

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

28th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 13/10/24. 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 13/10/24.

October is Mission Month. Throughout the month, we honour the work of missionaries and on Mission Sunday; we are reminded that we are called to 'Go and invite everyone to the banquet'. In this Mass, we praise God's constant care for all people, at home and abroad.

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

Saturday 12th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.	Blessed Sacrament and Rosary; - 7.00pm Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's.
Sunday 13th Oct - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.	
Sunday 13th Oct -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.	Thurs 17th Oct - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's. St. Ignatius
Monday 14th October: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.	Frid 18th Oct - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's. St. Luke
Tue 15th Oct. 10.00am mass at St. Stephen's. St. Teresa	Saturday 19th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.
Wednesday 16th October - 6.00pm. Adoration of the	Sunday 20th Oct - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.
	Sunday 20th October -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday's message, ..., comes to us as a nudge when we are "Owned by our "stuff." Jesus invited us to become free of it, but the cost seems just too high for some just as the man in the Gospel. "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." There is nothing wrong with money as such, or even with being wealthy. Some of the world's greatest people who did most for the welfare of humanity, have been wealthy people. But at a deeper level the fact is that I own nothing, *absolutely*. My hold on things is provisional, temporary. A sudden stroke, a brain haemorrhage or a heart attack, and I am separated forever from all my worldly belongings. "There are no pocket in the shroud." The Kingdom belongs to children. It belongs to the *poor in spirit*; not so much *economically* poor, but detached from riches in their inmost spirit. For a worthy cause, they can part with their wealth.

The story of the eye of the needle came about as a result of a narrow entrance at the side of the temple called the "needle." It is wide enough for a camel to pass through, but only if the load was removed from the camel's back. With the panniers of goods the camel normally carried on either side, it would be impossible to pass through the Needle gate. Lesson: How hard it is for people who are weighed down with material things of this world and ambitions to enter the Kingdom of God.

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

Take time today to contemplate ... , Jesus didn't call everybody to follow him. He didn't ask Lazarus or his sisters to leave home and follow him. But being a follower of Jesus does mean having to leave *something*. It involves a change of priorities, a new way of valuing things, an interest in the riches that are stored in heaven, "where moth cannot consume, nor rust corrode." Those who leave everything to follow Jesus are among the most blessed of people, dedicated souls like Padre Pio, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, aid workers in places torn by war and disease, and many other unsung heroes. Such people are blessed with the riches of God's grace, and bring much blessing to the lives of others.

Opening Prayer: God of wisdom, whose word probes the motives of our hearts, with you all things are possible. Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus, who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings. *Wisdom 7:7-11* — A reflection on the gift of wisdom, presented as the greatest gift anyone could receive. *Hebrews 4:12-13* — God's word is powerful, it cuts through us and exposes what is wrong. *Mark 10:17-30* — The rich young seeks a simple way of entering heaven, since money is no problem to him. Jesus tells him money itself is a problem, but then reassures that God can save all, whatever their wealth.

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, 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 Joint Anniversary Start up Meetings: Fabric - As arranged; Planning/Organising: Friday 25th October 6.00pm Lower Hall; Media/Publicity: Friday 1st November 5.00pm; Archive/Historicity: Friday 8th November 6.00pm; , Honours/Awards (to be arranged), Music (To be arranged), Web: (To be arranged); Culture/displays/beautifications:(To be arranged); Social/Refreshments: Friday 15th November 6.00pm.

-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: -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.

Over 60 Sunday afternoon Tea or Lunch: The members of the St Vincent de Paul are looking to arrange a social gathering, probably on a Sunday afternoon, in early December in the form of an Afternoon Tea or similar. To that end, we need an idea of numbers who would be likely to attend so could anyone interested, please add your names to the form at the back of each church.

Catechism Classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation: Are you an adult and not yet confirmed? Do you want to know more about the faith and get deeper into sacraments? Then do not hesitate to join us every Monday at 5:30pm from 14th October. We will have a great time together. Please, send a confirmation email to giovanigiovani2024@gmail.com with your full name, dates and places of your received sacraments.

-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/>

Our Parish has just had an Internal Financial Audit. Report based on Audit tests on all income, expenditure and gift aid were conducted in St Stephen's (incl. Alyth & Coupar Angus). Date of visit: Tuesday 17th September 2024.

Summary & Recommendations "The accounting and Gift Aid records are input to OPAS by Michael Coyle (MC) and are updated on a frequent basis. Online Parish Accounting System is currently showing income and expenditure transactions input up to 29 August 2024 and reconciled to the bank statement as at 1 August. All invoices, collection sheets, bank statements and gift aid envelopes for the current year are retained. Rev. Gregory Umunna is aware of the requirements for the retention of historic records and holds the previous 9 years' records. In summary, there were no weaknesses found when carrying out the audit of the finance and gift aid records. All records are stored in folders by year making audit trail straight forward.

I would like to thank Rev. Gregory Umunna, Michael Coyle and the team of counters for their dedication in ensuring that the parish finances are monitored and recorded accurately."

Bishop Andrew McKenzie had a very happy familiarisation visit to our parish last Thursday as he concluded his visits to the various parishes and priests of this diocese with us. During his time here, he had a walk through the whole of the presbytery, St. Stephen's church, hall and together we made a drive to St. Luan's Alyth. He was fascinated and impressed by the two churches and said he would be back on a pastoral visit soon when he can meet and interact with the parishioners. He gave us his episcopal blessings.

Pope Francis: "The Holy Spirit's role in expanding the Church's mission to all peoples while fostering unity from within."

-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. £.** 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 pray for missionaries everywhere, for our parish priests and priests of the diocese of Dunkeld.---Wishing you a lovely Sunday, Fr. Greg.