

## Diocesan Events:

### Aid to the Church in Need: Scottish Conference 'Courage to be Catholic'

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 9:30am - 4:00pm

Why not bring your parish to a one-off event for the Church in Scotland! Bring a group of 10 for £225 instead of £300. We have 25 Catholic charities, 4 international speakers, laity, clergy and bishops from across Scotland eager to build the Faith.

Scan the QR code or go to <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR> to register.



The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee runs from 7th -14th July 2025. For further information, please email [dunkeld@pobox.com](mailto:dunkeld@pobox.com) or phone 07801227443.

St. Clement/St. Ninian's Dundee are planning a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th August 2025. 4 Nights, 5 Days. Ex Edinburgh to Croatia. Cost: 2 sharing £690; Single Supplement £225. Contacts: Fr. Johnny 07831580361; Bernadette: 07919106129.

### Praying for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

There is a Holy Hour at 6pm followed by the Holy Mass at 7pm to pray for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, as well as for our Priests. This takes place on 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Immaculate Conception, Lochee. The next is scheduled for 11th March, and we warmly welcome everyone to join us in these prayers.

Vocations to the Priesthood: The next Vocations Event is an overnight at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, on Fri/Sat 16/17<sup>th</sup> May starting at 6pm with Evening Prayer, and concluding with lunch on Saturday.

This event will include time for personal prayer and reflection, as well as one to one time with a priest, input on Discernment Prayer, as well as Holy Mass, and a look at the Propaedeutic Period (the pre-seminary experience in Salamanca). Bishop Andrew and Fr Malcolm Hutchison will also be in attendance.



## St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Mary's Coupar Angus & St. Luan's Alyth.

**First Sunday of Lent. Year C. 9/3/25**

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

E-mail: [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No: SC001810



*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.*

*Our Vision: To be a welcoming and participating Catholic community on a journey, striving to be led by the Spirit, strengthened by a bond of love and unity, guided by the gospel message of Christ, refreshed and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ at the Eucharistic table. Enriched by a vibrant people of God from diverse backgrounds and supported by many gifts employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a community.*

### Parish diary: Week beginning from 9/3/25

**Saturday** 8th March-5.30pm: Vigil mass St. Stephen's.

**Sunday** 9th March - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 9th March -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Monday** 10th March- 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

**Tues** 11th March 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Wed** 12th March - 6.00pm Adoration, Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Stephen's.

**Thurs** 13th March - 10.00-10.20am - Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Luan's

**Friday** 14th March - 10.00-10.20am - Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Step's.

**Saturday** 15th March - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday** 16th March - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 16th March -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Mass intentions:** Mary Kate O'Brien (Anniversary)

### This Week's Message in a Glance...

The Temptations of Jesus: Jesus was tempted like we are, but he did not sin.

(1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Offering the firsts fruits of harvest, they give thanks to God

Responsorial: Psalm 90: 1-2, 10-15

R./: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble

(2) Epistle to the Romans 10:8-13

The core of our credo is that Jesus is our Saviour and Lord

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

- -Family Rosary and adoration. Every Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm.
- Mass for the sick every Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm.
- -Sacrament of Reconciliation: 6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.
- -Divine Mercy Devotion. Tuesdays after morning mass. Please join us.
- Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.
- Stations of the Cross Every Thurs/Fri before mass

### In your prayers, kindly remember our Beloved Dead;

Those who have died recently: Valeria Naughton Alexander Forrester, Bill Waldron, Geo McGoldrick and those whose anniversary we remember now especially Mary Kate O'Brien.

Kindly remember also those on our prayer list: Pope Francis, 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.

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

**Phone:** 01250872171. **Email:** [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

**Address:** 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

**Hall Reservations:** Contact no: 01250872171.

**Hospital Chaplains:** Please call: N/wells Direct line: 07821624124,

Hospital Pager 01382660111; **P.R.I:** 01738259371. \*Pls let the priest know if you are on a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please make appointment with Priest before any arrangements are made.**

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:SC00810

**Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons:**

(May God bless these & others for their selfless service)

H/T: St. Steph's P. S: Lindsey Smith. Ph: 871950.

