TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: *Revelation 7: 9-17*
In John's vision of heaven the countless multitude of saints come from every nation, their common entrance requirement the blood of the Lamb. He has rescued them from persecution and pain to worship around God's throne for ever.

Second Reading: *1 John 3: 1-3*
We know that God loves us as his children now, and although we won't know the full intimacy of that relationship in this life, we prepare our hearts for a time when we will.

Gospel: *Matthew 5: 1-12*
Using a series of examples which need to be taken together, Jesus reassures his followers that all whose hearts are open to God will know his presence in their lives and, even if persecuted for their faith, will ultimately rejoice in heaven.

FIRST READING Revelation 7. 9–17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude
that no one could count, from every nation, from all
tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the
throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm
branches in their hands.
10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying 'Salvation
belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to
the Lamb!'
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and
around the elders and the four living creatures, and they
fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped
God,
12 singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and
thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to
our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who
are these, robed in white, and where have they come
from?'
14 I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then
he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of
the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and
worship him day and night within his temple, and the
one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the
sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
17 for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their
shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the
water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes.'

SECOND READING 1 John 3. 1–3

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should
be called children of God; and that is what we are. The
reason the world does not know us is that it did not
know him.
2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be
has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this:
when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will
see him as he is.
3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure.

GOSPEL Matthew 5. 1–12

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.
7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God.
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
11 Blessed are you when people revile you and
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you
falsely on my account.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in
heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.'

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have knit together your elect
in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord:
grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living
that we may come to those inexpressible joys
that you have prepared for those who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our 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

God, the source of all holiness and giver of all good
things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For prayer

Pray for all the people fatally injured in the high speed train crash near Urda, Toledo, Spain. Remember in your prayers, their families as they begin to absorb the news. Pray for all involved in the recovery process and those who are providing support to the bereaved and emergency workers.

Following the budget on Wednesday, pray for everyone as they work out if the announced changes will affect them in any way.

Remember in your prayers, teachers, teaching assistants, support workers as they return to school after the half term break.

As the conflict continues between Russia and Ukraine, pray that a solution may be found through verbal negotiations.

Pray for all those known to us who are very unwell or recently bereaved. Hope that they find comfort from their families and friends and the wider community. Pray for all who work in the emergency services and the valuable support they give to the extended family during a crisis.

Those who are acutely sick: Steve Bishop, Amy Bradbury, Claire Colman, Tim Fletcher, Vera Foster, Owen Goodwin, Roger Gray, Joy Groves, Ricardo Hoyte, Jan Price, Joan Thornton, John Sharp, Peter Viccars, Lindsey Westcott, Debbie Whitehead, Jill Williams.

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Margaret Coles, Pat Elves, Jennifer Harbridge, Harry Henderson, Anna Johns, Vicky Johnston, Carol Muller, Roy Ray, Bob Whitehead, Jim Wild.

Those who have died: Pat Dixon, Carole Sharp.

DURING THE WEEK

MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	8.00pm	DCC meets at St Julian's
WEDNESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer at St Stephen's
	9.45am	Coffee & Chat 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	9.00am – 12noon	Churchyard working party at St Stephen's

Link for Morning Prayer via Zoom link every **Monday**
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84282425768?pwd=QaWzIPT4b5mV7a938AbNNYisZlYt3V.1
Meeting ID: 842 8242 5768 Passcode: 792910

St Stephen with St Julian

All Saints Day

1 November 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: Charlie Hudson
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's President & Preacher: Martin Banister
10.00am	Parish Communion at St Stephen's President & Preacher: Charlie Hudson
11.00am ish	EAPCM for approval of Parish Accounts at St Stephen's (after the 10.00am service)

Next Sunday – Third Sunday before Advent / Remembrance Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion at St Stephen's
9.30am	Holy Communion at St Julian's
10.00am	Parish Communion with Act of Remembrance at St Stephen's

Link for 10.00am Parish Communion service at St Stephen's
https://youtube.com/live/ABqqASt2EkY?feature=share