

St Andrew's Church

St Stephen's Day

Pew sheet for 26th December 2021

10.00am Mass in Church and on YouTube

Celebrant and Preacher; Father John

*If you are in church, please remember to turn off your mobile phone during the service.
Please take this sheet home with you at the end of the service. There are prayers which you
may like to use at home at the end of the newsletter.*

Hymn numbers for the Mass 39 650 782 357 766

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, **Amen.**

Reading

Acts 7; 51-60

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Gospel

Matt 2;1-12

Jesus said, "Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

Please pray for people who are sick or in need of prayer: Penny Fleming, Charlotte Hartwell, Sally and Juliet Koroma, Gloria Boothe, Gloria James, Hayden Lewis, Viki Sidhu, Beryl Clayton, the Haigh family, Deb Jones, Linda, Abdul Karim, Sheila Kempson, Gill Rose.

Anniversary of death: Joan Romanes, Phillip Mhike, David Choranji, Jack Jones, Barbara Brown.