

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

27th Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 6/10/24. **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 6/10/24.

October is Mission Month. Throughout the month, we honour the work of missionaries 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 5th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

- 7.00pm Mass for our sick parishioners and relatives at

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

St. Stephen's.

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

Thursday 10th October - 9.30am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Monday 7th October: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

Friday 11th Oct - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Tue 8th Oct. 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Saturday 12th October - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Wednesday 9th October - 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary;

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, ..., both our first reading and the gospel strongly call us to uphold the sanctity of marriage and family life. They both remind us that marriage is instituted by God to benefit the human family. Like every desirable good, it must be cherished and protected. However, just like every worthy vocation, marriage has its own challenges but these challenges are surmountable through God's grace and good Christian virtues. When and where these challenges occur, efforts should be made to resolve them mutually and with godly intent to make amends. Divorce might seem a right and fast solution. However, it is not always the case. Today's readings remind us that it is not the will of God for any sacramental marriage to be broken: "This is why a man must leave his father and mother, and join himself to his wife, and they become one body. So, what God had united, man must not divide." Marriage is not a commodity or an article, it is a Sacrament and sacred institution.

At this mass, we sincerely sympathize with and pray for all those going through difficult times in their marriages. We pray that God will give them the grace, strength, and wisdom to move forward and find peace in their homes. We also pray that those intending to be united in this Holy Sacrament, through the grace of God, may find fulfilment in love.

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

Take time today to contemplate ... , The gospels are clear that although Jesus has a vision for human relationships, including within marriage, he did not condemn those who fell short of that vision. For instance, Mark in his gospel gives us a story about children, about parents bringing children to Jesus for him to bless them. Marriage between a man and a woman is a tried and tested way in which children can grow up to be loved, as well as being given stability and security. No other setting has been proven better for the nourishing and flourishing of children. If society cares about children, it will channel financial and professional resources into supporting marriage, understood as a communion of faithful love between a man and a woman, the fullest expression in human form of the communion of love between the Lord and us.

Opening Prayer: Creator God, in Christ you call man and woman to the fullness of glory for which you created them in your image. Heal our hardened hearts, renew our obedience to your spoken will, and conform our lives to your gracious design. Grant 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: *Genesis 2:18-24* — Includes the second creation story given in the Bible: we are taught here that man and woman are meant to be together. *Hebrews 2:9-11* — On most Sundays between now and the feast of Christ the King, the second reading will be from the Letter to the Hebrews. This was written about AD 80, to show the people of the time that Jesus fulfilled the needs of Jews and Greeks alike. *Mark 10:2-16* — Jesus instructs his followers about family life, repeating the teaching given in Genesis and telling all to be as trustful as little children.

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 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/Organising, Media/Publicity, archive/Historicity, Honours/Awards, Music, Web, Culture/displays/beautifications, Liturgy & 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. **Next Step: Oct/Nov. Group by group start up meetings.**

-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.

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 giovani2024@gmail.com with your full name, dates and places of your received sacraments.

-Many thanks: To Rolly, Dina, Dudi, Monina and Babette for helping to organise and man the Berry picking last Wednesday. We realised £139.50.

-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: "I learned to pray from my grandmother. She is the one who taught me to pray and also instilled in me a devotion to Saint Joseph. Then, the spiritual fathers I had, both in the seminary and in the Society of Jesus, helped me grow in my experience of prayer. How does prayer happen? How do we get used to praying? What should we do when there is consolation or even desolation, when we don't feel like praying? He was a teacher of spiritual life for me. Over time, my formation in prayer has remained the same. Even as Pope, nothing has changed: I pray as I always have, with the same rhythm. Sometimes I say vocal prayers, sometimes before the Blessed Sacrament, I endure moments of dryness. My prayer continues through beautiful things and not-so-beautiful things. Sometimes I think I need to pray more, that's true. There's no time, but I need to pray more. I always stick to the Liturgy of the Hours; I never abandon it: in the afternoon, Vespers; later, the Office of Readings; in the morning, Lauds; and then Mass. And then there's mental prayer, the prayer of meditation; when I have a little time, I try to have a conversation and ask the Lord something, but I fear He might respond...And then there's the Our Father, the prayer of Jesus. It has everything! And there are prayers to Mary: I also have great trust in the Madonna; I always pray the Rosary. I like to feel her close because she is a Mother and she guides us.

-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. £465.08, BMF £248.54. 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.