

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

21st Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 25/8/24

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

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

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good

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 25/8/24.

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

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

Sunday 25th August -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tuesday 27th August -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **St. Monica**

Wednesday 28th 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. Augustine**

Thursday 29th August -10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's. **The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

“ **Meeting of Priests: St. Mary's Fore bank 1.00pm**

Friday 30th August - 10.00am: St. Stephen's.

Saturday 31st August - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 1st September - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 1st September -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... The teaching and the life of Jesus will always challenge us at some level of our being. There may even be times when we will feel like walking away from it. That is why it is so important for us to keep renewing our response to the Lord's presence and invitation. The Eucharist is the primary moment when we commit ourselves again to the Lord's vision for our lives; it is our weekly opportunity to make our own those words of Peter in today's gospel, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.'

Mass intentions for the week:

For the intentions of Bishop Andrew McKenzie for the diocese of Dunkeld

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 Kinnear, 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 today's gospel some of Jesus' own disciples express their unease with this language. 'This is intolerable language', they say, 'How could anyone accept it?' Jesus is portrayed in that reading as being very aware that some of his followers were complaining. Yet, he did not make any effort to soften his teaching in order to hold on to his numbers. Rather, he insists that the words he has been speaking, all his words, are spirit and life. As a result, the gospel tells us that 'many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.' Jesus suddenly lost a whole swathe of his following. From the perspective of the culture of the time and of our own culture he was suddenly less successful. According to the gospel, Jesus even turned to the Twelve apostles, his core group, and asked them, 'What about you? Do you want to go away too?' He was prepared to suffer a haemorrhage from that core group rather than compromise on the teaching that he had given. It seems that numbers were not important to him. What was important to him was proclaiming the truth as he had heard it from God his Father.

Opening Prayer: In every age, O God, you give your people freedom to walk in faith or to turn away. Grant us grace to remain faithful to your Holy One, whose words are spirit and life, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings: *Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18* — Given a choice by Joshua, the people of Israel decide to serve the Lord, thus renewing the covenant. *Ephesians 5:25-32* — St Paul uses images from the husband-wife relationship, as it was

viewed in his time, to represent Christ's love for the Church. *John 6:60-69* — After hearing Jesus describe himself as the bread of life, some of the disciples stopped following him. But Peter spoke for the loyalty of those who remained.

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, helped to man the stalls or attended the events. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Final amount: £924.40.

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.

- You're all invited to join us for our unique performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Dozens of parishioners of all ages have been preparing a heartwarming comedy over the summer - all we need now is an audience!

13 Sept at 6pm in St. Steph's Upper Hall. **Sat. 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.

- Blairgowrie Highland Games: Sunday 8 September 2024: Lynne Fryer (who has taken over from Margaret Young as the Mary's Meals main contact person) has asked if anyone would be willing to sit at the gate of the games for an hour or two. Mary's Meals have been given the opportunity to have a stall at the Games and if volunteers can be found to man the entry gate, then the fee for the stall will be waived and a Mary's Meals will receive a donation. If you are interested in helping, please ring Lynne on 01250 872512

-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.

-2024 National Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair: We would be grateful if you could include this notice in your parish bulletin: Venerable Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage. St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh Sunday 22 September 2024. 12.30–1.30pm Goods and Candles for Sale, Tea & Coffee; 1.30–2.30pm Holy Hour (Exposition, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions); 2.45–3.15pm Individual Priestly Blessings at the Shrine of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair; 3.30–4.15pm Reflection on the Venerable Margaret Sinclair, Novena Prayers, Presentation from Pupils of Sinclair Academy; 4.30pm Holy Mass. Thank you.

-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. £423.20.** 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.

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