



# Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Old Town, Stevenage

Priest: Fr Auson Kamugisha, SDS, Old Town Presbytery: 01438 226857  
 Parish Priest of THE COMBINED STEVENAGE PARISHES: Fr Michael Doherty, SDS,  
 Resident at St Hilda's, Shephall. Tel: 01438 352182  
 Lister Hospital: Jacqueline Humphreys Tel: 01438 285518 Mobile: 07884187463  
 Archbishop's Safeguarding Service Co-ordinator Mgr. Harry Turner: Confidential phone  
 numbers: 01582 712245 or 07814 879129  
 Parish Safeguarding Representative: John Sloan 01438 226857 / 01438 220855 and  
 email address john@sloan.me.uk.

**Church of the Transfiguration, Grove Road, Old Town.  
 Postal Address: 4, Basils Road, Stevenage, SG1 3PX  
 Phone: 01438 226857**

Email: [stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk) Web address: [www.stevenage-rc.org.uk](http://www.stevenage-rc.org.uk)

**Fifth Sunday Ord. Time A, *Divine Office week 1***

**9th February 2014**

**"You are the light of the World"**

- 8th Sat No Mass in the morning**  
 18.00: Annie & Ned Kilgallon+
- 9th Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time (A)**  
 11.00: Patrick Mooney +
- 10th Mon No mass**
- 11th Tues Our Lady of Lourdes, Memorial**  
 09.30: Special Intention
- 12th Wed Feria of Ordinary Time**  
 09.30: Priest's Intention
- 13th Thu Feria of Ordinary Time**  
 09.30: Priest's Intention
- 14th Fri St Cyril, Monk & St Methodius, Bishop**  
 09.30: Anne Kavangh Intention
- 15th Sat No Mass in the morning**  
 18.00: People of the Parish
- 16th Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time (A)**  
 11:00: Jimmy Morgant+

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat at 5.15pm – 5.45pm**

**Rosary:** Every day before morning Mass

**Divine Mercy:** Every Friday morning after Mass

**Sunday Readings:** Year A

**Weekday Readings:** 4th Week of Year 2

**Holy Father's Prayer intention for February: GENERAL**

**INTENTION:** That the Church and society may respect the wisdom and experience of older people.

**MISSION INTENTION:** That priests, religious, and lay people may work together with generosity for evangelization.

**Sunday Readings: Year A Weekday Readings: 5<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time**

|                       |                                     |                    |                                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Today's Sunday</b> | Is58:P7-10<br>1Co2:1-5<br>Mt5:13-16 | <b>Thursday</b>    | 1Kgs11:4-13<br>Mk7:24-30              |
| <b>Monday</b>         | Sg8:6-7<br>Lk10:38-42               | <b>Friday</b>      | Acts13:46-49<br>Lk10:1-9              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>        | Is66:10-14<br>Jn2:1-11              | <b>Saturday</b>    | 1Kgs12:26-32;<br>13:33-34<br>Mk8:1-10 |
| <b>Wednesday</b>      | 1kgs10:1-10<br>Mk7:14-23            | <b>Next Sunday</b> | Ecc15:16-20<br>1Co2:6-10<br>Mt5:17-37 |

Today's readings lead us to a discussion of wisdom and light. Immediately after proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus tells His disciples, "**You are the salt of the earth.**" Salt of the earth. He wasn't speaking about that white stuff in a shaker on the table. He was speaking about wisdom. The ancients associated salt with value. Slaves were often purchased for salt. The expression, "He's not worth his salt," is based on this. When Jesus speaks about salt, He is speaking about that which gives us value. That which gives us value is that which we have received from God. That is wisdom. This wisdom, this salt, is a new way of life, far different from the values of the world. We refer to this different way of living, this radically different value system, as the way of holiness. Ancient Christians used to refer to their following of Christ as simply, "**the way.**"

