

## **TODAY'S READINGS**

### **First Reading Acts 7:55-end**

*Stephen faces death by stoning with a vision of God's glory, commending his spirit to Jesus and praying for forgiveness for those who kill him.*

### **Second Reading Genesis 8:1-19**

*The rains cease and the water covering the earth recedes. Noah, his family and all the animals begin a new life in a newly bountiful land.*

### **Gospel John 14:1-14**

*Jesus tells his disciples that he is the way, the truth and the life and can therefore enable them to join his union with his Father in the kingdom of heaven.*

## **FIRST READING Acts 7. 55–60**

Standing before the high priest and the council,

<sup>55</sup> Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

<sup>56</sup> 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!'

<sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

<sup>58</sup> 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.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

<sup>60</sup> 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.

## **SECOND READING Genesis 8.1–19**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark.

And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided;

<sup>2</sup> the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained,

<sup>3</sup> and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred and fifty days the waters had abated;

<sup>4</sup> and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

<sup>5</sup> The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

<sup>6</sup> At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made

<sup>7</sup> and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

<sup>8</sup> Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground;

<sup>9</sup> but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him.

<sup>10</sup> He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark;

<sup>11</sup> and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

<sup>12</sup> Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

<sup>13</sup> In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying.

<sup>14</sup> In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Noah,

<sup>16</sup> 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

<sup>17</sup> Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh – birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.'

<sup>18</sup> So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

<sup>19</sup> And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

## **GOSPEL John 14. 1–14**

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>1</sup> 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

<sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.'

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?'

<sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

<sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

<sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

<sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of  
everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### For Prayer:

Pray for the victims of the recent stabbing in Golders Green and all who have been injured following a violent crime.

Continue to pray for all areas of the world where there is unrelenting conflict. Hope that those negotiating for a resolution may have a result soon.

Remember in your prayers all those known to us who are unwell; struggling with addiction; financial worries or the challenges of life.

Remember in your prayers all those who volunteer for local charities to enable people to benefit from the help and support to them in whatever way.

**Those who are acutely sick:** Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Margaret Moyce, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, Carole Sharp, John Sharp, Lindsey Westcott, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

**Those with chronic or long-term illness:** Jackie Briggs, Margaret Coles, Dorothy Duncanson, Pat Elves, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Julia Sherlock, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

**Those who have died:** Doreen Swain, George Wood.

## DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	DCC Meeting
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Holy Communion at St Stephen's
	10.30am	Tots & Teddies at St Julian's
	4.30pm	Organ Practice at St Stephen's
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Julian's
	10.30am	Community Café open at St Julian's
FRIDAY	10.30am	Community Shed meets at St Stephen's
SATURDAY	All Day	Dancing exams in the hall QUIET PLEASE!



St Stephen  
with St Julian

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

Welcome to St Stephen's and St Julian's. Whoever you are, wherever you've come from, you are welcome! If this is your first visit, please do introduce yourselves to the clergy and stay for coffee after the service to meet others.

## SERVICES TODAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephens  
President & Preacher: Sherine Angus
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's  
President & Preacher: Charlie Hudson
- 10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's  
President & Preacher: Sherine Angus  
Deacon: Michael Elves  
Sunday Explorers meet in the Cavalier Hall  
Sunday Tots meet in the Kentish Room
- 4.00pm Bible Course in the Kentish Room

## Next Sunday – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Stephen's
- 9.30am Holy Communion at St Julian's
- 10.00am Parish Communion at St Stephen's
- 10.30am DCC AGM at St Stephen's

Link for 10.00am Parish Communion service at St Stephen's Church

<https://youtube.com/live/HQbyus8hduw?feature=share>

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZIYt3V.1>  
Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768  
Passcode: 792910