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What we're really struggling with? What we're seeking? ...What we really need? What we thirst for? What we hunger for? What is broken in our relationships with the Church? Our joys? Our dreams?

He wanted to involve local churches from the bottom up to work in communion and participation in pursuit of our mission:

to become a listening Church: listening to the Spirit in adoration and prayer: listening to our brothers and sisters speaking of their hopes, of the apparent loss of faith in the world, of a renewed pastoral life and moving towards a synodal church –

Weaving greater friendship with society and the world keep us from becoming a museum Church.

And the People of God spoke up.

As you know, the first of the two Synods on Synodality took place last October.

The purpose was not to make decisions about the hot button topics that were certainly universal themes of concern, but to allow the 370 or so participants a mix of lay men, women, religious, priests, deacon, bishops and cardinals and even the Pope on occasion an experience of the process of synodality.

They began with 3 day retreat led by Fr Timothy Radcliffe who assured them that, by opening their hearts to the Spirit they would find the whole process profoundly spiritual and uplifting. Reports from participants – and particularly our own Bishop Brian McGee the Scottish representative at the synod, confirmed that it was indeed a spiritual experience.

And so grounded in prayer and seated in groups at round tables as equal contributors – no rank pulled – Cardinals, bishops, religious and lay men and women for the very first time engaged in 'Conversations in the Spirit' – which we will experience today – where they expressed their opinions, were listened to without interruption or judgement and in a safe place.

It was not easy. There were tensions, there were disagreements, but there were also changes of heart and mind within the groups and through deep listening, dialogue and in prayer they were given time to discern the voice of the Spirit as they tried to come to a consensus regarding hot button topics identified by the People of God throughout the world: the abuse scandal, the role of women, clerical misuse of power, the importance of lay ministries, the liturgy, the marginalised in society including LGBTQ+ issues, ecumenism and many others.

The second synod takes place in October this year

The outcomes of that synod will be submitted to Pope Francis who will have the final say with regard to changes.

Meanwhile where do we fit in to this process?

Well the bishops were sent back to their countries and dioceses to hand over the fruits of their work and continue journeying together.

The rich experience of 4 weeks of the practise of dialogue prayer and discussion gave them a better understanding of the value of the synodal process.

In the months between to 2 synods bishops have been given guidance on how they might develop synodality in their diocese and each diocesan core group has been asked to write a report on progress and future plans.

As we waited for the appointment of a new bishop we wanted to communicate with the whole diocese. So we designed and published our prayer card invitation and delivered copies to all parishes and schools and today we have planned for you an experience of a 'A Conversation in the Spirit'

Meanwhile local churches are asked to begin to find ways to journey together and Conversations in the Spirit is probably a good place to start because any parish group can hold a conversation about matters that concern them or help transform them.

It's a new way of being church and we will need support.

It means change which will lead us to conversion – a call to holiness. – a fundamental and total uprooting of the heart as we embrace the way of life and love of Jesus.

Pope Francis has planted the seed. We must water it and allow it to germinate We may never see the full bloom. Only God can make it grow.

The future of The Church is in God's hands but as St Theresa of Avila says: we are God's hands and God's feet...

The Future of the Church is in our hands.

So is the Church in Crisis?

Well, if WE don't step up that very well might be the case.

Finally, Take a moment to reflect on the word cloud

These words and the synodal prayer which follows tell us all we need to know about what synodality is.

Let us say the prayer together keeping in mind that every statement can easily become a Conversation in the Spirit for any church group. Thank you.

Maureen Ruddy

Dunkeld Diocese Synod Core Group Member

At the end of the morning session, Canon Kevin and Mgr Aldo Angelosanto celebrated Mass and the day concluded with a plenary session from the morning's discussion groups and a Service of Anointing.

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

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Hall Reservations: Contact no: 01250872171.

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

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

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



St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth

St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Year B 26/5/24

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.st-](https://www.st-stephensblairgowrie.org.uk/)

[stephensblairgowrie.org.uk/](https://www.st-stephensblairgowrie.org.uk/)

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

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Parish diary: Week beginning from 26/5/24.

Saturday 25th May - 5.30pm: Vigil mass of Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity St Stephen's

Sunday 26th May - 9.30 am: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 26th May - 11.00am: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 28th May - 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's:

Wed 29th May : - 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Mass for housebound & loved ones/parishioners who are sick.

Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 30th May - 10.00am: mass at St. Luan's;

Friday 31st May - 10.00am: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Feast) Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Saturday 1st June - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 2nd June - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 2nd June - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's. Bishop Robson's visit to our parish and the conferment of the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation our candidates.

