

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

30th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 27/10/24. 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 27/10/24.

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 and brings us to the commemoration of All Souls

Saturday 26th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 27th Oct - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 27th Oct -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Monday 28th October: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prison.

Tue 29th Oct. 10am mass at St. Step's.

12.30pm Priest's Deanery meeting Perth

Wednesday 30th October –

8.00am-5.00pm: Training, Glenochil Prisons.,

6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary; -

7.00pm Mass for sick parishioners and relatives at St. Steph.

Thursday 31st Oct - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

ALL SAINTS Holy Day of Obligation

Friday 1st Nov - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

-5.00pm: Anniversary Media/Publicity Committee meeting

-7.00pm: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

-Saturday 2nd Nov - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

-12.00noon: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

-5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 3rd Nov - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 3rd Nov -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday's message, ... is all about Blindness and Sight. Contrasting previous blindness with the sight of faith — the metaphor is ancient (Plato's cave) and takes us beyond religion only. We all have blind spots, some minor, others not so minor. Usually, it takes some event to trigger the recognition that we are not seeing with 20:20 vision. The same can be true at the level of faith. Perhaps we could make our own the request of Bartimaeus: Let me see again!

Mass intentions for the week: For those whose names are returned on the November lists. No private intentions Please.

Take time today to contemplate ... Just think of what he did: he threw aside his old cloak, got up, and ran to Jesus. The old cloak may be a symbol for his past, his darkness, his despair. He made an act of hope-filled faith, and Jesus did not disappoint him. All attempts of the bystanders to silence him made him more determined. He was clear about what he wanted, and knew who could help him. Bartimaeus has a lesson for us all, here and now. The persistence in asking, the boldness to ask, unmindful of the struggles that tend to suppress us, clarity of mind, simplicity, child-like faith and so on and on.

Opening Prayer Have pity on us, God our Saviour. Grant us grace and courage to cast off our sins and turn to you for healing. Show us in Christ the sure path of salvation and strengthen us to follow gladly in the way of the gospel. 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: *Jeremiah 31:7-9* — A vision of a time when all God's people are gathered together, with everyone sharing the gift of new sight. *Hebrews 5:1-6* — Christ

is our high priest, but he also knows our weakness. *Mark 10:46-52* — The blind beggar Bartimaeus is healed by Jesus.

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 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 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; **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); 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.

***November List:** Please fill in the names of your beloved dead and you can leave a donation in the November list envelope if able, seal and put in the box in front of the altar. All through the month of November, masses will be celebrated for the happy repose of those whose names are returned and the paschal candle and church candles will be kept burning. May they rest in peace, Amen.

-Today and Up Coming Events: -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.

-8th Dec. Poor Mission Fund.

-29th Dec. Building maintenance Fund collection.

-12th January. Justice and Peace.

-26th January Building maintenance Fund collection.

Confirmation and pastoral Visit by the Bishop: Sunday the 1st of June 2025, 11am mass. **First holy communion** will be on Sunday the 15th of June 2025, 2pm. **Reconciliation** would be on Wednesday the 26th of February 6.00pm.

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.

-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.

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. £460.63, Mission Sunday £387.41.** Many thanks for your support to the parish. *Figures exclude takings from Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Financial Audits and Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Thanks.

Reflection: Asleep in Jesus, Blessed Sleep! As we approach the month of November, with the whole church, we turn our thoughts and prayers to our beloved dead; our loved ones gone before us marked with the sign of faith. The book of wisdom makes clear to us the reason for the Christian faith and the hope we have for our beloved dead. For the book of Wisdom says, "their going looked like a disaster...but they are in peace...for grace and mercy await those God has chosen." But we know that for some souls, we bank on God's mercy for their liberation and eternal redemption. Therefore, 2 Maccabees 12,46 advises "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."

On hope, it is our hope that our beloved dead are in a better place freed from all pains and sufferings; that they are now with God where they enjoy eternal life of peace, joy and thankfulness in the beatific vision of God's glory. Christ is the way to this eternal life of peace, joy thankfulness, He is the truth and the life and no one can come to the Father except through Him. Where He has gone we hope to follow. We firmly believe that your prayers and the masses we celebrate for them will help them secure the forgiveness of their sins and the eternal rest of their souls.

However, we know that we do not always act and speak rightly and nothing imperfect will stand in the presence of God. This is where mercy comes in. We rely on the mercy of God who is full of mercy and compassion and who desires us for himself. Since those who are yet to gain entrance into the presence of God are helpless, they depend entirely on us through our prayers, masses, sacrifices and charitable works for their release, hence throughout the month of November we shall be praying at masses and engaging in acts of self-denials for their eternal repose. We also hope that by living his commands, we will one day reach the heavenly homeland to be with God and our loved ones again forever. Jesus has actually shown us that life means more than this earthly existence; that in fact life will continue beyond death where it reaches full expression in the vision of God's glory in heaven.

While the spirituality of **All Saints is jubilatory**, that of the **commemoration of All the Faithful departed is soberly reflective and based entirely on our unflinching hope in eternal life and the mercy of God.** Eternal rest grant unto them o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. **Fr. Gregory**

Let us try this week to pray for the repose of our beloved dead relatives and friends, for the priests who ministered in this parish and priests of the diocese of Dunkeld.---Wishing you a lovely Sunday, Fr. Greg.