

Parish of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine, Stamford



St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Patron of Altar Servers

Mass on the Feast of Saint Stephen

Tuesday 26th December 2017 : 10.30am

Father Simon Gillespie

Please STAND as the Procession enters the church.

Good King Wenceslaus looked out on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about, deep, and crisp, and even:
brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling,
yonder peasant, who is he, where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither:
thou and I will see him dine, when we bring him thither."
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together;
through the rude wind's wild lament, and the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, good my page; tread thou in them boldly:
thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

John M Neale (1818-66)

Entrance Rites

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And with your spirit.

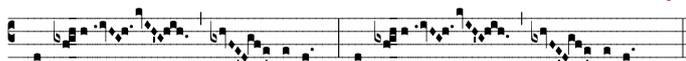
Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I
have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have
done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my
fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.

Amen.

The common of the Mass is taken from the missa De Angelis



Ky-ri - e e - le-i-son: Ky-ri - e e - le-i-son.



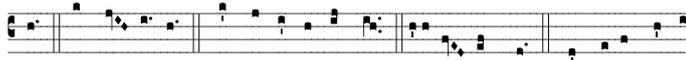
Chri-ste e - le-i-son: Chri-ste e - le-i-son.



Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son.



Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae volunta-



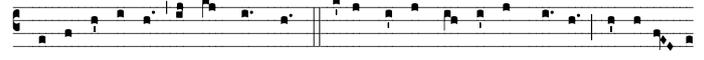
tis. Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus



te. Gratias agimus ti-bi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Do-



mine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omni-po-tens. Domine Fi-li



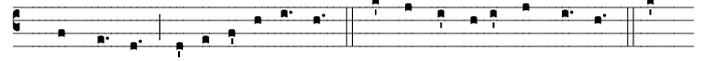
u-ni-ge-ni-te le-su Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fi-li-us Pa-



tris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, misere - re nobis. Qui tollis pecca-



ta mundi, suscipe deprecati-onem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexter-



am Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu



solus Dominus. Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe. Cum Sancto



Spiritu, in glori-a Dei Patris. A - men.

At the end of the Collect all respond:

... who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

All SIT.

Liturgy of the Word

The first reading is taken from the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-10; 7:54-59); I can see heaven thrown open.

The word of the Lord.

Amen.

The responsorial is taken from Psalm 30 (verses 3-4,6,8,16-17).

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

*All STAND for the Gospel, taken from Saint Matthew (10:17-22);
You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear
witness before them and the pagans.*



Word of gladness, Alleluia. Fill our hearts now. Maranatha.

Promised Saviour, Alleluia. True Messiah. Maranatha.

Light of nations, Alleluia. Light in darkness. Maranatha.

Here among us, Alleluia. Living in us. Maranatha.

Bernadette Farrell

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel all respond:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All SIT for the brief homily, preached by Father Simon.

Enrolment of Altar Servers into the Guild of Saint Stephen

Let those who are called to the ministry of serving at the Altar please come forward:

The names of the altar servers are called out; they stand and come before the altar.

Father Simon asks them:

What do you ask of God's Church?

The altar servers reply:

The blessing of Almighty God and enrolment into the Guild of Saint Stephen for Altar Servers.

Father Simon asks for the servers to be presented:

Do you recommend their admission into the Guild?

They are presented by the parish Master of Ceremonies, or another:

Reverend Father and parishioners of the parish of Saint Mary and Saint Augustine, Stamford; these members of our parish have completed a probationary period of service at the Altar of our church. They have shown themselves to be reverent in their actions, regular in their attendance and to have an understanding of the Mass and most importantly a love of the Lord Jesus whom they now seek to serve as members of the Guild.

The candidates sit, and Father Simon speaks directly to them about their duties. At the end they kneel down.

My dear people, let us pray for those who wish to be enrolled into the Guild of Saint Stephen. Let us ask God to bless them.

Heavenly Father, bless these servers who have been chosen to be members of the Guild of Saint Stephen. Grant that they may be faithful in their service at your Altar, and that they may grow in faith and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The candidates stand as Father Simon addresses them, and they reply:

Will you try to say the Guild prayer every day?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you promise to do your best to serve regularly, particularly when you are needed?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you promise to serve with care and reverence?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you try to understand what you are doing when you serve?

