

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

First Sunday of Advent Year C 1/12/24.

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 1/12/24.](#)

You know 'the time ' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. (Rom 13:11)

Saturday 30th November - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 1st December - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 1st December -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Monday 2nd December: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prison.

Tue 3rd December. 10am mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed 4th Dec. 6.00pm. An Advent Evening of Reconciliation and solemn Prayer with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and

Rosary; - 7.00pm Mass for sick parishioners and relatives at St. Stephen's.

Thursday 5th December - 10.00am mass at St. Luan's.

Friday 6th December - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Saturday 7th December -5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

Sunday 8th December - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

Sunday 8th December -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

This Sunday's message, ..., Advent begins today with the First Sunday of Advent. During these days, we look forward, waiting in hope. We watch for the end times, when Christ will come in glory, Christ who was born for us 2,000 years ago.

Advent Wreath Blessing. Let us pray (*pause*) Father, all powerful Lord of Light, bless + our wreath of evergreens. May the increasing light of these candles brighten our minds and hearts to be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love, so that we are ready again to receive in true peace Jesus, the Light of the World, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen. (*Sprinkling with holy water follows and first candle is lit.*)

Opening Prayer: God our Saviour, you utter a word of promise and hope and hasten the day of justice and freedom, yet we live in a world forgetful of your word, our watchfulness dulled by the cares of life. Keep us alert. Make us attentive to your word, ready to look on your Son when he comes with power and great glory. Make us holy and blameless, ready to stand secure when the day of his coming shakes the world with terror. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings (Year C)

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Jeremiah's prophecy looks to the day when a son of David will bring salvation. Christians see this fulfilled in Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 3:12 to 4:2* Grow in love, says Paul; be blameless when the Lord comes in glory. *Luke 21:25-28, 34-36* Jesus warns his followers to be vigilant.

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, 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.

A look at the new Lectionary: Fr Paul Denney spoke recently at The Gillis Centre about the new translation of the Lectionary. He was just one of several speakers at 'Celebrating the Gift', an event hosted by the Archdiocese on Saturday to help people prepare for the introduction of the Lectionary from Advent (Sunday 1 December). Watch on [YouTube](#).

Jubilee 2025: The Holy Father has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. For more information, visit the official website <https://www.giubileo-2025.it/en>. A Facebook page has been set up that will highlight resources and events in Scotland - search 'Holy Year Scotland 2025'. To help us prepare, the Holy Father has established 2024 as a Year of Prayer dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world". To help us prepare for the Jubilee Year, the Holy Father has asked us to study the documents of the Second Vatican Council. "Being Catholic" has produced a new video series, suitable for parish groups or individual use, presented by Fr Tom Magill of Motherwell Diocese. The videos are available on the Archdiocesan website -[click here](#).

[Invitation to any parishioners who would like to attend a discussion on assisted dying and the associated legislation being](#)

[considered at Holyrood and Westminster.](#)

Our discussion will take place between 2pm and 3.30pm on Thursday December 5th in room 2F 13 Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, DD1 5EN.

An introduction to the subject will be provided by Professor Anne Kerr, Head of the School of Social and Political Science, University of Glasgow. Anne was the independent chair of the Nuffield Council's advisory board on assisted dying. In this role Anne worked with a citizen's jury of members of the public to consider views and ethical questions relating to potential changes in the law in England. This experience will be drawn upon in our initial contribution. This input will be followed by a facilitated discussion led by Dr Carlo Morelli - University of Dundee.

The Xplore 22 bus service to Ninewells has a stop at Hunter Street. Public parking can be found at the car park adjacent to the Dalhousie Building accessed from Hunter Street DD15 5EU.

[The joint statement of the Bishops' Conferences of Scotland and England & Wales](#), explains what 'compassion' means at the end of life – caring for and accompanying people, particularly during times of suffering. The statement strongly defends the vulnerable in society who are at risk through the proposed legislation, and the bishops advocate for better funded palliative care to be consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. "People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives," say the bishops. "Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life."

[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.



[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.

[-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:](#) -2nd December: 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 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. £317.60.](#) 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:](#) *Pilgrims of Hope.* The Holy Year, offers an opportunity to rediscover the face of Christ, saying theologians need to place their head "close to the heart of Jesus," as did the Apostle John at the Last Supper. "By remaining close to the heart of the Lord, your theology will draw from the source and bear fruit in the Church and in the world," he said. "In Jesus," he said, "we come to know the face of God and, at the same time, the face of humanity, and thus realize that we are sons and daughters in the Son and brothers and sisters of one another."

Pope Francis - *Wishing you a lovely Sunday, Fr. Greg.*

