FRANCIS, BISHOP OF ROME, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD. ON MERCY. TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

12. The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person. The Spouse of Christ must pattern her behaviour after the Son of God who went out to everyone without exception. In the present day, as the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action. It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.

The Church's first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

13. We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord's words: Merciful like the Father. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Lk 6:36). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus's command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. Lk 6:27). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God's mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle. To be continued....

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

Phone: 01250872171. Email: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Address: 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

Hall Reservations: Contact no: 01250872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: N/wells Direct line: 07821624124,

Hospital Pager 01382660111; **P.R.I**: 01738259371. *PIs let the priest know if you are on a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: <u>Please make appointment with Priest</u> before any arrangements are made.

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:SC00810

Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons: (May God bless these & others for their selfless service)

H/T: St. Steph's Primary School: Mrs. Lindsey Smith. Ph: 871950.

Catechists: Ms. Elizabeth Bush: Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Comm & Confirmation

everyin the Hall. Email: alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com Ph:07934884759

Parish Safequarding Coordinator: Mrs. Maureen Jackson. 07952376985; Email: ststephenpsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. Email: irekkowalinski@gmail.com

Music Directors: Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre.

Welcomers: Mary O'Brien, Doreen Robbie, Pat McCarthy, Snooky Marshall, Carol Kennedy, Toni Nugent. Daria Mcdowall (Alvth)

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott.

Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy: Mrs. Mary Wojtowicz

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Mrs. Jean Scott (Blair), Mrs. Elma Sharp (Alyth)

Responsible Person: Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanse Grounds Flowers: Mrs. Jennifer FitzPatrick Adviser on Finance: Mr. Mike Coyle

Adviser on Fabric: Mr. Jim Graham

Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday—Fr. Gregory

Tear this off please: Are you going into	the hospital? Do yo	u have someone going in	to the hospital? Would you like
him/her/you to be visited with	communion, please	e fill the form below and re	eturn to Fr. Gregory.

Name:Hospita	Ji
Date:	

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week. Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171



St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie St. Luan's R C Church Alyth St. Mary's Coupar Angus 7th Sunday Year B 12/5/24



Parish website: https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/ E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE

Warm Welcome to all our Parishioners and visitors. Whether you are visiting our parish or just moved into the area, please feel very welcome ... thanks. Father Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.
Parish website: https://www.ststephensblairgowrie.org.uk/
E-maii: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Contact Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE
01250872171

Parish diary: Week beginning from 12/5/24.

All through the week, Novena to the Holy Spirit in view of Pentecost.

Saturday 11th May - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's Sunday 12th May - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth Sunday 12th May -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 14th May -10.00am: St Matthias. Holy mass at St. Stephen's:

Wed 15th May -1.00pm Priest's meeting all afternoon.

- 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Mass for housebound & loved ones/parishioners who are sick. Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 16th May - 9.30am: mass at St. Luan's;
Friday 17th May - Holy mass at St. Stephen's
Saturday 18th May - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's
Sunday 19th May - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth
Sunday 19th May -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... John 17 contains the inspired record of the High Priestly prayer of Jesus to the Father. In the fifth century, Clement of Alexandria remarked that in this prayer, Jesus was acting as a high priest on behalf of His people.

In one sense, this prayer is the longest and one of many prayers of our Lord. Jesus is often found in prayer in the New Testament. He was in prayer at His baptism, when the Holy Spirit come upon Him (Luke 3:21). He was in prayer when He was transfigured before His three disciples (Luke 9:29). Jesus taught His disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4). He prayed to bless the little children (Matthew 19:13), and He prayed that Peter's faith might not fail (Luke 22:32). Often in the Gospels, we read of our Lord's private prayers, prayers which are not recorded for us to read and to reflect upon (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:18).

Mass intentions for the week:

Mary Mackenzie, Leanne Carr.

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: 5.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday, -Divine Mercy Devotion: Tues after morning mass. -Mass with St. Stephen's Primary School: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

In your prayers, kindly remember those on our prayer list:

Michael Rolls, Neil Mcdowall. Pam McKenna, Val Naugton, Dr. Paul Kinnear, Mary and George Flockhart. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Alex Forrester, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Roy Sweeney, Diana Richardson,

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 to May 2024. Please feel free to pop in. More volunteers to help with serving please. Thanks.

Take time today to contemplate

In John 17, also known as the High Priestly Prayer, Jesus offers a heartfelt intercession to God the Father. Let's explore the key themes and content of this powerful prayer:

1 Jesus Prays for Himself (Verses 1-5):

-Jesus acknowledges His divine mission and the glory of the $\operatorname{Father}.$

-He speaks of His authority over all humanity and His role in offering eternal life, bringing glory to the Father through His mission

2. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Verses 6-19):

-Jesus shifts His prayer to His disciples, praying for their protection, unity, joy, and sanctification.

-He affirms that He has revealed God to them and prays for their safety in the world after His departure.

3. Jesus Prays for All Believers (Verses 20-26):

-Finally, Jesus prays for all those who will come to believe in Him through the disciples' message.



3 Today and Up Coming Events:

-19th May: The Apostolate of Communication. Special collection. Please support it.

26th May: Building maintenance Fund Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm. collection, please support it.

-2nd June -Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion for School and Parish Candidates: Time 11.00am. -2nd June: Day of Life Special Collec-

tion. Please support it.

June 12th: National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland, Edinburgh all morning and afternoon.

-30th June: Building maintenance Fund collection, please support it.

-14th July: Peter's Pence. Please support it.

-28th July: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-11th August: August: The Apostleship of the Sea. Please support it.

Fund collection, please support it.

-15th September: Bishop's Mensal Please support it.

-29th September: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

Introduction to today's Scripture Readings. Acts 1:15-17.20-26: 'Let someone else take his office'. Psalm 102 (103):1-2,11-12,19-20, 1 John 4:11-16: Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him. John 17:11 -19: Father, keep those you have given me true to your name.

-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 Lituraists for the wonderful work they do for us and I encourage the parents

this wonderful opportunity.

-New to the Parish? Please pick a form at the entrance of the church, complete and hand in the form. Thanks. New mem-

can earn the parish a bit more.

Details of Parish account: Royal Bank of Scotland, 14 Allan Street, Blairgow--25th August: Building maintenance rie, PH10 6AD. Sort code:-83-16-33; Account No:- 00240708. Account name:- Trustees of the Roman Catholic Fund/Sick and Retired Priest Fund. Diocese of Dunkeld No3 Char TST St Stephens RC Church. Many thanks.

> *Last Sunday's offertory coll. £458.69; Votive Candles: £73,45 Many thanks for your support to the parish.

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

> First Aid Training: Many thanks to Gerard Cameron and all those working through the programmes of First Aid Training. Very much appreciated.

This 7th Sunday of Easter Year B marks a profound moment in the Christian calendar. It falls between Ascension Thursday, when Jesus ascended into heaven, and Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles. This period invites us to reflect on our role as followers of Christ in a world from which He has physically departed but spiritually remains through the they may be made faithful servants of presence of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospel for the 7th Sunday of Easter

to please support their children to use Year B, we listen to Jesus praying for His disciples. He knows He will soon leave them, and His primary concern is their unity. Jesus prays, 'Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have bers are always welcome to come given me, so that they may be one just along and attend or visit the following as we are one.' This prayer is not just parish groups: SVDP, Wednesdays for the Apostles; it extends to all who 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tuesdays 10.30am; believe in Him through their message. Unity is a key theme in Christianity. -Parish Finances: All of us hope to leave Jesus desires that we, as His followers, the world a better place than when we are united in belief and purpose just as came into it. When making your will He is united with the Father. This unity please consider leaving something to is not about being the same in every St. Stephen's R C Church so that you way; instead, it's about working togethwill continue to assist our parish to er towards a common goal-loving flourish and leave behind a legacy of God and loving others. Jesus' prayer Faith. If you feel able to support the also highlights the role of the Church. parish in whatever way you could He asks for God's protection over His via Standing Order, occasional or followers from the evil one, indicating one-off payment, it would be very the challenges they will face from the much appreciated. By signing the world. The Church is seen as a beacon Gift Aid form, your offertory collection of God's light in a sometimes dark world, a community where believers support one another in faith

—A reflection (abridged) from Young

In Praise of Mary in the Month of May

Hail, holy Lady, most holy Queen, Mary, Mother of God, ever Virgin. You were chosen by the Most High Father in heaven. consecrated by Him, with His most Holy Beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. On you descended and still remains all the fullness of grace and every good.

Hail. His Palace. Hail His Tabernacle. Hail His Robe. Hail His Handmaid. Hail, His Mother. and Hail, all holy Virtues, who, by arace and inspiration of the Holy Spirit,

are poured into the hearts of the faithful

so that from their faithless state. God through you.

Pentecost: Meaning and celebration.

Pentecost occurred in the Bible when the Holy Spirit descended on believers in Acts 2. This is the day when the Holy Spirit appeared as flames of fire over believers' heads as well as He enabled believers to speak in tongues. On that day, everyone heard the gospel preached to them in their own native language. Since Pentecost is a very important day recorded in the Bible, is there a deeper meaning?

The Deeper Meaning of Pentecost

The deeper meaning of Pentecost is that it is cannot. the day when the Holy Spirit officially descended upon believers, and He began dwelling in their hearts. Before the descent of the Holy Spirit, He had not yet been aiven.