**Catechist: Alzbeta Krajcikova:** Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Comm & Confirmation every Wed, 5.00pm in the lower Hall. Email: [Alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com](mailto:Alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com)

**Parish Safeguarding Coordinator:** Maureen Jackson 07952376985; Email: [ststephen-psc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen-psc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Webmaster:** Mr. Irek Kawalinski. [irekkow-alinski@gmail.com](mailto:irekkow-alinski@gmail.com)

**Music Directors:** Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre.

**Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers:** Mr. Alan Scott.

**Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy:** Mary Wojtowicz

**Responsible Person for Lectors:** Daria McDowall (Alyth) Paul Brown (Blair)

**Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues:** SSVDP

**Responsible Person for Church Flowers:** Jean Scott (Blair), Elma Sharp (Alyth)

**Resp. Person: Altar Servers:** Rolly Colanese

**Grounds Flowers:** Jennifer FitzPatrick

**Adviser on Finance:** Mr. Mike Coyle

**Adviser on Fabric:** Mr. Jim Graham

*Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday -Fr. Gregory*

**Tear this off please:**... Are you going into the hospital? Do you have someone going into the hospital? Would you like him/her/you to be visited with communion, please fill the form below and return to Fr. Gregory.

Name:.....Hospital:..... Date: .....

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: [peacegreg2002@yahoo.com](mailto:peacegreg2002@yahoo.com) Phone: 01250 872171

### This Sunday: Food 4 Thought

We always pray 'Lead us not into temptation' every day, and just as well. There are many things to tempt us and to pull us away from doing God's will. Once we have given in once, it is easier to succumb the next time. We have Jesus as our model who, whilst the Son of God, is fully as human as each of us. He was tempted but did not sin. Let us pray to him to help us when we are tempted.

Prophet Joel at the very start of Lent reminds us of God's invitation: "Return to me; with all your heart. Return to the Lord your God because he is tender and merciful; slow to anger and full of love." He asks us to return to the Lord because, with time and habits, we move away from our God and from his Word. Lent is a time to come back sometimes from afar. Saint Paul tells us: "Now is the

favourable time." Tomorrow does not belong to us. Yesterday is gone forever! Only the present moment belongs to us. It is now that we must return to God; it is now that we must pray; it is now that we must think about sharing.

Pope Francis recommends a few ways to fast this lent and tells us how: Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worried and have trust in God. Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from too many words/noise, appreciate silence.

## Today's and Up Coming

-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.

**Communion to nursing homes**, house bounds and the elderly is part of our ministry of care. Please let any of the Eucharistic Ministers or myself know if you know some- one who is need of this care. Thanks.



**Children's Liturgy:** I want to thank Mary Wojtowich and her team of the Liturgists for the wonderful work they do for us and I encourage the parents to please support their children to use this wonderful opportunity. There, the children learn about the message of each Sunday but also interact socially with other chil-

**Rota for Parish Jubilee Day of Prayer on 28<sup>th</sup> March:** "24Hours of Exposition and Adoration of the Lord" is available at the back of the Church for all those who may wish to pray/adore before the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes, one/two hours or more. Please sign in. Thanks.

**We shall start with Mass at 10 am**, followed by exposition of the blessed sacrament, scripture reading, private adoration, benediction @12noon, private adoration, Divine Mercy @ 3pm, scripture reading, private adoration, family rosary @ 6pm, Litany and hymns to our Lady, private adoration, Night prayers, Stations of the Cross @ 10pm, Holy Mass @12 midnight, Divine Mercy @ 3am, scripture reading, private adoration, Morning prayers, Holy Mass @10am.

**There will be a meeting of all Eucharistic Ministers** on the 13th of March to help us with uniformity as well as update practices and procedures. 6.30pm

**First Pastoral Visit of Bishop Andrew Mckenzie:** Saturday 30th May - Sunday the 1st of June 2025, He will preside over all the masses of the weekend and Confirm our boys and girls with then 11am mass. mass.

