

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

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

29th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 20/10/24. **Parish website:** <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

**Parish Priest and Prison Chaplain: Father Gregory Umunna Ph.D. Phone: 01250872171**

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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 20/10/24.**

**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 19<sup>th</sup> October** - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct** -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

**Tue 22nd Oct.** 10am **Funeral mass** at St. Step's. R. Sweeney

**Wednesday 23rd October** - 6.00pm. Adoration of the

Blessed Sacrament and Rosary; - **7.00pm** Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's.

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

**Frid 25<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Step's.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October** - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct** - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October** -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

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*This Sunday's message, ...* A very different form of prayer to the prayer of petition is to listen to the various petitions that Jesus addresses to us and, having listened, to respond honestly from the depths of our heart. Jesus' petition to James and John finds an echo in Jesus' own prayer of petition in the garden of Gethsemane, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want' (Mk 14:36). The very cup that Jesus asked James and John to drink, he hesitated to drink himself. Yet, he went on to drink it because his prayer, 'Remove this cup from me', was secondary to his more fundamental prayer, 'Not what I want, but what you want.' Jesus does not request of his disciples anything he is not prepared to do himself. As today's second reading remarks, we have a high priest 'who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin.' Jesus' petition to James and John is addressed to all of us. He asks if we are prepared to commit ourselves to his servant way, even when it means the way of the cross, the way of self-denial and self-giving. Pay attention to Jesus' reference to 'the cup' and 'baptism.' At baptism we are baptized into Jesus' servant way and when we celebrate the Eucharist we renew our commitment to that way.

**Mass intentions for the week: For the happy repose of Roy Sweeney**

**Take time today to contemplate** ... What should we pray for, even as today James and John prayed for seats on the left and right of God? Was Christ bound to answer their prayer? Was is a selfish prayer? What of Peter, the second in command? As mature Christians we learn the delicate art of compromise when what we want and what others want come into conflict with each other. We also discover that in our relationship with God our prayers are not always answered, even when they focus not on ourselves but on others and their well-being. The experience of unanswered prayer can be a real challenge to our faith. Some experts in spirituality have argued that there is nothing like unanswered prayer rather, God answers our prayers in ways beyond our comprehension. Moreover, we are time bound and so we want our prayers answered here and now, but God is ETERNAL NOW. What do you think?

**Opening Prayer:** O God, it is your will that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Look upon your abundant harvest and send workers to preach the gospel to every creature, so that your people, gathered by the word of life and supported by the power of the sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love. We ask 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. Amen.

**Introduction to the Scripture Readings:** *Isaiah 53:10-11* — The suffering of the Lord can be seen beforehand in the words written by Isaiah. *Hebrews 4:14-16* — In Jesus we have a high priest who was tempted as we are. He will have mercy on us. *Mark 10:42-45* —The true follower of Jesus is to be like the Master: a humble servant.

**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, Diana Richardson, Bill Waldron, Giles Umunna and Tony Donnan.

**You are never alone:** Reach out! join any of the church groups e.g. 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 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 Joint Anniversary Start up Meetings:** Fabric - As arranged; Planning/Organising: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm Lower Hall; Media/Publicity: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 5.00pm; Archive/Historicity: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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:** -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.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> October. We will have a great time together. Please, send a confirmation email to [giovanigiovani2024@gmail.com](mailto: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>

**-Wheel Chair for Parish use:** Many thanks to the society SVDP of St. Stephen's Parish Blairgowrie for providing a Brand new Wheel chair for our parish use when needed. It will be permanently stationed at the rear of the church.

**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.

**Missio Scotland:** Today, with Catholics of the world, we are called to offer, at this Eucharistic celebration, our prayers and our generous financial support, through Missio Scotland, to continue the mission of Jesus. Today, we 'go and invite everyone to the banquet' through our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters in the missions. As always, your prayers are your most treasured gift to the missions, but your financial assistance, offered today, will support missionary priests, religious sisters and brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing love and peace. In receiving the Eucharist in our parish today, we do so with all our brothers and sisters across the globe who are taking part in the Mass this mission Sunday. In a world torn apart by division and conflicts, Christ's gospel calls individuals to encounter one another, to recognise that they are brothers and sisters, and to rejoice in harmony amid diversity.

**Darkening days, skeletal trees, winter's massive scything of life... The Silence of Trees.** Leaves turning, flaming, falling!

...every autumn a letting go, berry and seed and acorn,  
leaves turning, flaming, falling into winter's busy rest,  
one hundred thousand wounds to weave and stitch and mend (Earth/Mother by Monica Corish).

**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. £725.43. 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.*