

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

22nd Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 1/9/24

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

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World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

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 1/9/24.

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.

Tuesday 3rd September -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **St. Gregory the Great**

Wednesday 4th September – 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's.

Thursday 5th September -10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 6th September - 10.00am: St. Stephen's.

Saturday 7th September - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 8th September - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 8th September -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... helps us with the question "Am I in need of pruning?" Those of us who are into gardening know we have to prune our bushes and shrubs. Otherwise, they can get too big and the flower or fruit loses its quality. Jesus was in many ways a pruner. He pruned back the traditions that had come to acquire an importance they did not deserve. In his pruning he tried to highlight what was most important in God's eyes. Today's reading from the letter of James calls on us to 'accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you.' The word of the Lord is not just outside of ourselves in a book; it has been planted in us, through baptism. In attending to the Lord's word we are attending to what is deepest within ourselves. James reminds us in that reading that accepting and submitting to the Lord's word means not just listening to it but doing it, doing what the word tells us.

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 ... The letter of James is very clear about what is important to God. In the words of our second reading, 'pure unspoilt religion in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of the less privileged and those in need when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.' I have no doubt that Jesus would have been very happy with that way of expressing what is important to God.

The first priority in God's eyes is how we relate to one another, in particular how we relate to the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Jesus did not hesitate to heal the sick on the Sabbath even though the tradition of the elders held that this constituted work and so was unlawful. The words and deeds of Jesus are always are best guide to what is of real value in our own religious tradition and what it is that may need to be put aside.

Opening Prayer: Father of light, giver of every good and perfect gift, bring to fruition the word of truth sown in our hearts by your Son, that we may rightly understand your commandments, live your law of love, and so offer you worship that is pure and undefiled. 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.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8* — Moses tells the people of Israel to keep faithful to God's law. *James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27* — For the Sundays of September, the second reading will be from the letter of James. This is a collection

of popular moral teachings, similar in style to the Sermon on the Mount. The faith is explained in a simple, down-to-earth way. *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23* — Having read from John's Gospel for the last few Sundays, we resume the continuous reading of the Gospel of Mark today. Jesus reminds the religious leaders that what's on the inside of people is more important than externals.

[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 continues in St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Sunday 15th: 11.00am. 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.

[-Finale 170th and 125th Joint Anniversary of St Stephen's Blairgowrie \(1856 – 2026\) and St. Luan's Alyth \(1900 – 2025\).](#) I will be setting up various Committees such as Fabric, Planning and Organising, Media/Publicity, archive, Awards, Music, Web, Liturgy and Social/Refreshments 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.

[-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:](#) -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.

[-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 RC 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. £518.24; BMF 208.24. 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.*