



St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie
St. Luan's R C Church Alyth
St. Mary's Coupar Angus
4th Sunday of Advent: Year B 24/12/23
Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>
E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org.uk



Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent

Priest: Mary had the privilege of the First Advent journey! Mary's own journey from the Annunciation to the Nativity was the First Advent.

People: The baby Jesus, the Christ of God, the Emmanuel: God is with us, is the joy and promised fulfilment of Mary's journey of Advent.

Priest: And so the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You shall conceive and bear a son...

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Breaking into songs of joy and thanksgiving Mary said:

People: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ...

The 4th 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

Parish diary: Week beginning from 24/12/23.

Sunday 24th 4th Sunday of Advent - B:-St. Luan's
9.30 am: St. Luan's Alyth

--St. Stephen's 11.00am: St. Stephen's

--**Sun 24th** 6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas preceded by Carol Service at St. Stephen's.

Christmas is a HOLY DAY of obligation

Monday 25th Christmas Day Masses --9.30am:
Carol Service followed by Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

--11.00am: Carol Service followed by Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Tuesday 26th – 10.00am. Feast of St. Stephen. Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Wednesday 27th 10.00am Feast of St John. Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Thursday 28th 10.00am Feast of The Holy Innocents. Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 29th 10.00am mass at St. Stephen's

Sunday 31st Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - B:

-Vigil Mass 6.30pm: mass at St. Stephen's

-9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Monday 1st January 2024 –Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Solemnity.

-10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Mass intentions for the week: For Parishioners reuniting with family this Christmas, for Peace and reconciliation.

Information on Annual Leave: Just to inform all our parishioners that I hope to be away from the parish for my annual leave from the afternoon of 1st of January to the 31st of January 2024. During this period, I will be able to spend time with my family, reunite with priests and religious of my diocese and manage some rest away from parish settings.

Please give our usual warm welcome to Fr. Pio of the Capuchin Order in Dundee who has gladly accepted to cover the masses which will be limited to 9.30am in St. Luan's Alyth and 11.00am in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie every Sunday of the month of January.

In the case of an emergency, Fr. Pio could be contacted on 07823438920.

As we successfully arrive at the end of 2021, I give thanks to the almighty God "in whom we live and move and have our being" Acts 17:28 and I offer my deepest appreciations to all our parishioners for all your unflinching support to the parish throughout 2023. Because of your faith, your support and participation, our parish family is alive, stable and focused. May 2024 usher in for us all, a blessed, healthier, happier and more prosperous individual and parish family lives.

I commend our whole parish and my journey to the powerful intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary the mediatrix of all graces and to your prayerful support. With all my love, Fr. Gregory

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

Be a Peacemaker, 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.

Warm Welcome: Tea/Coffee, biscuits and a warm welcoming space in the Lower Hall after the 11.00am mass every Sunday from the 26th 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.

– **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:

-25th December, Christmas Offering. Please support the Special collection.

-31st December Building maintenance Fund collection. please support the Special collection.

- 7th January 2024, Justice and Peace special collection. Please support it.

-28th January 2024, Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-18th 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*