

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

33rd Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 17/11/24. 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 17/11/24.

- Month of November is dedicated to the commemoration of All Souls by prayer
- Catholic Education Week Ends with a talk from Mrs Lyndsey Smith, Headteacher of St. Stephens Blairgowrie
- Prisoners Week 2024 Begins this Sunday. General Census throughout the Diocese this weekend

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

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

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

Monday 18th November: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prison.

Tue 19th November. 10am mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed 20th Nov. 6.00pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sac & Rosary;

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

Thursday 21st November - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 22nd Nov - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

3pm - Priest's overnight meeting in Kinnoull

-Saturday 23rd Nov -5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 24th Nov - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 24th Nov -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday's message, ... From the horrible imagery of the Apocalyptic portrayal of dark and doom of the First reading, there are a few grains of hope as we find a beautiful promise of rescue... and the wise shall shine brightly like the splendour of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever. Such a passage can give us peace in the uncertainties and tribulations that presently characterise human history. We can only pray God to grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change; courage to change the things we can; and wisdom to know the difference. The consoling words of the second reading are very apt: "I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you and bring you back. (Jer 29:11)" That is what Advent will aim towards as we approach it in two weeks' time.

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

Take time today to contemplate: Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.

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.



St Stephen's 170th and St Luan's 125th joint Celebration:
Summer 2026

Most of the various Committees set up by Fr Gregory have had their first meeting and the over-riding concern is that everyone in the parish should feel involved. We're really keen to hear any ideas for how the weekend's joint celebration should go and there will be a suggestion box at the back of each church for you to drop your ideas in.

Current thinking is that we would start off on the Saturday with a Benediction in St Luan's with tea/coffee afterwards in the Bowling Club.

On the Sunday there would be High Mass in St Stephen's followed by a finger buffet in the Hall.

Bishop Andrew will be invited to participate in the programmed activities, as will the other priests in the diocese.

If you have any specific ideas about how to enhance the celebrations, please jot these down and drop them into the suggestion box. Alternatively, speak to any member of the Planning/ Organising Committee: Paul Brown, Toni Nugent, Irek Kowalinski, Maureen Jackson, Juliet Vivers, Daria McDowall

Parish Repository is packed with lovely items for your Christmas celebrations at very subsidized prices: Candles, cards, prayer books, bibles, pictures, statues and various gift items that you would love.

-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-WITH A DASH OF 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:

-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 RC 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. £405.91.Cath Edu £213.41. 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.

Many thanks to the Parishioners: Mary Wojtowicz and family, Tom Buckham, Paul and Esther Brown and Family, Oliver Wright and Maureen and Philip Jackson and family who have provided us with a total of Eleven Liturgical Books, Lectionaries, Book of Gospels and Prayer of the Faithful Book. These books will be blessed at Sunday masses and dedicated in memory of their designated loved ones and be used at all masses in the two churches of our parish.

Reflection: Pilgrims of Hope. "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope" **Pope Francis**

World Day of the Poor: Pope Francis: A project of help and hope

Why should politics cause poverty?

In his message for the 2024 World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis noted that war-driven "bad politics" generates new poverty and innocent victims. He urged everyone to pray with and for the poor, and highlighted that volunteers continue to devote themselves to serving the poorest in our cities, embodying God's response to the cries of those in need.

The quest for justice

This year, in particular, the motto chosen by the Pope is taken from the book of Sirach: "The prayer of the poor rises to God" (Sirach 21:5). This motto emphasises that the poor hold a special place in God's heart. He hears their prayers and becomes "impatient" in their suffering until justice is done. The Book of Sirach confirms that "God's judgment will be in favour of the poor" (21:5).

The World Day of the Poor encourages the Church to "step outside" its walls and engage with poverty in its many forms in today's world. And with this lunch, that is precisely what Pope Francis will be doing.

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.