

## St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

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

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C 16/2/25.

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.

**Happy are they who put their trust in the Lord: worry will not come their way, their lives will bear fruit.**

**Parish diary for the rest of the Week beginning from 16/2/25.**

**Saturday** 15<sup>th</sup> Feb-5.30pm: Vigil mass St. Stephen's.

**Sunday** 16<sup>th</sup> Feb - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 16<sup>th</sup> Feb -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Monday** 17<sup>th</sup>: 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

**Tuesday** 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Wednesday** 19<sup>th</sup> - 6.00pm Adoration, Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Stephen's.

**Thurs** 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's 2.00pm - Extraordinary meeting of the Council of Priests to

the Bishop of Dunkeld in Fore Bank.

**Friday** 21<sup>st</sup> February - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Step's.

**Saturday** 22<sup>nd</sup> - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

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

**Sunday** 23<sup>rd</sup> February -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Mass intentions:** Peter Butler, Bill Waldron, Jim Warden, Mary O'Brien, Alex Forrester, Val Naughton.

*This Sunday's message ...*, It's been twenty centuries, but Jesus' word keeps being decisive as he presents his intense vision of God's justice that can't allow the final triumph of injustice. We must be uneasy at how the provocative consumerism of those whom the system favours clashes with the misery and insecurity of so many. Let's not forget the economic, financial and social mechanisms denounced by Pope St. John Paul II which "function almost automatically, making more rigid the situations of wealth for some and of poverty for others." We cannot settle for a society that is profoundly unequal and unjust. In his clear and Gospel-based encyclical *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, John Paul II called this situation clearly sinful.

**Scripture Readings.** *Jeremiah 17:5-8* The person who trusts in God is contrasted with the one who trusts in himself; the former thrives, the latter fails. *1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20*— The resurrection of Christ gives us hope. To fail to believe in it is a great loss. *Luke 6: 17, 20-26* — Luke's beatitudes is on the value of being poor; people undistracted by wealth can trust all the more in the Lord.

**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.

**St. Luan's Church Stained Glass Windows:**

Having settled in after my annual holiday, I'm moving swiftly to address the upgrading of St Luan's Church in readiness for the 125th anniversary.

The stained glass windows (32 small panels clustered in six windows) is receiving the upgrading interventions needed and costing £900.00 each for construction and fixing.

This is giving everyone an opportunity to share in the work and the grace therein. Some have graciously pledged to undertake the payment for one of the Windows. Could I please, now approach you and those willing to join, for this payment as soon as you can either completely or in two instalments to enable us meet payments plan with glaziers.

You can pay via St. Stephens Parish account as noted in the parish newsletter and notify me or hand in a cheque. With an assurance of prayers. Kindest regards, Fr Greg

-All the Committees for [the Finale 170<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> 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:](#) -23<sup>rd</sup>: February: Building maintenance Fund; 16<sup>th</sup> March: Papal and Episcopal Charities (SCIAF); -30<sup>th</sup> March: Building maintenance Fund -18<sup>th</sup> April: Good Friday. Holy Places Collection. 27<sup>th</sup> April, Building maintenance Fund; 11<sup>th</sup> May, Apostolate of Communication; 25<sup>th</sup> May Day of Life Collection.

[-Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope.](#) What does this mean for us? How can we, as a parish, participate in it and derive the spiritual benefits of it? In the coming weeks and months, we shall explore this.

This Jubilee has a package for everyone in the spirit of a synodal way of being church. Please see link: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/lettera-di-papa-francesco.html>

What is a Jubilee? "Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the *yobel*, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement. This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year.

We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an "extra" year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, the Gospel of Luke describes Jesus' mission in this way:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord," (*Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2*).

Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a "Holy Year," since it is a time in which God's holiness transforms us. The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been "extraordinary" Holy Years: for example, in 1933 Pope Pius XI chose to commemorate the 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Redemption, and in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Year of Mercy as an extraordinary jubilee. The way in which Jubilee Years are marked has also changed through the centuries: originally the Holy Year consisted of a pilgrimage to the Roman Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, later other signs were added, such as the Holy Door. By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence.

[-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 14<sup>th</sup> October. We will have a great time together. Please, send a confirmation email to [giovanigiovani2024@gmail.com](mailto: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.

[Last Sunday's offertory collections:](#) £ 498.05; Ecclesiastical Student Fund £149.54 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 Christmas and a prosperous New year, Fr. Greg.*