

## **St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**

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

25th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 22/9/24

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

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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 for the rest of the Week beginning from 22/9/24.**

**Monday 23rd:** Mass and Ministry of Care, Glenochil Prisons. **St. Padre Pio.**

**Tuesday 24th September.** All day: Personal Protective Training: Glenochil Prisons; **7.00pm Holy mass at St. Stephen's.**

**Wednesday 25th September - 6.00pm.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary;  
- **7.00pm** Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's.

**Thursday 26th September - 9.30am** Holy mass at St. Luan's.

**Friday 27th September - 10.00am** Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **St. Vincent de Paul.**

**Saturday 28th September - 5.30pm:** Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday 29th September - 9.30 am:** Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday 29th September - 11.00am:** Holy mass at St. Stephen's. **Baptism within mass**

***This Sunday, ...*** Some of the Apostles of Christ wanted power and, it seems, that they wanted power for its own sake. This is the kind of self-centred ambition that James talks about in the second reading when he says, 'you have an ambition that you cannot satisfy, so you fight to get your way by force.' In place of that very worldly ambition, Jesus places before his disciples a very different kind of ambition, an ambition that has the quality of what James in that reading refers to as 'the wisdom that comes down from above.' This is God's ambition for their lives and for all our lives. It is the ambition to serve, as Jesus says in the gospel, 'those who want to be first must make themselves last of all and servant of all.' This ambition to serve, again in the words of James in that second reading, is something that 'makes for peace and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good.'

**Mass intentions for the week:** Laura Campbell (Anniversary), Tomasz Czajka, Korytko Fam.

**Take time today to contemplate** ... If anyone wants to be first or wants to be in a position of power, he must make himself last of all and servant of all. This teaching is at the heart of the Gospel. It is Jesus' recipe for discipleship. But be careful and notice what it doesn't mean. It doesn't mean putting yourself down all the time. It doesn't mean baseness before others. But the actual text says that Jesus wants us to be the servant of all. This sounds like a bit of a tall order but it is actually all of a piece with serving Jesus. Our master gave his life for the whole human race. He valued each and every creature, he served even the lowest of the low. He did so not always in the way they expected but he changed their lives and through his actions enabled them to live in a new and better way. So we should do no less. To put it at its simplest we serve others in the way Jesus serves us.

**Opening Prayer:** O God, protector of the poor and defender of the just, in your kingdom the last become first, the gentle are strong, and the lowly exalted. Give us wisdom from above, that we may find in your servant Jesus the pattern of true discipleship and the grace to persevere in following him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Introduction to the Scripture Readings** *Wisdom 2:12, 17-20* — Describes the trouble the good person can endure, the same anger that led to the death of Jesus. *James 3:16 to 4:3* — James challenges people to conquer the wrong desires in themselves, as a means of bringing peace. *Mark 9:30-37* — Jesus tells his followers about his death and resurrection, and teaches them how to be true disciples.

**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.



**-Finale 170<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> 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/Historicity, Honours/Awards, Music, Web, Culture/displays/beautifications, Liturgy and Social/Refreshments would be set up, with various tasks and terms of reference to work together towards the realisation of this grand celebration in mid 2026.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** The following are being prepared to be commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers: Maureen Jackson, Tom McQinn and Sonia Forsyth.

**-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.

**-Messa in Lingua Italiana** PERTH 12 noon Wednesday 25th September, Our Lady of Lourdes Struan Road Perth PH1 2JP

**-Today and Up Coming Events:** --29th September: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it. -20<sup>th</sup> October: Mission Sunday. Please support it. -27<sup>th</sup> October: Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it. -10<sup>th</sup> November: Catholic Education Week Special Collection. Please support it. -24<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October 10am to 1.00pm. Interested volunteers please speak to **Babette** who will get us organised and lead volunteer members of St. Stephen on the day.

**-Dunkeld Diocese Mission event.** This will be at Forebank on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am to 3.30pm. This year we have the same theme "PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS" which will be led by Aid to the Church in Need.

**At the end of the Happy Tummies Coffee Morning and the Jumble Sales and Diversity Day Celebration,** I wish to thank all our friends and all our parishioners for an outstanding participation, team spirit, generosity and show of uncommon talents. At all stages of the three programmes, organisers of the various programmes showed profound dedication, leadership and direction as they kept everyone right and carried everyone along. Because we worked together, these programmes afforded us the opportunities to further get to meet and know one another better. Very many thanks to everyone.

**-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>

**-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/>

**-Pope Francis** encouraged young people to see life as a pilgrimage, a quest for happiness that is admittedly also tiring. It is precisely in this journey that hope must shine brightest, said the Pope. Pope Francis also addressed the fatigue that can come with life's struggles. He noted that this weariness is common to all who embark on meaningful journeys and that the solution to such tiredness is not found in resting but in "becoming pilgrims of hope."

**-Pope Francis grants approval for Medjugorje devotion.** The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the assent of Pope Francis, grants approval for devotion linked to Medjugorje, recognizing the abundant spiritual fruits received at the Sanctuary of the Queen of Peace without making a declaration on the supernatural character of the Marian apparitions.

**-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. £317.80, Bishop's Mensal Fund £76.29, Sick and Retired Priest's Fund £76.29, Charity Shop £682.37.** 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.

***Let us try this week to move beyond rivalry and conflict, to be true followers of the Christian way.***

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