We are surrounded by materialism. We can easily sacrifice the wisdom we have been given, the Wisdom of Living for God, to the foolishness of living for ourselves. What are your goals in life? What are my goals? What are our definitions of "**making it.**" Do we think that happiness will come with the keys to an expensive car, a huge house, a beautiful boat? Do we buy into the lie of materialism? No matter what we say, no matter how much we speak about Jesus, if our real goals and ideals in life are material, our salt will be flat, our wisdom will be nonexistent. But if our definition of "**making it**" is to grow ever closer to the Lord in our lives, to celebrate His Presence in sacrificial love, and for those of you in the sacrament of marriage, to have a family with God as its centre, to raise new members of His Kingdom, if this is what you mean by "**making it,**" then you are very wise. "**You are the light of the world,**" the Lord says. "Your light must shine before others so they can see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." We have a responsibility to others. We have been given the wisdom of God. We have a responsibility to let them experience this wisdom. We need to care for others. People in darkness are looking to the City of God, looking to us, to provide light. "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn," we heard in the first reading from *Isaiah*. Our light should shine by caring for those who need us. When we perform charitable actions, we are beacons of the Light of Christ that has come into the world. We have a responsibility to let others see this light, and through this light find their way out of darkness and despair and into the way of love and fulfilment, the way of holiness. courage to allow our light to shine before others so they can see our way of living, our good deeds, and glorify our Heavenly Father.

**Children's Liturgy:** This Sunday at 11.00 Mass

**Preparing for your Baby's baptism:** Course date 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please take a form, complete part 1, and return to the presbytery no later than Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**First Holy Communion Class:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 9.30am in the church.

**Please pray for all parishioners who are sick:**

Avril Bruce  
Kathy Dickenson  
Cathryn Marioni  
Hazel Kegg  
Monica Brown

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Rota:**

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Mary Canavan  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Nita Holton

**Cleaning Rota:** Nancy Donovan & Molly Turner

**Linen for February:** Emma & Stephen Hogan

**Forthcoming Dates:**

**Second collection** next Sunday is for Catholic Education Service.

**First Holy Communion 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**Confirmation 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

**PPC Meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**Ash Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

**New Years' resolutions** might be forgotten already, so why not make a resolution about your Christian faith this year? To be regular in daily prayer; take up the Scripture Reading notes; learn the Rosary ... the list could be endless, and before we get to Easter you'll wonder how you ever coped before.

**The person who laughs most lives longest.**  
**(William Barclay)**

**Our Lady of Lourdes** - World Day of the sick: February 11<sup>th</sup> marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25<sup>th</sup> she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer and charity. During the Holy Eucharist there will be a prayer for the sick and the Ointment.

**There will be a Mass of welcome for the Cardinal designate**, Vincent Nichols, when he returns from the Consistory and this will be at 5.30pm on Friday, 28 February, Westminster Cathedral.

**St Patrick's Day** is a time of pride and joy for all Irish men and women everywhere and, as is the tradition all over the world, INS will be presenting our Mayor with Shamrock on this special day and would like to invite everyone to join us and to be a part of this important event. The Presentation of Shamrock is being made at 12.00pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at The Holiday Inn, St Georges Way, Stevenage. Following the Presentation there will be a Bacon and Cabbage Lunch, with Apple Crumble Tart for dessert, for which we are making a charge of £8.00 for members and £13.00 for non-members, the afternoon will continue with entertainment until 3.00pm. For more information please contact Elaine Connolly on 725400.

**Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 3:00pm**

The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60 years) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please write a letter to Fr Michael with the following details: husband and wife's name, wedding date, full postal address and email address (or telephone number, if no email).

**Letters should arrive no later than Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014.**

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** The SVP are distributing 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. If you would like to sponsor a pack the suggested donation is £3 per pack. Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, P O Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made payable to SVP or go to **virginmoneygiving.com** and type "Vinnie Packs" into the sponsor a friend box. If you have a query, please email [VinniePacks@hotmail.com](mailto:VinniePacks@hotmail.com)

**Last Week's Offertory Collection**

Last Sunday's collection was Envelopes £496.15, Loose £203.56 S/O £521.50. Many thanks for your generosity.

**Recently Deceased** - We pray for those who have died, particularly for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in peace!*

**In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.**