

Continued from Page 3. This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! When faced with evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes, it is the time to listen to the cry of innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their very lives. To stick to the way of evil will only leave one deluded and sad. True life is something entirely different. God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen, as I am too, along with my brother bishops and priests. All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church.

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. *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.

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 Safeguarding 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 (Alyth)

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott.

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

Responsible Person for Lectors:

Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues: SSVDP

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

Responsible Person: Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanese

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 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:.....

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

11th Sunday Year B 16/6/24

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.

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.
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E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Contact Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE
01250872171

Parish diary: Week beginning from 16/6/24.

Saturday 15th June - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

Sunday 16th June - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 16th June - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 17th June - 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's; St. Bernard. Memorial

Wed 19th June - 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Mass for housebound & loved ones/parishioners who are sick. Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 20th June - 10.00am: mass at St. Luan's; St. Anthony of Padua. Memorial

Friday 21st June - 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Saturday 22nd June - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 23rd June - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 23rd June - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

We walk by faith, not by sight

This Sunday, ... The parables presented to us in the gospel have images of growth in creation. The seed has so much potentials as it echoes the growth of faith. This little seed has within it the potential to become the largest of plants, a source of food, and a dwelling place for the birds of the air. Reflect, today, upon the incredible potential that God has placed within your soul. He made you with the intention to bring forth His Kingdom through you and to do so in an abundant way. It is your responsibility to simply believe this and to allow God to do what He desires to do in your life.

Mass intentions for the week:

11am - Fr. Christian Akwari; 9.30am - Allison McIntyre,

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...

The tiny seed with so much potentials. The truth is that each one of us is packed with unbelievable potential that God wants to bring to fruition. He wants to bring forth from our lives glorious blessings for the world. All we must do is allow Him to work. Like a seed, we must allow ourselves to be planted in the fertile soil of His mercy through faith and surrender to His divine will. We must be watered by daily prayer and allow the rays of the Son of God to shine on us so that He can bring forth from us, all that He desires and has planned for the foundation of the world.

Let us Pray: O God, at whose bidding the seed will sprout and the shoot grow toward full stature, hear the prayer of your assembled people. Make us trust in your hidden ways, that we may pray with confidence and wait for your kingdom now growing in our midst. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. God for ever and ever.



Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 17:22-24 The Lord raises a great tree to himself, humbling all other trees considered great. This tree is an image of the mustard tree mentioned in the Gospel

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Christians are always full of confidence, which is built on the Lord.
Mark 4:26-34 Jesus presents two parables with images of growth in creation, which echo the growth of faith.

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, Rolly Colanse, Maureen Jackson and Gail McIntyre (Blairgowrie) Please support it. Thanks.

Coffee Morning In Support of Happy Little Tummies Soup Kitchen in Africa.

Date: Saturday 10th August 2024 in Airlie Street Hall, Alyth. Sheets will be available at the back of St. Stephens and St. Luan's over the coming weeks for you to put your name down if you'd like to contribute refreshments/baked goods/biscuits etc and or help out on that day. Contact: Fr. Gregory, Daria McDowall (Alyth) Mary O'Brien, Rolly Colanse and Maureen Jackson, Gail McIntyre

Dunkeld Lourdes Pilgrimage

are holding their pre-pilgrimage Mass in St Leonard & Fergus, Dundee at 6.30pm on Thursday 20th of June 2024. There will be refreshments in the Church Hall after Mass and everyone is welcome. Thank you. Ruth Anne

MARY'S MEALS COFFEE MORNING

will be held on Saturday 13th July at 10 – Noon in Blairgowrie Town Hall. We are

a month late this year due to renovations taking place in the hall in June. As a result many of our dedicated helpers are no longer available. If you can help us on the day with your time to man stalls or to serve please let Lynne Fryer know by email mmsarf9@outlook.com or ring 01250 872512. Also let her know if you can bake, supply raffles, tombola prizes or bottles. I hope you will support Lynne as she takes over from me as our new coordinator.

Mary's Meals are also screening the plight of people in Tigray and Ethiopia. This will be shown at the Queens Hotel Dundee on Wednesday 26th June at 7.30. Doors will open at 7 pm. Again let Lynne know and transport could be shared. Thank you again for all you have done in the past. Margaret 01250 87508.

The date of the Episcopal Ordination

of Bishop-Elect Andrew McKenzie has been confirmed. The ordination will take place in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, 10th August, 2024. Tickets will be allocated to parishes in due course. Meanwhile, we keep Andrew in our prayers.

-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: SVPD, Wednesdays 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tuesdays 10.30am; Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm.

