

Continued from Page 3., at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace. I will never tire of insisting that confessors be authentic signs of the Father's mercy. We do not become good confessors automatically. We become good confessors when, above all, we allow ourselves to be penitents in search of his mercy. Let us never forget that to be confessors means to participate in the very mission of Jesus to be a concrete sign of the constancy of divine love that pardons and saves. We priests have received the gift of the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins, and we are responsible for this. None of us wields power over this Sacrament; rather, we are faithful servants of God's mercy through it. Every confessor must accept the faithful as the father in the parable of the prodigal son: a father who runs out to meet his son despite the fact that he has squandered away his inheritance. Confessors are called to embrace the repentant son who comes back home and to express the joy of having him back again. Let us never tire of also going out to the other son who stands outside, incapable of rejoicing, in order to explain to him that his judgement is severe and unjust and meaningless in light of the father's boundless mercy. May confessors not ask useless questions, but like the father in the parable, interrupt the speech prepared ahead of time by the prodigal son, so that confessors will learn to accept the plea for help and mercy pouring from the heart of every penitent. In short, confessors are called to be a sign of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what.

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

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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: irekkawalinski@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

10th Sunday Year B 9/6/24

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.
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01250872171

Parish diary: Week beginning from 9/6/24.

Saturday 8th June - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

Sunday 9th June - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 9th June -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 11th June -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's; St. Bernard. Memorial

Wed 12th June - 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Mass for housebound & loved ones/parishioners who are sick. Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 13th June - 10.00am: mass at St. Luan's; St. Anthony of Padua. Memorial

Friday 14th June - 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

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.

This Sunday, ... A thread running through today's readings is about the threat of evil in human existence. The Genesis text deals with the origin of evil — it comes both from outside man (as the Serpent-Tempter) and also from within. The human condition with its experience of disharmony in human relationships and in our relationship with God is presented as a fall from the ideal, and this disharmony which is the essence of evil, is the result of sin.

Mass intentions for the week:

11 am - Duncan Campbell (Anniversary), 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... It has become fashionable in our time to reject the doctrine of original sin, which, the catechism said, left us "prone to evil." But in myriad ways our daily newspapers confirm this doctrine. Four times each day, morning, midday, evening and night, newscasters chronicle in words and pictures the spectacle of man's inhumanity to man. Through our mass-media, no generation was ever better informed than ours of the effects of original sin. We can think of many spectacular examples. Our own sins may be less newsworthy but nonetheless deadly. The psalmist speaks for all of us. "If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: For this we revere you."

Let us Pray:

God our Redeemer, in Jesus, your promised Messiah, you crushed the power of Satan. Sustain your Church in the struggle against evil, that, hearing your word and doing your will, we may be fashioned into a household of true disciples who share in the victory of the cross. Grant 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. Amen.



Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Evil is too well documented to be dismissed as just a religious concept. It thrives precisely because many choose to ignore it. Like the psalmist, we recognise our complicity and seek forgiveness.

Genesis 3:9-15 — The ancient story of Adam and Eve gives an understanding of sin as part of the human condition; from this condition, Christ calls us to repentance.

2 Corinthians 4:13 to 5:1 — For the next five Sundays, the second reading is from 2 Corinthians, a letter in which Paul tried to keep the Christians of Corinth on a steady track. Today's section sets out priorities for new Christians.

Mark 3:20-35 — The message of Jesus in this Gospel can be hard to understand; Jesus preaches in a very challenging way.

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

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.

-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:

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. £418.22; BMF: £302.57. Donation from a parishioner (Anonymous) for Tea/coffee £1000.** 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



-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: Overcoming evil

A thread running through today's readings is about the threat of evil in human existence. The Genesis text deals with the origin of evil — it comes both from outside man (as the Serpent-Tempter) and also from within. The human condition with its experience of disharmony in human relationships and in our relationship with God is presented as a fall from the ideal, and this disharmony which is the essence of evil, is the result of sin.

The homilist might develop the notion of evil from contemporary examples — e. g. of political and social discord fragmenting societies with oppression and violent revolution, disharmony in family life, and the resulting chain reaction of bitter responses. Just as in the case of Adam and Eve, sin is never a private affair; it always has social implications, for others are affected.

On this theme of disharmony the parable of Jesus takes on a resonance that was not originally intended; a house divided cannot stand. Equally we can see that a humanity radically divided and fighting against itself cannot survive, since our ingenious creativity has put so much destructive power in our hands. One of the paradoxes of the human situation seems to be that the more we develop our control over the world and the more good we are capable of producing, the more the possibilities for evil also proliferate. This is the Achilles heel, the radical flaw in the fallen human condition.

This ambiguity was hinted at in the Genesis text when it says: "He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Human achievements are so often flawed; we can build our towers to the heavens but they become a Babel of confusion and races. What hope is there then for us? The Gospel provides a way forward. What was hinted at in Genesis came to its full revelation in the ministry of Jesus, who worked to fully overcome the power and influence of evil. What he revealed in action was God's power restoring creation — healing women and men and making them whole again. From here on our humankind is no longer left on its own in a hopeless struggle against evil. It is now possible for us to share in the new creation, if we belong to Christ.

Still, there is nothing overwhelming about the presence of God in Jesus, as we can see from the cynical reaction of the scribes to him. Pride, the desire to make oneself the arbiter of all that is good, motivates them to see in Jesus not the visible power of the Spirit of God, but a trick of the devil. What seemed to be good they could not deny but only reinterpret, in order to hold on to their own fixed position. Such a closed mentality merits the censure of Jesus; he reminds us that we must be ready to see God's goodness in unexpected places. Our road back to the new creation involves true openness and humility. It is a journey that does not involve positions of guaranteed privilege. Even the blood relatives of Jesus have no special standing in the kingdom. To belong to Jesus is equally open to all; the only condition is our readiness to commit oneself to doing the Father's will. This was the commitment that Adam and Eve failed to make but which is opened up to us in Christ. **-By ACP.**

Pope Francis: On Mercy. (Misericordiae Vultus.)

17. The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during

the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father! We can repeat the words of the prophet Micah and make them our own: You, O Lord, are a God who takes away iniquity and pardons sin, who does not hold your anger forever, but are pleased to show mercy. You, Lord, will return to us and have pity on your people. You will trample down our sins and toss them into the depths of the sea (cf. 7:18-19).

The pages of the prophet Isaiah can also be meditated upon concretely during this season of prayer, fasting, and works of charity: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, here I am. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (58:6-11).

The initiative of "24 Hours for the Lord," to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation...cont p4

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

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171

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Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No: