

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth & St. Mary's Coupar Angus

20th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 18/8/24

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

Parish Priest: Father Gregory Umunna Ph.D Phone: 01250872171

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org. Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

Invited to dine with Jesus

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.

Parish diary: Week beginning from 18/8/24.

Saturday 17th August - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

Sunday 18th August - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 18th August -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 20th August -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **St. Bernard**

Wednesday 21st August – 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's. **St. Pius X**

Thursday 22nd August -10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's. **Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Friday 23rd August - 10.00am: St. Stephen's.

Saturday 24th August - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 25th August - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 26th August -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... Still on the Eucharistic Bread! This time, Jesus becomes more emphatic in his teaching. Not only is he the living bread come down from heaven, but he tell the crowd, "if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you will not have life in you. He who eats his flesh and drinks his blood lives in him, and he in them. As he draws life from the father, so those who eat this bread draw new life from Jesus.

Mass intentions for the week:

Jim Warden, Brendan McGovern

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 Kinneary, Mary and George Flockhart. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Alex Forrester, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Roy Sweeney, Diana Richardson, Bill Waldron, Giles Umunna.

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, Everyone is welcome to tea and coffee served in the Lower Hall after 11.00am mass in St. Stephens every Sunday morning after 11.00am mass. Thanks.

Take time today to contemplate ... In every case Jesus lifts his heart and mind to God in the word 'berakah'; it is this Jewish word that is translated as 'eucharist'. The word berakah can have three meanings; to praise, to thank, or to bless. To have an attitude towards God expressed by berakah is to have an abiding sense of gratefulness. To approach Eucharist with a grateful heart requires that we celebrate what we practise. For our families, our communities, our world, we praise you, we bless you, we thank you. For each part of each day and the stretches of the night, we praise you, we bless you, we thank you. At Communion, as Jesus *draws* the Father's *life* into him, we too might *draw* Jesus' *life* into us: As the Gospel said: *As I who am sent by the living Father myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me.* Communion is the source of a challenging transformation, a call to a profound commitment and gratefulness.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings: Proverbs (9:1-6 Wisdom has built her house with seven pillars; Responsorial: from Psalm 34 R./: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord; Ephesians 5:15-20; Make the most of each day, according to the will of God; Gospel: John 6:51-58 Jesus is the living bread for believers.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF HAPPY TUMMIES: Many thanks to Daria, her team and everyone who helped to organise the just concluded Coffee morning in Alyth. Thanks to those baked, donated items or helped to man the stalls. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

St. Stephen's Diversity Day Celebration: Programme: September: 13-15th

Friday: ---13th September 10.00am - 3.00pm Jumble sales in St. Mary's Coupar Angus. Please get in touch with MOB, Maureen Jackson.

-----6.00pm. Parish Family Social Evening. BYOB. This summer we're creating our own production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream", especially tailored to our parish. Please get in touch with Esther Brown.

Saturday 14th: 10.00am - 3.00pm. Jumble sales in St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Sunday 15th: 11.00am. Diversity Day Celebration Mass. Tea & Coffee in the Lower Hall after mass

-From Marion Duffy: Marion Duffy would like to thank Fr. Gregory, Daria McDowell, her fellow lay readers and all those who contributed to the fine words, lovely flowers and gifts on the occasion of her moving to Fife. She will always treasure the memories of a very special day.

-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.

From the Churches Together group 1. Flower and Craft Festival held in Rattray Parish Church from Thursday 8th August until Sunday 11th August from 2.00 – 4.00pm. 2. Charity Shop for Christian Aid held in Reuse Shop, Coupar Angus from Monday 5th August until Friday 9th August. Shop is open from 9.30am to 4.30pm each day.

Assisted Suicide Short Survey: The Scottish Parliament Health Committee is asking for your views on proposals to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland. <https://rcpolitics.org/assisted-suicide-committee-call-for-views/>

Today and Up Coming Events: -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. -20th October: Mission Sunday. Please support it. -27th October: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it. -10th November: Catholic Education Week Special Collection. Please support it. -24th November: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

Berry Picking: St. Stephens Parish: We require volunteers for attendance at this August and October berry picking - for duties such as visitors parking, ushering visitors to the berries sales and general assistance. Volunteers may also get an opportunity to pick their own but their task will be all-consuming. Dates for your diaries: Tuesday, August 20th 3pm to 6pm; and Wednesday 2nd October 10am to 1.00pm. Interested volunteers please speak to **Esther Brown** at **07402358511** and **Anna Makova** annamarkova161@yahoo.com; annamarkova161@yahoo.com who get us organised and will lead volunteer members of St. Stephen on those two dates.

SEASON OF CREATION CONFERENCE 2024: The Care of Creation Office of the Bishops' Conference has organised a National Conference for this year's Season of Creation which runs from 1st September – 4th October 2024. The Conference will take place on **Saturday 7th September 2024**, from 10am – 3pm in St. Margaret's Parish Hall, Raploch, Stirling. The guest speaker is Ben Wilson, Director of Public Engagement for SCIAF. If interested in attending, please complete a booking form here www.tinyurl.com/46wmt9ah and more details about this free day will follow.

Diocesan Synod Day - Saturday 24 August *The Diocesan Synod Core Group* invite us to share in "A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF SYNODALITY", at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, St Mary's Hall, Forebank Road, DD1 2PF, on Saturday 24 August 2024 from 10am to 2pm. The guest presenter will be Amy Cameron, Director of Formation and Mission Development in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. I attach a poster for display and ask you to bring this event to the attention of your parishioners through your newsletter. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee will be provided. Those wishing to reserve a place should email StAndrew@dunkelldiocese.org.uk or text 07948 215010 by Thursday 15 August.

-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. £494.14; Apostleship of the Sea: £221.40.** 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.

"What is said about the Church in general applies to every single baptized person", the Pope continued. When we find ourselves "in situations beyond our own strength", he continued, we do well "to resume our journey with this comforting thought," by recalling the words of the Angel to Mary, "With God, nothing will be impossible". "And if we believe this," he said, "we will perform miracles. Nothing is impossible for God."—Pope Francis.

---Wishing you a lovely Sunday, Fr. Greg.