Jesus spoke about the future outpouring of the Holy Spirit to His disciples, yet this day did not come into full realization until the day of Pentecost.

The Lord told His disciples. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you: my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:26-27). As Jesus says, the Holy Spirit was going to be sent to them, and He would teach them as well as remind them of all things.

The Holy Spirit is also the Comforter as He fills each of our hearts with the peace that only He can provide. Often the Holy Spirit is overlooked and not given the credit He

Many individuals believe He is a "force." vet the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. This means that He is God, Since the Holy Spirit is God, we know that He is completely trustworthy, loves us, and never will leave us.

The day of Pentecost was the first official day that the Holy Spirit was coming down from heaven to indwell believers.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to produce the fruits of the Spirit and to live as God wants us to live. He also convicts, guides, and instructs us. Before the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was not inactive.

Rather. He was active in the Old Testament: however. He did not permanently indwell believers at this time. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost shows us the deeper meaning of God allowing the Holy Spirit to indwell our hearts.

We are never truly alone because, throughout every day, the Holy Spirit is inside of us. When we pray, He intercedes for us.

The Apostle Paul tells us. "In the same way. the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do

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not know what we ought to pray for, but the you Spirit himself intercedes for us through Never Overlook Pentecost

The Holy Spirit helps us in our moments of is described in Acts because it will ultimately distress, and He quickly comes to our side. bring us back into a closer relationship with In those moments when you are overcome God. with tears or depression, the Holy Spirit is While may not speak in unknown languages. interceding for you in ways that words

cede for us and bring our worries, sufferings, He sent His Spirit to dwell in our hearts. and pain before the Father.

Pentecost also has the deeper meaning that it was one of the key times when the gifts of the Holy Spirit were being poured out unto the people. Before Pentecost, the gifts of the Holy Spirit were not known.

While on the day of Pentecost, believers spoke in tongues, this sign gift is no longer in practice today. The gift of tongues as well of healing were sign gifts.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are Understanding Counsel Fortitude Knowledge

Fear of the Lord

These gifts are first found in the book of Isaiah and are much commented upon by patristic authors.

There are many different views surrounding the gifts of the Spirit; however, each believer can rest in the assurance that they will have at least one gift during their lifetime. Some individuals are very confident in their ability to recognize their spiritual gifts, whereas believers in the early church. It was the day others are not as confident.

If you are not as confident in what your spiritual gifts are, choose to participate in a ministry or step out of your comfort zone to see which spiritual gifts you have been given. However, there is also a theory held by many scholars that no believer has just one spiritual gift, but rather, believers will be gifted with any and all spiritual gifts as they

In other words, whenever a believer is in need of a spiritual gift, the Holy Spirit will give the believer the skills needed to complete the task.

Thus, whenever you doubt your own spiritual gifts, trust in the Lord and know that the Holy Spirit will help you on all occasions to complete the work that has been given to

wordless groans. And he who searches our Pentecost often gets overlooked, yet it hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because shouldn't be. The day of Pentecost reminds the Spirit intercedes for God's people in us of how close believers were at the time accordance with the will of God" (Romans and how much God was in their midst. We need to strive to return to be the church that

we can know that God is still with us. Even though we may not feel Him, He is still We are at a loss for words, yet the Holy there, and He loves us. He has loved us so Spirit isn't. He always knows how to inter- much that He sent His Son to die for us, and

> The event of Pentecost is a blessing, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a blessing. Without the Holy Spirit, we would not be convicted, nor would we be guided as directly as we should be.

> The Holy Spirit is our Comforter, and Jesus gifted us with the Holy Spirit to complete the work He has given us to do.

Each of us is a unique individual with unique as the gift of prophecy and the gift responsibilities that God has given us. The Holy Spirit helps us to complete these responsibilities and to live in a way that brinas God alory.

> We never need to be scared or to doubt because the Holy Spirit is with us every day and He is guiding us on the right path. When we think about sin or are about to sin, the Holy Spirit will convict us.

> The more He convicts us, and we listen, the better we will become at avoiding sin. While none of us will become completely sinless, we know that the Holy Spirit can help us in our struggles against sin.

What Does This Mean?

Therefore, the deeper meaning of Pentecost is that it marked the day when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was done across when believers first began being indwelled by the Holy Spirit.

It was also a day of amazing signs and wonders of the Holy Spirit's gifts. We can all appreciate the wonderful works of the Holy Spirit shown on the day of Pentecost as well as His work in our present everyday lives.

Considering the Priesthood: Have you every thought about a life of loving service to others in God's name?

If so, 'Come and See' at the National Enquirer's Event for anyone considering the Priesthood on Saturday 25 May in Turnbull Hall,

Please be in touch with Fr Jim Walls (stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk; or 01382-611282). Transport will be arranged from Dundee.