**First holy communion** will be on Sunday the 15th of June 2025, 2pm.

**Catechism Classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** Please, send a confirmation email to [giovanigiovani2024@gmail.com](mailto:giovanigiovani2024@gmail.com) with your full name, dates and places of your received sacraments.

## Adoration in St. Stephen's, every Wed. 6.00pm-7.00pm.

"The Eucharist is that love which surpasses all loves in Heaven and on earth."- St. Bernard. Please feel free to join us for adoration.



**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.

**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.

**Social/Family Night Friday**, 4th April 6.00pm: Some poetry, songs and drama on the theme of the Dundee poet William McGonagall, and more. ('And more' refers to others wishing to contribute as usually happens on these evenings) Bring your own bottle. All welcome.

**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 £4,200. Many thanks to those who have responded so far. With an assurance of prayers. Kindest regards, Fr Greg

**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: £408.50; BMF:£136.50. 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.



**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.

**2025 WEE BOX APPEAL:** "This year's WEE BOX APPEAL showcases how SCIAF partners are supporting the people of Columbia through Church networks. As we continue in this Jubilee Year of Hope, with the call to be Pilgrims of Hope, we thank you for your support and that of your parishioners as we continue to bring hope through SCIAF"

**The Stations of the Cross** has been a dominant character of the Lenten discipline throughout the Catholic world. In it, we join Christ on his journey to Calvary, knowing well that he is always with us in all our daily joys and sorrows. On this jubilee year's Lenten season, may we be pilgrims of hope, even through the struggles and trials of life.

Please join us every **Thursday** - 10.00-10.20am - Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Luan's and **Friday** - 10.00-10.20am - Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Step's.



## St. Stephen's Parish Library

Selection of Books on:

- ⇒ Spirituality/Prayer
- ⇒ Lives of Saints/Martyr
- ⇒ Theology/philosophy
- ⇒ History/Psychology
- ⇒ Pilgrimage sites

Pls feel free to borrow any from the shelves in the lower hall and return a week after use. Thanks.

## Project Matthew 25:

The fruit of your Lenten abstinence can yield double fold if directed to helping someone less privileged. Support the PRISON APOSTOLATE, support to the FOOD BANK supplies.

Box in the Lower Hall to collect items

There is an ongoing effort towards those who need to be served by this provision. Please contribute to this very worthy cause Thankyou very much for your support in this direction.

**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?

**INITIATIVES OF THE PARISH FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025** include: 1. Parish Pilgrimages, 2. Eucharistic Adoration, 3. Parish Jubilee Prayer Days, 4. Parish Jubilee Retreat, 5. Establish Acts of Hope Project, 6. Create digital engagement platforms, 7. Incorporate Hope in Sunday homilies, 8. Youth and Children's Programmes, 9. Jubilee workshops and seminar, 10. Distribute Jubilee devotional materials, 11. Encourage sacramental participation. 12. Host Cultural celebrations. 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.

## Vatican Corner

### Pope Says...: Grandparents and young 'grow together' in fruitful exchange

old - young



Wheat and weeds growing together Jesus' first parable in the Gospel passage, said the Pope, notes that wheat and weeds grow next to one another in the same field, which therefore reminds Christians to be realistic in our outlook on life. "In human history, as in each of our lives, there is a mixture of light and shadows, love and selfishness," he said. "Good and evil are even intertwined to the point of seeming inseparable." He said that such a realistic attitude pushes aside ideologies and helps us realize that evil dwells not only "outside" of ourselves,

### Pope Francis Health Update:

Pope Francis, who is staying in hospital, had a peaceful night and woke up. The Holy See Press Office reported that his health condition remains stable, without any episodes of respiratory failure.

On Thursday evening, 07/3/25, at the beginning of the prayer for the pope's health at St. Peter's Square, Cardinal Angel Fernandez Artime, who led it, announced his greetings; the first since his hospitalisation on 14 February.

Francis, with a weakened voice, said with apparent difficulty in Spanish: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers for my health from the Square, I accompany you from here." "May God bless you and the Virgin protect you. Thank you," added the pope.