

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

23rd Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 8/9/24

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

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Vocation Awareness Week

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 8/9/24.

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.

Tuesday 10th September -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Wednesday 11th 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 12th September -10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

St. Stephen's Diversity Day Celebration: Programme begins: September: 13-15th

Friday 13th September- 10.00am: St. Stephen's. St. John Chrysostom

---3.00pm Jumble sales in St. Mary's Coupar Angus.

---6.00pm. Parish Family Social Evening. BYOB in the parish Hall. This summer we're creating our own production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream", tailored to our parish. You're all invited.

Sat. 14th: 10.00am - 3.00pm. Jumble sales continues in St. Mary's Coupar Angus. Please note that there is no vigil mass and no 9.30am mass in Alyth.

Sunday 15th: 11.00am. Parish 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.



This Sunday, ... "presents Jesus who heals a deaf man with a speech impediment. What is striking about this story is how the Lord performs this prodigious sign. He took the deaf man aside, put his finger into the man's ears, and touched his tongue with saliva. Then he looked up to heaven, groaned, and said to him: "*Ephphatha*", that is, "**Be opened!**" (cf Mk 7:33-34)... **We all have ears, but very often we are not able to hear. Why is this? Brothers and sisters, there is an interior deafness that we can ask Jesus to touch and heal today. It is interior deafness, which is worse than physical deafness, because it is the deafness of the heart.** Taken up with haste, by so many things to say and do, we do not find time to stop and listen to those who speak to us. **We run the risk of becoming impervious to everything and not making room for those who need to be heard."** – Pope Francis

Mass intentions for the week: Ramsay Fraser Family, Aleksandra Korytko, 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 ... Jesus reacts to illness and infirmity not by lightly brushing them aside but with a compassion that feels their full weight, and his healing is rooted in that compassion, which calls forth from him an extraordinary effort, rooted in prayerful confidence in God the Father. It is precisely because he is so near to human suffering that he can be a channel of divine healing power. Just as we recognize in Jesus, a humanity that is so close to ours, can we too, in our human weakness, become channels of the healing

power of God to others? God's healing power was seen in the ministry of Jesus, and continues in the sacraments, in advances in medicine and in the work of the caring professions. Today we pray for strength, trusting that God will continue to show compassion to the whole world.

Opening Prayer: God of power and compassion, in Christ you reveal your will to heal and to save. Open our ears to your redeeming word and move our hearts by the strength of your love, so that our every word and work may proclaim as Messiah Jesus the Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings: *Isaiah 35:4-7* — Isaiah promises that when the Messiah comes, the deaf will hear and the dumb will speak. *James 2:1-5* — Saint James complains of class distinction at religious services. *Mark 7:31-37* — Through Jesus' healing ministry, the deaf hear and the dumb speak. **Dominant Image of the week**



-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. £504.97 + Donation £100.** 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.*