in Bergen-Belsen, one of Hitler’s death camps during World War II. Anne, like Perpetua and Felicity, endured hardship and suffering and finally death because she committed herself to God. In her diary Anne writes, “*It’s twice as hard for us young ones to hold our ground, and maintain our opinions, in a time when all ideals are being shattered and destroyed, when people are showing their worst side, and do not know whether to believe in truth and right and God.*”

Perpetua, unwilling to renounce Christianity, comforted her father in his grief over her decision, “It shall happen as God shall choose, for assuredly we depend not on our own power but on the power of God.”

March 8  
S. John of God (1495-1550)



Having given up active Christian belief while a soldier, John was 40 before the depth of his sinfulness began to dawn on him. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service, and headed at once for Africa, where he hoped to free captive Christians and, possibly, be martyred. He was soon advised that his desire for martyrdom was not spiritually well based, and returned to Spain and the relatively prosaic activity of a religious goods store. Yet he was still not settled. Moved initially by a sermon of Blessed John of Avila, he one day engaged in a public beating of himself, begging mercy and wildly repenting for his past life. Committed to a mental hospital for these actions, John was visited by Blessed John, who advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor. He established a house where he wisely tended to the needs of the sick poor, at first doing his own begging. But excited by the saint's great work and inspired by his devotion, many people began to back

him up with money and provisions. Among them were the archbishop and marquis of Tarifa. Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious order. John became ill after 10 years of service but tried to disguise his ill health. He began to put the hospital's administrative work into order and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died under the care of a spiritual friend and admirer, Lady Ana Ossorio. *The utter humility of John of God, which led to a totally selfless dedication to others, is most impressive. Here is a man who realized his nothingness in the face of God. The Lord blessed him with the gifts of prudence, patience, courage, enthusiasm and the ability to influence and inspire others. He saw that in his early life he had turned away from the Lord, and, moved to receive his mercy, John began his new commitment to love others in openness to God's love.* **Quote:** The archbishop called John of God to him in response to a complaint that he was keeping tramps and immoral women in his hospital. In submission John fell on his knees and said: "The Son of Man came for sinners, and we are bound to seek their conversion. I am unfaithful to my vocation because I neglect this, but I confess that I know of no bad person in my hospital except myself alone, who am indeed unworthy to eat the bread of the poor." The archbishop could only trust in John's sincerity and humility, and dismissed him with deep respect.

March 9  
S. Frances of Rome (1384-1440)



Frances's life combines aspects of secular and religious life. A devoted and loving wife, she longed for a lifestyle of prayer and service, so she organized a group of women to minister to the needs of Rome's poor. Born of wealthy parents, Frances found herself attracted to the religious life during her youth. But her parents objected and a young nobleman was selected to be her husband. As she became acquainted with her new relatives, Frances soon discovered that her sister in law also wished to live a life of service and prayer. So the two, Frances and Vannoza, set out together—with their husbands' blessings—to help the poor. Frances fell ill for a time, but this apparently only deepened her commitment to the suffering people she met. The years passed, and Frances gave birth to two sons and a daughter. With the new responsibilities of family life, the young mother turned her attention more to the needs of her own household. The family flourished under Frances's care, but within a few years a great plague began to sweep across Italy. It struck Rome with devastating cruelty and left Frances's second son dead. In an effort to help alleviate some of the suffering,

Frances used all her money and sold her possessions to buy whatever the sick might possibly need. When all the resources had been exhausted, Frances and Vannoza went door to door begging. Later, Frances's daughter died, and the saint opened a section of her house as a hospital. Frances became more and more convinced that this way of life was so necessary for the world, and it was not long before she requested and was given permission to found a society of women bound by no vows. They simply offered themselves to God and to the service of the poor. Once the society was established, Frances chose not to live at the community residence, but rather at home with her husband. She did this for seven years, until her husband passed away, and then came to live the remainder of her life with the society—serving the poorest of the poor. In *Something Beautiful for God*, Mother Teresa said of the sisters in her community: "Let Christ radiate and live his life in her and through her in the slums. Let the poor seeing her be drawn to Christ and invite him to enter their homes and lives." Says Frances of Rome: "It is most laudable in a married woman to be devout, but she must never forget that she is a housewife. And sometimes she must leave God at the altar to find Him in her housekeeping" (*Butler's Lives of the Saints*).

Looking at the exemplary life of fidelity to God and devotion to her fellow human beings which Frances of Rome was blessed to lead, one cannot help but be reminded of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who loved Jesus Christ in prayer and also in the poor. The life of Frances of Rome calls each of us not only to look deeply for God in prayer, but also to carry our devotion to Jesus living in the suffering of our world. Frances shows us that this life need not be restricted to those bound by vows.