I will, with the help of God.

I now invite all those to be enrolled, and all those already members of the Guild, to make the Guild promise:

**I offer myself to God almighty,
to blessed Mary, our Mother
and to our holy patron, Saint Stephen.
And I promise to do my best
to serve regularly with reverence and understanding,
for the glory of God, the service of his Church,
and my own eternal salvation.**

Father Simon now blesses the new Guild Medals, and then enrolls each altar server into the Guild of Saint Stephen:

Receive this medal as a sign of your admission into the Guild of Saint Stephen that, with the help of his prayers, you may lead a good and holy life.

The altar server replies:

Amen.

When each altar server has been enrolled Father Simon invites all to pray:

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you came into this world to serve others, rather than to be served, and showed yourself to Saint Stephen in your glory at the right hand of the Father. We ask you now to grant to your Altar Servers the faith of Saint Stephen as they serve you in the Blessed Sacrament, so that they too may come to see you in your glory. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



Liturgy of the Eucharist

All SIT as the altar is prepared and the gifts are brought forward.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
Heaven & earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed –
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom Cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim thronged the air.
But only his mother in her maiden bliss
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Christina G. Rossetti (1830-94)

All STAND.

Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours 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.

After the Prayer over the Offerings the Preface begins:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

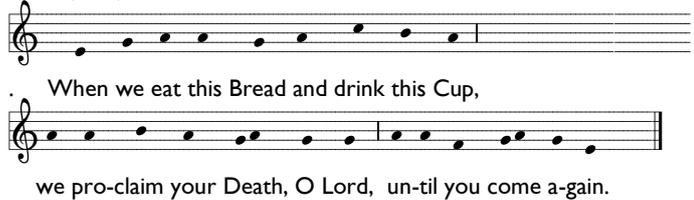
At the end of the Preface all sing:



Sanc - tus, Sanctus, Sanc - tus, Do - minus Deus Sa - baoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et ter - ra glori - a tu - a. Hosanna in excel - sis.
Benedic - tus qui ve - nit in nomine Domine. Hosan - na in
excel - sis.

All KNEEL for the Eucharistic Prayer, during which we acclaim:

The mystery of the Faith:



When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

At the end of the Prayer we affirm our belief:

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.
Amen.

All STAND.

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.

... and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. ... Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

After offering the Sign of Peace we all sing:



A - gnus De - i qui tollis peccá - ta mundi: mi - se - ré - re no - bis
Agnus Dei, qui tol - lis peccá - ta mundi: mi - se - ré - re no - bis. A -
gnus De - i qui tol - lis peccá - ta mundi: dona no - bis pa - cem

All KNEEL.

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

Towards the end of the distribution of Holy Communion we sing:

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild:
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour is born, Christ, the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night. Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace:
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), tr. J. Young

All STAND for the Prayer after Communion, at the end of which all respond:

... for ever and ever.

Amen.

Concluding Rites

After announcements have been made:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

God our Father is the creator whom all creation serves. May he bless you and keep you faithful in His service.

Amen.

Jesus Christ is the model of all who serve. May you follow in His footsteps.

Amen.

The Holy Spirit lives in all those who serve the Church. May He inspire you to be good and devoted servers.

Amen.

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son +, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace!

Thanks be to God!

We conclude by singing together the Guild of Saint Stephen Hymn:

Holy Stephen, Christ's dear martyr,
first to shed thy blood for Him,
what bright glory now surrounds thee,
glory which no time can dim!
O that we could share that glory,
give for Him our life and blood!
Let us praise thy noble story,
told with life's own crimson flood.

Noble witness thou didst render
to the passion of thy Lord,
bearing with a love courageous
weight of stones more cruel than sword.
Mindful of our dying Saviour
begging mercy in death's throes,
Thou didst raise thine eyes to heaven
craving mercy on thy foes.

Ours it may not be to suffer
like Saint Stephen unto death;
but a service we can render
to our last and failing breath.
Ours to serve our loving Saviour:
ours to help His sacrifice:
Ours to give Him daily homage:
till He calls to Paradise.