

## **St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**

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

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C 23/2/25.

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

Parish Priest and Prison Chaplain: Father Gregory Umunna Ph.D. Phone: 01250872171

E-mail: [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org). Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

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.

**Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who treat you badly.**

**Parish diary for the rest of the Week beginning from 23/2/25.**

**Saturday** 22nd Feb-5.30pm: Vigil mass St. Stephen's.

**Sunday** 23rd Feb - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 23rd Feb -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Monday** 24th: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

**Tuesday** 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Wednesday** 26<sup>th</sup> - 6.00pm Adoration, Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Stephen's.

**Thurs** 27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's

**Friday** 28<sup>th</sup> February - **11.00am** Funeral (**Memorial**) mass for Late Valeria Naughton at St. Step's.

**Saturday** 1<sup>st</sup> March - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday** 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 3<sup>rd</sup> March February -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Mass intentions:**

---

**7th Sunday (C).** Today's Eucharist celebrates Jesus as Lord of compassion and love. If we carry hatred in our hearts against others, we cannot properly approach the Lord's table. We ask him to heal us of our petty vengefulness.

**Be you Pilgrims of Hope: Pope Francis' invitation to make 2025 a Jubilee Year of Hope**

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." But what does this mean for us? How can we, as individuals, families and as a parish community journey together as Pilgrims of Hope, bringing our experiences and professionalisms?

Where do we see hope and how can our concrete situations sustain hope or help us participate in it?

Through a lived experience and by exploring the different facets of our society, how can we nurture Hope in the challenges of life and so derive the spiritual benefits of this year of Hope?

In the coming weeks and months, as a parish community, we shall walk together, the path of discernment and in the spirit of a synodal way of being church, help ourselves to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It is hoped that this Jubilee Year will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis.

We are reaching out to selected speakers from within the parish and out with the parish for each of the chosen **Fourteen Sundays** with a Jubilee year celebration. He/she or they will speak for Ten minutes in place of the homily at

the 11am mass and would share their personal/professional experiences, knowledge and perceptions of life with us as we believe that these will help us to become better "Pilgrims of Hope." These Sundays would be known to parishioners so that they can be in attendance if they so wish.

**OTHER INTERVENTIONS OF THE PARISH FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025 include:**

1. Parish Pilgrimages to Holy Sites. Altar Servers pilgrimage in July/August and adults pilgrimage to a place of interest to be discussed. Aim: Spiritual renewal, reflection, and communal prayers.

2. Eucharistic Adoration for extended hours. Aims: to help participants to reflect on hope, renewal and on God's mercy.

3. Parish Jubilee Prayer Days. Aim: to dedicate specific days to communal prayer eg, "24 Hours for the Lord" scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> of March with Confessions, reflection and intercessory prayers. Aim: Praying for the church and for the world.

4. Parish Jubilee Retreat. Aim: To reflect on the theme of forgiveness, reconciliation and hope; tailored for families, youth and school.

5. Establish Acts of Hope Project. Aim: to promote charitable initiatives such as feeding the hungry, visit to hospitals, the sick and house bounds and those in prison as tangible ways of expressing Hope and love.

6. Create digital engagement platforms. Aim: to use parish websites to share jubilee messages, inspirational stories and prayer resources.

7. Incorporate Hope in Sunday homilies. Aim: to focus on homilies on themes of hope, renewal and God's mercy during this jubilee year.

8. Youth and Children's Programmes. Aim: to design a programme such as drama, music, or art competition based on jubilee theme to engage younger Catholics.

9. Jubilee workshops and seminar. Aim: to host events addressing contemporary challenges such as mental health, family life, ecological concerns, induced poverty and justice linked to the message of hope.

10. Distribute Jubilee devotional materials. Aims: Provide prayer booklet, rosaries, and guide to help Catholic's participation in the Jubilee.

11. Encourage sacramental participation. Aim: to promote the frequent reception of the sacraments especially reconciliation and eucharist as a way of experiencing God's grace during Jubilee.

12. Host Cultural celebrations. Aim: to celebrate diversity in our parish community recognising our diversity and unity, showcasing music, dance, and traditions that reflect Hope.

#### **Important Dates with Parish Jubilee celebrations:**

28th March: 24 Hours for the Lord; 6th April for sick and health care workers; 27th April for people with disabilities; 30/1st June for children, grand parents and children; 29th June for governments; 14th Sept, for Consolation; 1/3rd August for youths; 20th September for justice; 26/28th for Catechists; 8/12 October for consecrated life; 16th November for the Poor (the masters); 14th December for prisoners. \*Any ideas will be very helpful and very much appreciated to guide us as a parish to maximise the benefits of the Jubilee year 2025. ---Fr. Greg

In your prayers, kindly remember those on our prayer list: Michael Rolls, Neil Mcdowall. Pam McKenna, Mary and George Flockhart. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Diana Richardson, Giles Umunna and Tony Donnan, Lisa Robertson, Philip Lafferty.

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.



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

-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, Wed. 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tues 10.30am; Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm.

Upgrading of St. Luan's Church Glass Windows in readiness for the 125th anniversary. This is giving everyone an opportunity to share in the work and the grace therein. 6 windows in all and £900 each for construction and fixing. If you wish to help, you can pay via St. Stephens Parish account as noted in the parish newsletter and notify me or hand in a cheque. Total amount realised so far £2,700. Many thanks to those who have responded so far. With an assurance of prayers. Kindest regards, Fr Greg

-All the Committees for the Finale 170th and 125th Joint Anniversary of St Stephen's Blairgowrie (1856 – 2026) and St. Luan's Alyth (1900 – 2025) need to move very quickly now with meetings. Could all the committees have their dates for meetings and progress reports between now and the middle of March with the Organising Committee Chairman or delegate and Fr. Greg in attendance.

-There will be a meeting of all Eucharistic Minister in the coming weeks to help us with uniformity as well as update practices and procedures.

-Today and Up Coming Events: -23rd: February: Building maintenance Fund; 16th March: Papal and Episcopal Charities (SCIAF); -30th March: Building maintenance Fund -18th April: Good Friday. Holy Places Collection. 27th April, Building maintenance Fund; 11th May, Apostolate of Communication; 25th May Day of Life 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 will be on Wednesday the 26th of February 6.00pm.

-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](mailto:giovani2024@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.

Last Sunday's offertory collections: £ 454.80; 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.

*-Wishing you a happy weekend. Fr. Greg.*