This Sunday, ... Growing and glowing into the likeness of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we celebrate to the inner life of God, the engine house of our Christian faith. The three divine persons are not divided in their actions of grace. Instead, they work and walk together. They have the same mission, which is, the salvation of the world. The Father sent the Son to redeem the world. And the Father and the Son sent us the Holy Spirit as our Counsellor and Advocate. The Holy Trinity reminds us that if we remain united, our different personalities become our strength, rather than our weakness or the cause of our disintegration. For their love and unity, let us praise the Most Holy Trinity.

Mass intentions for the week:

Fr. Bogdan, Fr Sylvanus Okechukwu, Fr. Jan Dumon, Aloysius Umunna, Georgina Ajas

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 Naughton, Dr. Paul Kinneer, 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.

Tea/Coffee. Over the recent months, tea and coffee has been served in the Lower Hall after 11.00am mass in St. Stephens. Although the funding for Warm Spaces has now expired, it has been decided to continue with the tea and coffee every Sunday morning after 11.00am mass. A rota of helpers was suggested and, at the moment, eight names have come forward to help and make and serve tea and coffee. Two people at a time are needed to do this. For all

parishioners and visitors who attend mass, coming together after mass is an excellent way to meet, socialise and get to know one another. If you feel you would want to get involved and join the rota of helpers, please call or text Maureen on 07952376985. Thanks

Take time today to contemplate ...how, reflecting on the Holy Trinity, we can live and work together as one family of God. This is because, we bear one and the same image of God, and were baptised by the same Spirit of God whose mark we bear. So, in spite of our individual personalities and differences unity is possible and a fundamental option. Hence, today's celebration has much to teach us about unity in our relationships, friendships, marriages, communities. It also reminds us that in spite of our different talents, gifts, social, and economic levels, we can live and work together for our salvation and our salvation of the world.

Let us Pray: Opening Prayer. Lord our God, you are one God, one Lord, not in the unity of a single person but in a Trinity of one nature. All that you reveal of your glory we believe also of your Son and of the Holy Spirit. In confessing the true and eternal Godhead we adore three distinct Persons, one in being and equal in majesty. Inspire us to work and walk together, may our lives reflect the Trinity, always creative like the Father, compassionate like his Son, and able to dispose our talents in the service of others like the Holy Spirit. We make our prayers through the same God of love: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com

Phone: 01250 872171



A pledge of prayers from St. Stephen's R C Church to Hon. John Swinney on his new role as First Minister.

On behalf of St. Stephen's parish and worshipping community, I would like to express our congratulations to John Swinney as well as pledge of our prayers to him and his family for God's guidance, health and wellbeing in view of the enormous responsibilities recently entrusted to him.

Spring cleaning to benefit Soup Kitchen:

Your Spring cleanings could translate to many happy little tummies. St. Stephen's Parish will be reaching out to many children that are supported through a soup Kitchen in Africa. Please let us have whatever is of value after your Spring Cleaning as we plan ahead of a Summer Charity shop in support of a Soup Kitchen supporting many children. Contact: Fr. Gregory, Daria McDowall (Alyth) Mary O'Brien and Maureen Jackson, Gail McIntyre (Blairgowrie) Please support it. Thanks.

Diocesan Blessed Sacrament Celebration on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi

While in years gone by this would have been a major diocesan event, as we know it now tends to be very much lower key. However, we shall have a Procession and Celebration in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction, in St Andrew's Cathedral on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, Sunday 2 June. It will last no more than one hour. I invite you to come and join in the celebration, in choir dress if you wish, and I ask you please to bring the event to the attention of your parishioners by intimating the details in your newsletter/announcements and displaying the attached poster. Thank you.

Monday 10 June, 18:00 Participating in Democracy.

Church Times and Modern Church are excited to collaborate for a new webinar series in anticipation of this year's General Election. An expert panel will discuss themes in political

theology and ask pertinent questions about faith and democracy.

Sunday 28 July Grandparents Day.

Pope Francis has released the theme for 2024 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday 28 July: Do not cast me off in my old age. Please check the Catholic Grandparents Association website for more information and events.

Assisted Dying. The Isle of Man could become the first part of the British Isles to pass assisted dying legislation after a crucial vote on Dr Alex Allinson's Private Members' Bill in the House of Keys earlier this week. Members of the House of Keys voted to increase the required residency period on the Isle of Man from one year to five, after concerns it could encourage 'death tourism'. MHKs also backed a change to allow those with less than a year to live to have the right to die, rather than six months to live - as originally proposed. MHKs rejected a bid to prevent NHS staff from having a role in assisted dying. Further consideration of the Bill is expected to take place on 11 June.

sex education

There is widespread concern among parents in England regarding the content of what is being taught to their children in relationships and sex education (RSE) lessons. Nearly half of parents surveyed (46%) expressed some level of concern about what their children are being taught but many say they are being kept in the dark. Despite a statutory requirement that parents are consulted, among those who had asked to see the materials being used to teach their children, nearly half (44%) said these requests had been denied. Young families might want to make efforts to know what is available to the wards at school in this area.

-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.

