

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

24th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 15/9/24

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

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

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.

Fri. 13th: An Amazing Dramatization of the Shakespearean Mid Summer Night Dream. Many thanks to Esther, Leo and all the lovely acts for putting up a truly captivating and amazing Drama. It was an entertaining evening. St. Stephen has got Talents. Please note that there is no vigil mass and no 9.30am mass in Alyth.

Sat. 14th: 10.00am - 3.00pm. Jumble sales continues in St. Mary's Coupar Angus. Many thanks to all who donated items, worked hard to set up and devotedly manned the place so far.

Sunday 15th: 11.00am. **Parish Family Diversity Day Celebration Mass**. Tea & Coffee in the Lower Hall after mass. In celebrating our Parish Diversity Day, we recognise that we are a people drawn from diverse nations/cultures: Scottish, English, Polish, Ukraine, French, German, Romanian, Filipino, Nigerian, Irish, Spanish, Kenyan, Belgian, South African, Indian, Zimbabwean, Columbian, Slovenian. United joyfully as one family of God's people.



Parish diary for the rest of the Week beginning from 15/9/24.

Monday 16th: Mass and Ministry of Care, Glenochil Prisons.

Tuesday 17th September - 10.00am: Funeral mass for John Lea at St. Stephen's.

Wednesday 18th September – 2pm: Mass for P6/7 at the School.

- 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary;

- 7.00pm Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Steph's.

Thursday 19th September - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 20th September - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **St Andrew Kim Tae-gon and companions**

Saturday 21st September - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 22nd September - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 22nd September - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... "Today's Gospel, relating the first of Jesus' three prophecies of his passion, death and Resurrection, consists of two sections: The Messianic confession of Peter and Jesus' prediction of his Passion, death and Resurrection, followed by his clear teaching on discipleship. Jesus realized that if his disciples did not know who he really was, then his entire ministry, suffering and death would be useless. Hence, he decided to ask a question in two parts: Who do people say I am? Who do you say I am? : ... "What is your personal opinion?" For the first time in their relationship, Peter, speaking for the other disciples, declared publicly: "*You are the Christ (Messiah) the Son of the living God.*" Peter was the first apostle to recognize Jesus publicly as the *Anointed One* (also translated *Messiah* or *Christ*). *Christ* is the Greek word for the Hebrew word *Messiah*. "I guess every one of us, all through our lives as baptised Catholics would have to personally answer this second question not necessarily by words but more so by our actions.

Mass intentions for the week: Fr. Christopher Doig, Tomasz Czajka, Korytko Fam.

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 our journey through life we walk the path Jesus walked, so it is hard for us to escape suffering, no more than he could. We remember his suffering and death, knowing that it brought him glory and that it will do the same for us. Today, Jesus tells us "no cross, no crown." There can be no Easter without a Good Friday. Everything that happened to Jesus had been foretold by the prophets long before. He came for a purpose, and, as his life unfolded, it became clearer to him what that

purpose was. It may seem strange to put it that way, but, for my own spiritual growth, I like to think that Jesus discovered more and more about his mission as time went on. Don't forget, he did take on our humanity, and I would be slightly uncomfortable with someone who knew exactly every detail of life well in advance! I'm not sure I could relate to that as being realistic, or being anything near what I myself experience.

Opening Prayer

Make us one, O God, in acknowledging Jesus the Christ. As we proclaim him by our words, let us follow him in our works; give us strength to take up the cross and courage to lose our lives for his sake. 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. Amen.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:5-9 — Isaiah describes someone suffering nobly. Christians think of Jesus when they hear these words. *James 2:14-18* — James challenges all Christians to put their faith into action. *Mark 8:27-35* — Jesus tells his followers about the kind of end he will have, and tells them they too may have to suffer.

-Finale 170th and 125th Joint Anniversary of St Stephen's Blairgowrie (1856 – 2026) and St. Luan's Alyth (1900 – 2025).

Various Committees such as Fabric, Planning and Organising, Media/Publicity, archive, Awards, Music, Web, Liturgy and Social/Refreshments would be set up, with various tasks to work together towards the realisation of this celebration in mid 2026.

-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.

-The Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland recommend that we revisit and promote the documents of Vatican II in preparation for the Holy Year. Fr Tom Magill has produced some videos on the four major themes of the Council, and have provided links to them below. These are suitable for parish discussions or individual use.

Introduction: <https://vimeo.com/993004902/12f0d79c78> ; Sacrosanctum Concilium: <https://vimeo.com/994466330>

Dei Verbum: <https://vimeo.com/994463054/97b1e20293> ; Lumen Gentium: <https://vimeo.com/993343246/a3d2750098>

Gaudium et Spes: <https://vimeo.com/994465122/f4c3830ebf>

**-Francis prays that "each of us might listen with our hearts to the cry of the earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and climate change, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit."
"We must commit ourselves to the fight against poverty", the Pope says, and to "the protection of nature" by making both personal and communal changes".**

-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: -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 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. Date for your diaries: Wednesday 2nd October 10am to 1.00pm. Interested volunteers please speak to **Anna Makova** annamarkova161@yahoo.com; annamarkova161@yahoo.com who will get us organised and lead volunteer members of St. Stephen on the day.

-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. £461.55. 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.*