

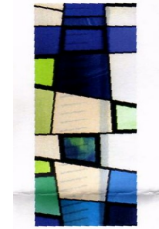
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

**Feast of St Stephen**

**2 August 2020**



*We welcome Sue Retschko, our Guest Preacher*

**“Our greatest responsibility is to be a  
good ancestor”**

- Dr Jonas Salk (the discoverer of the Polio vaccine)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

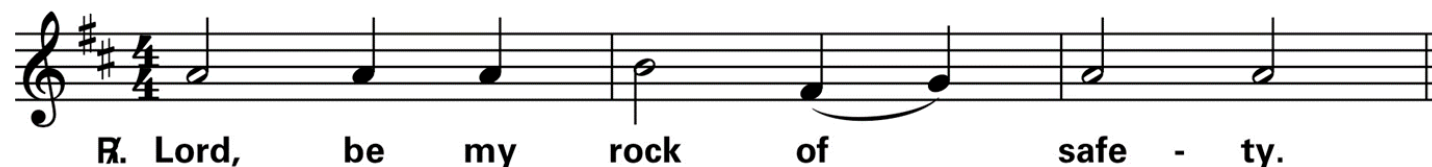
This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements. This is a shared responsibility of staff and parish. Please see the back of pew leaflet for contact details.

**At Worship Today:**

**We give you thanks, O Lord of glory,  
for the example of Stephen, the first martyr,  
who prayed for his persecutors,  
and looked to him who was crucified,  
your Son Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

**9.45 am (Sung Eucharist)**

Presiding: The Venerable Dianne Sharrock  
Preaching: Sue Retschko  
Liturgy Setting: John Ross  
Processional: TIS 183 'Sing of the Lord's Goodness' vv. 1 & 2  
Sentence: Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. *Sung by John Leaver*  
First Reading: Acts 6.8-10, 7.54-60  
Psalm Response:



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Psalm: Ps 31.1-8

Gospel Acclamation:



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Gospel: Matthew 10.17-22  
Offertory: 'Stephen the deacon' Tune TIS 156  
Communion Meditation: by Cath Connelly, Celtic Harpist  
Recessional Hymn: TIS 455 'For All The Saints'

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**First Reading: Acts 6.8-10, 7.54-60**

8 Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. 54 When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55 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. 56 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 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. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' 60 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 Reading: Matthew 10.17-22**

17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 19 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; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; 22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

St. John Vianney would often say:

"Private prayer is like straw scattered here and there: If you set it on fire, it makes a lot of little flames. But gather these straws into a bundle and light them, and you get a mighty fire, rising like a column into the sky; public prayer is like that."

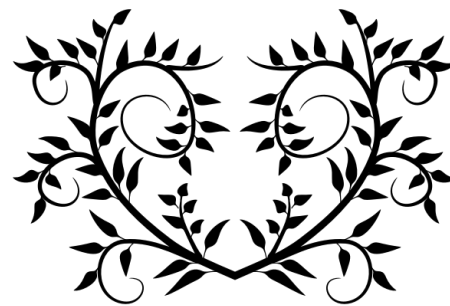
*Prayer of St. John Vianney*

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love You until the last breath of my life.

I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.

I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally...

My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath.



### ***From Your Vicar***

Traditionally, the Feast of St Stephen is held on Boxing Day, but we hold the feast day on the alternative day in August. Let's face it, I don't think many would come to church for a service on Boxing Day, when it is used in our society as a family day to continue to celebrate Christmas or to go shopping!!

But it is a day when the Christian church has for centuries celebrated the life and death of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Everything we know about Stephen comes from the Book of Acts. The name Stephen (Stephanos) is Greek, so we assume he was a Hellenistic, Greek – speaking Jew in Jerusalem. He is described in Acts 6:5 as a man “full of faith and the Holy Spirit....doing great wonders and signs among the people.” He was chosen to oversee the distribution of food to poor widows, and he was also a preacher. His speech in Chapter 7 is the longest sermon recorded in Acts.

