



# INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

3<sup>RD</sup> OF AUGUST

## THE FINDING OF THE RELICS OF ST. STEPHEN (PROTOMARTYR)

BY ALBAN BUTLER – LIVES OF THE SAINTS



*Invention of the Body of Saint Stephen, Vergós Group, between circa 1495 and circa 1500, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya.*

The second festival in honor of the holy protomartyr St. Stephen was instituted by the Church on the occasion of the discovery of his precious remains. His body lay long concealed, under the ruins of an old tomb, in a place twenty miles from Jerusalem, called Caphargamala, where stood a church which was served by a venerable priest named Lucian. In the year 415, on Friday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December, about nine o'clock at night, Lucian was sleeping in his bed in the baptistery, where he commonly lay in order to guard the sacred vessels of the church. Being half awake, he saw a tall, comely old man of a venerable aspect, who approached him, and, calling him thrice by his name, bid him go to Jerusalem and tell Bishop John to come and open the tombs in which his remains and those of certain

other servants of Christ lay, that through their means God might open to many the gates of His clemency. This vision was repeated twice. After the second time, Lucian went to Jerusalem and laid the whole affair before Bishop John, who bade him go and search for the relics, which, the Bishop concluded, would be found under a heap of small stones which lay in a field near his church. In digging up the earth here, three coffins or chests were found. Lucian sent immediately to acquaint Bishop John with this. He was then at the Council of Diospolis, and, taking along with him Eutonium, Bishop of Sebaste, and Eleutherius, Bishop of Jericho, came to the place. Upon the opening of St. Stephen's coffin the earth shook, and there came out of the coffin such an agreeable odor that no one remembered to have ever smelled anything like it. There was a vast multitude of people assembled in that place, among whom were many persons afflicted with divers distempers, of whom seventy-three recovered their health upon the spot. They kissed the holy relics, and then shut them up. The Bishop consented to leave a small portion of them at Caphargamala; the rest were carried in the coffin



*Manuscript Illumination with the Martyrdom of Saint Stephen in an Initial E, from an Italian Gradual, Niccolò di Giacomo da Bologna, circa 1394–1402, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City*

with singing of psalms and hymns, to the Church of Sion at Jerusalem. The translation was performed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December, on which day the Church hath ever since honored the memory of St. Stephen, commemorating the discovery of his relics on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August probably on account of the dedication of some church in his honor.





*The Stoning of Saint Stephen, Annibale Carracci, 1603-1604, Louvre Museum*

## SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug	12:30 pm	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	PI	PI
Mon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	10:00 am	St. Alphonsus Liguori	Bishop Mark Davies	PI
Tue	3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	6:30 pm	The Finding of the Relics of St. Stephen (Protomartyr)	PI	PI
Wed	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:00 am	St. Dominic, Confessor	PI	PI
Thu	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	6:30 pm	Votive Mass of Jesus Christ, Supreme & Eternal High Priest	PI	PI
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:00 am	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ	PI	PI
Sat	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	10:00 am	Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	PI	PI
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	12:30 pm	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	PI	PI

**All Masses (incl. Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.**

**Note that Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30 pm before the 6.30 pm Mass.**

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA

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