

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

32nd Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 10/11/24. 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 10/11/24.

Month of November is dedicated to the commemoration of All Souls by prayer, daily mass, fasting and abstinence. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace, Amen.

Saturday 9th November - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 10th November - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 10th November -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Monday 11th November: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prison.

Tue 12th November. 10am mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed 13th Nov. 9.00am-4.00pm: Prison apostolate

6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sac and Rosary; - **7.00pm**

Mass for sick parishioners and relatives at St. Steph.

Thursday 14th November - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 15th Nov - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

-Saturday 16th Nov -5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 17th Nov - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 17th Nov -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday's message, ..., The widow's offering to the Temple might seem small in the eyes of other donors, but it was whole-hearted and therefore priceless in value. Generosity is not the exclusive prerogative of the rich. The poor have great gifts to share too, and when they do so, others should respond with appreciation.

Gifts from ordinary people support many projects and causes in the Catholic Church, just as they kept the Jerusalem temple going in Jesus' day. It is a strange, but at the same time common truth, that generosity is more widespread among those who have little to spare than among those who have lots of money and property. This story of the Widow's Mite invites us to examine the quality of giving in our lives — not just to Church collections, but to whatever worthy cause attracts our attention and our sympathy. More than once, Jesus spoke about this subject.

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

Take time today to contemplate: "Charity brings its own reward," says the proverb. There is a glow of satisfaction in giving for a good cause. It is also, in a Gospel sense, the best possible investment for our eternal future — that "treasure in heaven" of which Jesus spoke about.

Opening Prayer: God, our provider, you are the orphan's hope and the widow's bread. Strengthen our faith, that with simplicity of heart we may come to trust in you alone and hold back nothing in serving you. 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.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings. 1 Kings 17:10-16 — A poor widow's hospitality to Elijah the prophet is rewarded. Hebrews 9:24-28 — Christ offers his sacrifice once and for all. When he comes in glory, he will reward those who wait for him. Mark 12:38-44 — Unlike the showy religious leaders, the poor widow gives with generosity of heart.

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, Lisa Robertson.

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).

-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.

-FAMILY MUSICAL EVENING-WITHADASHOF DIVERSITY - FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER 2024, 6.00pm. You are invited - with ALL your family - children PARTICULARLY welcome - to an evening of music, song, dance and enjoyment on Friday 13th of December 2024 in the Hall at St Stephen's, Blairgowrie. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks and prepare for a fabulously entertaining

evening of music and song. If you would like to put on a display of song, dance or even a culture-specific "party piece", please let Fr. Gregory know so that it can be included in the Programme. Please come along and be part of this December show and make it even more enjoyable!

-Today and Up Coming Events:

-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.

Prisoners Week 2024 invites you to hear the voices of those affected by or working in the Justice system. Our official launch service is in Perth on Sunday 17th November with guest speaker Graham Bell, chaplain at HMP

Glenochil. [@PactPerth @StJohnRCPerth #prisonersweek2024](#)

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 SSVP social event in December will take the form of a two-course lunch at the Dalmore Inn & Restaurant, Perth Road, Blairgowrie on Sunday, 8th December at 1.15 for 1.30. The restaurant manager has asked for a list of the options chosen by members of our group so to that end, could you all note your preferences against your names on the list at the back of each church. Tea/Coffee have been added to the menu. **Please choose one item from two of the three sections: Starter (S), Main course (M), Dessert (D).**

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.

-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. £457.06.** 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: Pope Francis: Faith is a journey that leads us to God.

When I was a priest in Buenos Aires, and I kept this habit even as a bishop in my hometown, I loved walking on foot through various neighbourhoods to meet with fellow priests, visit a religious community,

or speak with friends. Walking is good for us: it connects us with what is happening around us, helps us discover the sounds, smells, and noises of the reality that surrounds us—in other words, it brings us closer to the lives of others.

Walking means not staying still: to believe means having an inner restlessness that drives us towards something "more," to take one more step forward towards a height to be reached today, knowing that tomorrow the path will take us higher—or deeper—in our relationship with God. For this reason, the Jubilee of 2025, along with the essential dimension of hope, should push us to an ever-greater awareness that faith is a pilgrimage and that we are pilgrims on this earth. We are not tourists or wanderers: we do not move aimlessly, existentially speaking. We are pilgrims. The pilgrim lives their journey in light of three key words: risk, effort, and goal.

Risk. Today, we struggle to understand what it meant for Christians of the past to undertake a pilgrimage, as we are accustomed to the speed and comfort of traveling by plane or train. But setting out on a journey a thousand years ago meant taking the risk of never returning home due to the many dangers encountered along various routes. The faith of those who chose to set out on the road was stronger than any fear. The pilgrims of the past teach us this trust in God, who called them to journey to the tomb of the Apostles, the Holy Land, or a certain sanctuary. We too ask the Lord to have a small portion of that faith, to accept the risk of abandoning ourselves to His will, knowing that His will is that of a good Father who desires for His children only what is best for them.

Effort. Walking indeed means exertion. This is well known to the many pilgrims who have once again crowded the ancient pilgrimage routes. I think of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, the Via Francigena, and the various paths that have emerged in Italy, inspired by some of the most well-known saints or witnesses (Saint Francis, Saint Thomas, as well as Don Tonino Bello) thanks to positive cooperation between public institutions and religious organizations. Walking entails the effort of getting up early, preparing a backpack with essentials, and eating something simple. And then there are aching feet and the sharp thirst, especially on hot summer days. But this effort is rewarded by the many gifts encountered on the journey: the beauty of creation, the sweetness of art, the hospitality of local people. Those who undertake a pilgrimage on foot—many can testify to this—receive much more than the effort expended. They establish beautiful bonds with people they meet along the way, experience moments of genuine silence and fruitful introspection that the hectic pace of our time often makes impossible, and understand the value of essentials compared to the glitter of having all the unnecessary things but missing what is needed.

Goal. Walking as pilgrims means we have a destination and that our movement has direction, a purpose. Walking means having a goal, not being at the mercy of chance. Those who walk have a direction, do not wander aimlessly, know where they are going, and do not waste time zigzagging from one place to another. That is why I have often emphasized how similar walking and being believers are. Those who have God in their hearts have received the gift of a guiding star to follow—the love we have received from God is the reason for the love we must offer to others.

God is our goal, and walking toward God that gives us the exhilarating certainty that He awaits us to give us His consolation and His grace.

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.