Most memorable are Stephen's words just before his martyrdom

Stephen, filled by the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven. He saw God's glory, with Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” (Acts 7: 55 – 56)

As he was saying this, men began to stone him, laying their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul, a persecutor of Christians, who later became St Paul, the Apostle. Who knows what effect Stephen's words may have had on Paul's conversation.

It is no wonder that the early church gave St. Stephen the honour of a feast day on the first day after Christmas, a special season in the church year. If you remember the Christmas song of Good King Wenceslas, it says, “Good King Wenceslas looked out, On the Feast of Stephen when the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even....And what does this have to do with Good King Wenceslas, other than he went out on the feast of Stephen? Good King Wenceslas saw a poor man trying to keep warm with very little fuel, and he had pity on him. Saying to his servant, ‘Bring me bread and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,’ he brought the poor man to his house for dinner, becoming an example, in this carol, for all who have plenty and can give to those in need. It is a reminder to us, even today, that we are called to shout out to our society that we need to care for the vulnerable and needy, to show the world the injustices and corruption that are in our midst, those things that make other people's lives miserable and harsh. It was good to listen this afternoon to the Prime Minister and with those in the consultation from the indigenous people of Australia and formed a new Agreement called, Closing the Gap – a 10 year plan. Indigenous lives are important and they have special difficulties that need to be addressed, and so we pray that as this is a joint agreement that it will have a lasting change for the first people of this nation.

And so, all of this is the spirit of St Stephen's life and death – to give regardless of the cost.

Pax (peace)

Dianne

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

TIS 183 'Sing of the Lord's Goodness' vv. 1&2

- 1 Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us, his love is forever,  
faithful to the end of days.

*Refrain:*

*Come then, all you nations,  
sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory,  
praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.*

- 2 Praise him with your singing, praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp,  
praise him with the cymbals, praise him with your dancing  
praise God till the end of days.

Refrain

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### OFFERTORY HYMN

'Stephen the deacon' Tune TIS 156

1. Stephen the deacon  
worked for the gospel,  
serving his sisters,  
brothers and friends.  
Christ, may our service  
strengthen our witness,  
telling with boldness:  
love never ends.
2. Stephen the preacher,  
full of the Spirit,  
speaking with wisdom  
told of your grace.  
Jesus, come, feed us,  
truthfully teach us,  
help us and lead us,  
keep us in faith.

3. Stephen the martyr  
prayed for his killers,  
Loved those who hated,  
Gently forgave.  
Keep us forgiving,  
Christ, in our suffering;  
Dying and living,  
Your love will save.

4. Stephen the dreamer  
saw you in heaven  
Risen forever,  
Life-giving Lord.  
Christ, make us holy,  
showing your glory,  
telling your story,  
light for the world.

words: Elizabeth J. Smith

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

'For All The Saints' TIS 455

1. For all the saints who from their labours rest,  
who to the world their Lord by faith confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.  
*Hallelujah, hallelujah!*
2. *You were their rock, their fortress and their  
might,  
you were their captain in the well fought fight,  
in deepest darkness still their one true light.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!*
3. *So may your servants, faithful, true and bold,  
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,  
and win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!*
4. *O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine,  
all yours, all joined in unity divine.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!*

William Walsham How  
1823-97 alt

### **“3 THINGS” FROM THE JULY ZOOM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

#### **1. Electronic sign**

The sign has unfortunately stopped working due to some major “internal” issues. Parish Council has confirmed the great value of this sign and approved the repair of it.

#### **2. Survey regarding “reopening”**

Thank you to all those who completed this survey. Your answers and comments were very helpful for Parish Council when the time comes to reopen.

#### **3. Mission Giving / Donation to Anglican Overseas Aid**

Remaining Mission Allocation payments to be made (\$4,000). An extra payment of \$1000 was approved for St Peter’s Anglican Church Eastern Hill Foundation who provides meals to those in need 7 days a week. This donation is as a “thank you” for the government’s funding we are receiving during the pandemic. Council also approved a \$1000 donation to Anglican Overseas Aid in recognition of Refugee and Migrant Sunday which is at the end of August. As we did last year, we will request that this money go towards the Al Ahli Hospital Gaza project which aims to improve the lives of women with breast cancer in Gaza.

