

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

26th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 29/9/24. 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 29/9/24.

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

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

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

Monday 30th: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

October Devotion Begins with Daily Praying of the Rosary at home, with family and before mass

Tue 1st Oct. 10.00am Holy mass at St. Step's. **St Theresa**

Wednesday 2nd October - 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary;

- 7.00pm Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's. **The Holy Guardian Angels.**

Thursday 3rd October - 9.30am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Frid 4th Oct - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Step's. **St. Francis**

Saturday 5th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 6th Oct - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 6th October -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday, ... The gospels suggest that Jesus' disciples proved to be stumbling blocks to others on more than one occasion. Mark tells us that when parents were trying to bring their children to Jesus that he might bless them, the disciples spoke sternly to the parents and tried to block the children from reaching Jesus. In today's gospel, we find Jesus' disciples trying to block someone from doing the Lord's work, just because he was not one of them. In response, Jesus rebukes them, 'Do not stop him—Anyone who is not against us is for us.' Peter and the disciples meant well in all these cases. Even well-meaning people, it seems, can become obstacles to the Lord's work. We can all find ourselves in the role of the stumbling block without realizing it. Thinking that our way is the Lord's way, we can then proceed to try and impose that way on others. The disciples in today's gospel had to learn that their way was, in fact, a much narrower way than the Lord's way. Those they judged to be 'not one of us', Jesus regarded as 'for us.' In contrast to his disciples, Jesus was able to recognize and encourage goodness wherever he found it. He knew that the Spirit blows where it wills. In the same way, Moses in the first reading recognized and rejoiced in the movement of the Spirit in the lives of Eldad and Medad, even though Joshua wanted Moses to stop them prophesying.

Mass intentions for the week: For the happy repose of Fr. Zephirin Uzoma.

Take time today to contemplate ... We all have a role to play in recognizing and supporting the working of the Spirit in each other. Paul says, 'Do not quench the Spirit.' To quench the Holy Spirit in others is to become a stumbling block, an obstacle, to God's working in their lives. We can quench the Spirit in others and hinder the good work that God is doing through them for a whole variety of very human reasons. We can be motivated by jealousy, as Moses suggests Joshua was in today's first reading. Like the disciples, we can refuse to acknowledge God's good work in the lives of others because they are not 'one of us', because they belong to a different church or religion or ethnic group. We can be dismissive of the good someone else is doing simply because it is not the way we would have done it, forgetting that the Holy Spirit works in many diverse ways in people's lives. Living as we do in a culture that is awash with obstacles and stumbling stones to God's working in our lives, we who seek to be the Lord's followers need to ensure that we do not become stumbling stones for one another.

Opening Prayer: Pour out your Spirit, O God, over all the world to inspire every heart with knowledge and love of you. Grant that we who confess Jesus as Lord may shun whatever is contrary to this faith and give witness to your love that has saved us in Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings: *Numbers 11:25-29* — Moses is asked to prevent some followers from acting as prophets, but declines. God's gifts are for all, not just a few. *James 5:1-6* — James condemns the rich, those who perceive they have no need of God. *Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48* — Jesus teaches his followers how to deal with obstacles to faith.

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 and Tony Donnan.

You are never alone: Reach out! join any of the church groups eg readers, flowers ladies, Divine Mercy, adoration group etc.

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 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/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: Commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers are, Maureen Jackson, Tom McQinnlin and Sonia Forsyth. Thanks for accepting to help with this ministry. Very much appreciated.

-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.

-Today and Up Coming Events: --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 **Babette** (07760623195) who has kindly accepted to get us organised and lead volunteer members of St. Stephen on the day.

-Dunkeld Diocese Mission event. This will be at Forebank on Saturday 19th 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.

-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: On Artificial Intelligence said, "The sciences, in their pursuit of knowledge and understanding of the physical world, must never lose sight of the importance of using knowledge to serve and enhance the dignity of individuals and of humanity as a whole." Concerning the progress made in artificial intelligence – the other main focus of this year's Plenary Assembly – Pope Francis acknowledged the benefits of new developments, while also warning of risks associated with new technologies. The Holy Father highlighted especially the "negative implications" of artificial intelligence for young people and vulnerable adults, as well as the dangers associated with the use of AI for manipulating public opinion. With these challenges in mind, Pope Francis recalled "the Church's concern that "the inherent dignity of each human being and the fraternity that binds us together as members of the one human family must undergird the development of new technologies". He called for deeper study into the impact of AI on individuals and on the international community, while praising the PAS for its work on proposing regulations that will prevent risks and encourage benefits in "this complex field."

-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. £427.34. 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 recognize and encourage goodness wherever we find it.

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