Today and Up Coming Events:

26th May: Building maintenance Fund 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 Collection. 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.

-25th August: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-15th September: Bishop's Mensal Fund/Sick and Retired Priest Fund. Please support it.

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



-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, it would be very much appreciated. By signing the Gift Aid form, your offertory collection can earn the parish a bit more.

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 Sunday's offertory coll. £476.01; Communication £110.75.** 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.

Introduction to today's Scripture Readings. Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40 — Moses reminds the people about God's deeds, and declares that there is but one God.

Romans 8:14-17 — We are all God's children, co-heirs with Christ, filled with the Spirit.

Matthew 28: 16-20 — The disciples are given the mission to preach and baptise in the name of the Trinity.

-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.

Reflection: On the Lessons of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Today, the church reminds us that the three divine persons are not divided in their actions of grace. Instead, they work and walk together. They have the same mission, which is, the salvation of the world. The Father sent the Son to redeem the world. And the Father and the Son sent us the Holy Spirit as our Counsellor and Advocate. None of them have absolute dominance of a particular period or time. This is because, in spite of being three distinct persons, they have one essence. They are eternally one and united.

So, the prayer of Christ to the father: *'May they be one, as we are One'*; is a prayer that arises from Trinitarian love. Therefore, the whole church, and each family that forms the universal Church is the sacrament of the Trinity, and as such must be characterised by love and unity.

Therefore, what we celebrate today is a model for our unity. We have many lessons to learn from the Holy Trinity.

The most important is that, like the Holy Trinity, we can live and work together as one family of God. This is because, we bear one and the same image of God, and were baptised by the same Spirit of God whose mark we bear. So, in spite of our individual personalities and differences unity is possible and a fundamental option. Hence, today's celebration has much to teach us about unity in our relationships, friendships, marriages, communities. It also reminds us that in spite of our different talents, gifts, social, and economic levels, we can live and work together for our salvation and our salvation of the world.

Finally, the celebration of the Holy Trinity reminds us that if we remain united, our different personalities become our strength, rather than our weakness or the cause of our disintegration. For their love and unity, let us praise the Most Holy Trinity: *Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

An extract from a reflection by Fr Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, CSSp

Some have asked...

"So, what does Jesus do in heaven? He is there for us before the Father, continually showing our humanity to him — showing him his wounds. I like to think that Jesus, prays like this in front of the Father — showing him his wounds. "This is what I suffered for humanity: Do something!" He shows him the price of redemption and the Father is moved." Pope Francis

SYNOD UPDATE

Presentation by Maureen Ruddy
Some people say the Church is in crisis. Well there's no doubt that there are problems. We all know most of our children and grandchildren no longer practise but still have spiritual needs. There is poor attendance at our Sunday Masses. The young people and families are missing. It seems that the Church has no relevance for them and their 21st century lives. Certainly clerical and religious abuse has horrified all of us and together with financial scandals, the reputation of the Church had been somewhat tarnished. We have fewer and fewer priests. And we've had the pandemic. But is the Church in crisis? Well I tend to agree with those who say a

crisis is something that we have no warning about something we are unprepared for and something that we can do nothing about, and if that is the case, then the Church is not in crisis.

The warnings were there and although we've been feeling a bit despondent we're not entirely surprised.

AND we CAN certainly step up and do something about it. 60 yrs ago St Pope John 23rd opened the Second Vatican Council wanting to let fresh air into the Church and that council laid foundations for a renewal process that is continuing. They say it takes 100 yrs to fulfill the outcomes of a Vatican Council so we have 40 yrs to go.

The problem is society has moved on at a pace but the Church is still in catch up. Culture and society are no longer in tune with the Gospel
What can be done?

Pope Francis tells us it's not time to become a new Church, but to become a better way of being Church and the model he champions is one of all of us walking together – synodality.

Everyone, the Pope cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, religious and lay people who by virtue of their baptismal vocation must be given and equal voice in matters concerning the Church.

Sometimes concerning the global church, other times the diocese and other times the local parish; where every voice is listened to with respect and without judgement; where they are heard and where people are given opportunities to be still and discern, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, the main protagonist in this process, and so help influence decisions. Synodality was the model of governance advocated by Vatican II 1962-65. It's time to get on with it.

It's really nothing new in that the apostles in the early Church at The Council of Jerusalem for example we're told that the whole community met together before decisions were made ; the Church in South America adopted a synodal approach in 1968; there have number of Synods of Bishops only since Vatican 2 and recently the Pope has hosted high-profile synods on the family, young people and the Amazon in Rome.

Now synodality – this way of working – It's not a panacea for all the ills of the Church, but it's a tried and tested way of going forward.

AND FORWARD WE MUST!

In light of this, in 2021 Pope Francis called for two synod assemblies but with a difference. He wanted to hear the voices of the People of God throughout the world and we contributed to that—Our concerns?