Today and Up Coming Events:

-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. £547.13** 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.

**Parish Fete
St Stephen's and St. Luan's
Parish**



Featuring outdoor games, entertainment, barbeques, food stalls, and fundraising activities.

These events bring local communities together & celebrate local life.

**Date: September 13th-15th
Place St. Stephens**

The parable of the mustard seed in the Gospel shows us that God is with us in our small efforts and will use them to build His kingdom.



-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: The second parable in today's gospel reminds us that God can be at work in situations and places that seem very unpromising to us. There is a stark contrast between the tiny mustard seed (the smallest of all the seeds), and the large shrub that grows from it, in whose branches the birds of the air can nest. Insignificant beginnings can lead to a wonderful result. The kingdom of God is like that: it often finds expression initially in what is small and seemingly insignificant. We can feel that our own faith is insignificant, as small as a mustard seed. Jesus assures us that the Spirit is working in and through such faith. Our hope can appear to diminish to the size of a mustard seed. The parable says that such hope is enough for the Lord to work with. Our various efforts can seem to bear very insignificant results. The parable assures us that the Lord will see to it that the final harvest from those efforts will be abundant. Sometimes we have to learn to be content with the small seeds that we can sow, trusting them to bear fruit in ways that will surprise us. The kingdom of God is something very humble and modest in its origins. We need to learn to appreciate little things and small gestures. We may not feel called to be heroes or martyrs every day, but we are called to put a little dignity into each corner of our little world. There are little seeds of the kingdom that all of us can sow, a friendly gesture towards someone in trouble, a welcom-

ing smile for someone who is alone, a sign of closeness for someone who is in despair, a little ray of joy for a heart full of distress. God's reign comes in power through the seemingly insignificant actions of each of one us. **ACP**

Pope Francis: On Mercy. (Misericordiae Vultus)

18. During Lent of this Holy Year, I intend to send out Missionaries of Mercy. They will be a sign of the Church's maternal solicitude for the People of God, enabling them to enter the profound richness of this mystery so fundamental to the faith. There will be priests to whom I will grant the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See, so that the breadth of their mandate as confessors will be even clearer. They will be, above all, living signs of the Father's readiness to welcome those in search of his pardon. They will be missionaries of mercy because they will be facilitators of a truly human encounter, a source of liberation, rich with responsibility for overcoming obstacles and taking up the new life of Baptism again. They will be led in their mission by the words of the Apostle: "For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all" (Rom 11:32). Everyone, in fact, without exception, is called to embrace the call to mercy. May these Missionaries live this call with the assurance that they can fix their eyes on Jesus, "the merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God" (Heb 2:17). I ask my brother Bishops to invite and welcome these Missionaries so that they can be, above all, persuasive preachers of mercy. May individual dioceses organize "missions to the people" in such a way that these Missionaries may be heralds of joy and forgiveness. Bishops are asked to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with their people so that the time of grace made possible by the Jubilee year makes it possible for many of God's sons and daughters to take up once again the journey to the Father's house. May pastors, especially during the liturgical season of Lent, be diligent in calling back the faithful "to the

throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace" (Heb 4:16).

19. May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. I direct this invitation to conversion even more fervently to those whose behaviour distances them from the grace of God. I particularly have in mind men and women belonging to criminal organizations of any kind. For their own good, I beg them to change their lives. I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner. Do not fall into the terrible trap of thinking that life depends on money and that, in comparison with money, anything else is devoid of value or dignity. This is nothing but an illusion! We cannot take money with us into the life beyond. Money does not bring us happiness. Violence inflicted for the sake of amassing riches soaked in blood makes one neither powerful nor immortal. Everyone, sooner or later, will be subject to God's judgment, from which no one can escape.

The same invitation is extended to those who either perpetrate or participate in corruption. This festering wound is a grave sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance, because it threatens the very foundations of personal and social life. Corruption prevents us from looking to the future with hope, because its tyrannical greed shatters the plans of the weak and tramples upon the poorest of the poor. It is an evil that embeds itself into the actions of everyday life and spreads, causing great public scandal. Corruption is a sinful hardening of the heart that replaces God with the illusion that money is a form of power. It is a work of darkness, fed by suspicion and intrigue. *Corruptio optimi pessima*, saint Gregory the Great said with good reason, affirming that no one can think himself immune from this temptation. If we want to drive it out from personal and social life, we need prudence, vigilance, loyalty, transparency, together with the courage to denounce any wrongdoing. If it is not combated openly, sooner or later everyone will become an accomplice to it, and it will end up destroying our very existence.