



**St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**  
**St. Luan's R C Church Alyth**  
**St. Mary's Coupar Angus**  
**Gaudete, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Year B 17/12/23**  
**Parish website:** <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>  
**E-mail:** [ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org.uk)



**Gaudete Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Priest:** God's Spirit has led us here.

**People:** And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

**Priest:** God's Spirit has led us here.

**People:** And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

**Priest:** God's Spirit has led us here.

**People:** And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

**Priest:** God's Spirit has led us here.

**People:** And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

**Priest:** There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in the place,

**ALL:** And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent candle is lit:**

**We pray together:**

Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. We wait with hope; we wait with courage; we wait with joy unspeakable, full of glory; we wait with the assurance that The Liberator will come in power, in justice, and in peace. Amen

**This weekend,** John the Baptist says in today's gospel, 'there stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.' The Lord stands among all of us, but he remains unknown to many. Our calling is to make him known, to allow him to shine forth in our world through our lives. John spoke of himself as a voice crying in the wilderness. John used his voice to make known the light. We too are asked to use our voice to make Christ known.

**Prayer for 3rd Sunday of Advent:**

O God, most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly, you hide not your face from the poor; those who dwell in darkness you call into the light. Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts, and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son, we may recognise him in our midst and find joy in his saving presence. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day

draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Parish diary: Week beginning from 17/12/23.**

**Sat** - Vigil Mass 6.30pm- St. Stephen's;

**Sun** - Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's;

-11.00 am in St. Step's:

**Tue** – Mass at 10am in St. Stephen's;

-Nativity Show at St. Stephen's Pri. Sch. 6.30pm

**Wed** - Mass at 7.00pm in St. Stephen's.

**Thurs** - Mass at 10.00am in Step's.

**Fri** - Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's

**Third Sunday of Advent Year B**

**Sat** - Vigil Mass 6.30pm- St. Stephen's

**Sun** - Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's;

- 11.00 am in St. Step's

**Mass intentions for the week:**

**Sat:** 6.30pm, **Sun:** 9.30/11am: For Parishioners reuniting with family this Christmas,

**Tue:** Victoria Whelan,

**Wed:** Sick Parishioners,

**Thurs:** Peace and reconciliation, **Fri:** Peace and reconciliation

**Reflection for this Sunday:** As we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing in the Advent season, this Sunday invites us to immerse ourselves in a spirit of continuous joy, prayer, and gratitude. 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in all circumstances give thanks,' Paul writes, encapsulating the essence of Christian life, especially poignant in the time of Advent... A reflection by Young Catholics

**As the year is coming to an end...** Taking stock means assessing the use of your gifts & talents & opportunities.

**Be a Peacemaker, be reconciled to Christ...**

SAY NO TO ALL WARS! SAY NO TO THE SALE OF WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS! DO NOT INVEST IN COMPANIES THAT PROFIT FROM THE SALE OF ARMS! Be opposed to the use of war or violence to settle a dispute - personal, family, communal, national or international. Talk through your differences with others instead of fighting, using the means of forgiveness and reconciliation. "we must admit that war is always a defeat for humanity." Pope Francis.

**You are never alone:** For a shared a prayer, or just have someone listen to you, a candle lit for you or yours, have a mass offered for your intention or that of a loved one living or dead, please speak to the priest. Thanks.

**Altar Servers** Christmas Party 22/12/23. Lots of fun, party, dance, gift items. Look forward to seeing you.

**Warm Welcome:** Tea/Coffee, biscuits and a warm welcoming space in the Lower Hall after the 11.00am mass every Sunday from the 26<sup>th</sup> of November to May 2024. Please feel free to pop in. More volunteers to help with serving please. Thanks.

**-Dates for the Sacraments** in 2024:

⇒ **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Wednesday, 8th of May 2024. Time.?? **Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sunday, 19th of May 2024. Time 2.00pm. **First Holy Communion** for School and Parish Candidates: Sunday, 2nd of June 2024. Time 2.00pm.

**-Have you prayed your Rosary today? – In your prayers,** kindly remember those on our prayer list: Michael Rolls, Neil Mcdowall. Pam McKenna, Val Naughton, Dr. Paul Kinnear, Mary and George Flockhart, Tomasz Wegner Jaszkin. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Alex Forrester, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Roy Sweeney, Diana Richardson –

**Other Devotional Programmes of the Parish.**

Family Rosary and adoration. Every Wednesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm. -Mass for the sick every Wed 7.00pm, -Sacrament of Reconciliation: 6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday, -Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays after morning mass. -Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

**Today and Up Coming Events:**

- 19<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Nativity Show. It is at 1830 in school.  
-25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Offering. Please support the Special collection.  
-31<sup>st</sup> December Building maintenance Fund collection. please support the Special collection.  
- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Justice and Peace special collection. Please support it.  
-28<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.  
-18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Ecclesiastical Student's Fund. Please support the Special collection.

**-New to the Parish?** Please pick a form at the entrance of the church, complete and hand in the form. Thanks. New members are always welcome to come along and attend or visit the following parish groups: SVDP, Wednesdays 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tuesdays 10.30am; Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm.

**-At this time of the year,** we invite you to choose our Christmas Cards to help our parish and to "Keep Christ in Christmas" Each pack contains assorted cards with envelopes. Also available is our 2024 Diary, rosaries, medals, holy pictures, candles etc and

these will make lovely presents for family and friends. **Please visit Our Parish Repository.**

**-St. Mary's Coupar Angus** will, *ad interim*, be happy to receive and store your unwanted gift items and other items you may wish to donate in support of the Church fund. Please hand them in or leave in the Lower Hall. Stalls will be set up in St. Mary's Coupar Angus at specified date in Spring and Summer. Contact MOB 01828627723.

**-Children's Liturgy:** Many thanks to Mary Wojtowicz and her team of the Liturgists for the wonderful work they do for us and I encourage the parents to please support their children to use this wonderful opportunity.

**-Parish Finances:** All of us hope to leave the world a better place than when we came into it. When making your will please consider leaving something to St. Stephen's R C Church so that you will continue to assist our parish to flourish and leave behind a legacy of Faith. If you feel able to support the parish in whatever way you could via Standing Order, occasional or one- off payment.

**-Offertory Collection** is part of our church tradition. A massive appreciations to those who support the church via Standing Order, Direct debit, telephone transfers, envelops of use of the offertory collection box in the Church. By signing the Gift Aid form, your offertory coll. can earn the parish a bit more. Thanks.

**Details of Parish account:** Royal Bank of Scotland, 14 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AD. Sort code:- **83-16-33**; Account No:- **00240708**. Account name:- Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld No3 Char TST St Stephens RC Church. Many thanks. **\*Last Sun Collection:** ...£202.02, Poor Mission Fund **285.00.** Many thanks

\*Figures exclude takings from Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Thanks.

**-Tear this off please:**... Are you going into the hospital? Do you have someone going into the hospital? Would you like him/her/you to be visited with communion, please fill the form below and return to Fr. Gregory. Name:.....

Hospital:..... Date:.....

*Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday,  
Fr. Gregory Umunna*