<https://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/womens-health-womens-rights-project-gaza/>

#### **Congregational Giving Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> APRIL through until the 30<sup>th</sup> of JUNE 2020**

<b>Giving Category</b>	<b>Amount Given</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Variation from Budget</b>
<b>Open</b>	0	4,119	- 4,119
<b>Envelopes</b>	11,695	23,500	- 11,805
<b>Direct to bank Account</b>	31,251	6,348	+ 24,903
<b>ADF Planned Giving</b>	22,737	24,900	- 2,163
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65,683</b>	<b>58,867</b>	<b>+ 6,816</b>

*The Wardens thank you for your wonderful generosity in these difficult times.*

## MEDITATION PODCAST

Michael Mosley's Meditation Podcast is now available on the Meditation Page of the Parish Website. <https://www.stephenandmary.org.au>

Click on " Groups and Events" ; then " Meditation Groups".  
The audio link is at bottom of " Evening Meditation Groups".



### *Roster for August*

#### **9 August – 10th Sunday After Pentecost**

Genesis 50: 15 – 26                      Val Dyke

Matthew 14: 22 – 36

Intercessor    Michael Mosely

#### **15 August – Mary, the Mother of Our Lord**

Isaiah 61: 10 – 62: 3                      John Leaver

Luke 2: 1 – 7

Intercessor    Joan West

#### **23 August – Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr**

Deuteronomy 18: 15 – 18                  Ron Ritchie

John 1: 45 – 51

Intercessor    Sue Retschko

#### **30 August – Refugee and Migrant Sunday**

Exodus 3: 1 – 15                              Jenny Bowers

Matthew 16: 21 – 28

Intercessor    Christine Mallouhi

Thank you to all our volunteers—if you are able to help please contact Joan West.

#### **Afternoon Meditation Gathering**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month is still being offered during the Coronavirus in our own homes. We keep the same time in our own homes from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

If you are Interested in joining with other parishioners please contact Val and the meditation we will reflect on together will be sent to you. **Our next gathering is Wednesday 5th August.**

#### **Evening Meditation Gatherings**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month meditation sessions are offered, via Zoom, in the Contemplative Traditions of Christian Meditation. The sessions start at 7.30pm but you can enter into the gathering after 7.15pm. Interested parishioners can contact Michael Mosley for more information. The next session will be on **Thursday 13th August** then on **Thursday 27th August.**

# The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

383-385 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168

Office hours: Currently Closed

Email: [parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au) Website: [www.stephenandmary.org.au](http://www.stephenandmary.org.au)

'Like' us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley](http://www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley)

**Priest**

(Day off - Monday)

The Venerable Dianne Sharrock

**Assistant Curate**

(Tues, Wed & Thurs mornings, Fri, Sun)

The Revd Greg Wong

**Children's and Families' Minister**

(Tues 10.00 am - 3.00 pm, Wed 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, Sun 10.30 am - 12.30 pm)

Lisa Eames

**Child Safety Compliance Officer**

Elaine Fasken

**Covid19 Compliance Officer**

Sugan Blanchard

**Music Director**

Brian Copple

**CE Music Coordinator**

Greg Ellsmore

**Treasurer**

Helen Warren

**Office Manager**

Katherine Rushby

**Churchwardens:**

Graeme Dellora

John Foster

Judith Gibson

**Parish Council:**

Sugan Blanchard, David Bruce, Margaret Crawford, Rowena Ferguson, Jennifer Gracie, Nathan Kelly, Frances Ludgate, Sherredan Maher, Helen Warren.

**Pastoral Care Ministry:**

*Aged Care Chaplaincies:*

*Hospital Visiting:*

Clergy

*Funeral Ministry:*

The Vicar

*Contemporary Eucharist Contact:*

Rowena Ferguson

**Spiritual Directors:**

Cath Connelly

Val Dyke

**Prayer Chain contact**

Margaret Syfret

**SERVICE: Sunday 9.45 am**

The Church Office is now **closed**. If you wish to continue to bring food items for the Asylum Seekers or MWCIS and/or your offertory, they can be left in Dianne's front porch.