

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

31st Sunday, Ordinary Time. Year B 3/11/24. 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 3/11/24.

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 2nd November - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

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

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

Monday 4th November: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prison.

Tue 5th November. 10am mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed 6th Nov – 2.00pm: Prison Chaplain Meeting

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

Mass for sick parishioners and relatives at St. Steph.

Thursday 7th November - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 8th Nov - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

-6.00pm: Anniversary Archive/Historicity Committee meeting

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

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

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

This Sunday's message, ..., drawn from the Hebrew words, "Shema Yisrael," meaning "Listen Israel." "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind." These were words written on the heart of every Jew, and to this day they form part of the daily prayer a devout Jew is required to say. The paradox about today's gospel reading, is that it tells us that love of God is realised by our love for each other.

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

Take time today to contemplate A Jewish Rabbi, named Hillel, a renowned scholar, a spiritual and ethical leader of his generation, who had a great following just before the birth of Christ, when asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?," gave the famous reply, "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary." St John in his first letter puts it forcibly like this, "Anyone who says, "I love God," and hates his brother, is a liar, for how can a man who does not love the brother that he can see, love God whom he has never seen. So this is the commandment that he has given us, that anyone who loves God must also love his brother" (1 Jn 4:20f).

Opening Prayer Lord our God, you are the one God and there is no other. Give us grace to hear and heed the great commandment of your kingdom, that we may love you with all our heart and love our neighbour as ourselves. We make our prayer 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 *Deut. 6:2-6* — The central command given to the Jewish people is described: to love God above all else. *Hebrews 7:23-28* — What many priests did in former times, Christ does now: he is our ideal high priest. *Mark 12:28-34* — Jesus repeats the commandment precious to Jews, and speaks of the importance of love of neighbour.

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). Various Joint Anniversary Start up Meetings: Fabric - As arranged; Lower Hall. 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.

-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.

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. £447.91, BMF £259.88.** 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.