

First reading **Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

Second reading **Philippians 2:6-11**

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Accl: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel **Luke 22:14-23:56**

Key: N. Narrator. ✘ Jesus. O. Other single speaker. C. Crowd, or more than one speaker.

N. When the hour came, Jesus took his place at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,

✘ I have longed to eat this passover with you before I suffer; because, I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

N. Then, taking a cup, he gave thanks and said,

✘ Take this and share it among you, because from now on, I tell you, I shall not drink wine until the kingdom of God comes.

N. Then he took some bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them, saying,

✘ This is my body which will be given for you; do this as a memorial of me.

N. He did the same with the cup after supper, and said,

✘ This cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you.

And yet, here with me on the table is the hand of the man who betrays me. The Son of Man does indeed go to his fate even as it has been decreed, but alas for that man by whom he is betrayed!

N. And they began to ask one another which of them it could be who was to do this thing.

A dispute arose also between them about which should be reckoned the greatest, but he said to them,

✘ Among pagans it is the kings who lord it over them, and those who have authority over them are given the title Benefactor. This must not happen with you. No; the greatest among you must behave as if he were the youngest, the leader as if he were the one who serves. For who is the greater: the one at table or the one who serves? The one at table, surely? Yet here am I among you as one who serves!

You are the men who have stood by me faithfully in my trials; and now I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father conferred one on me: you will eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Simon, Simon! Satan, you must know, has got his wish to sift you all like wheat; but I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail, and once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers.

N. He answered,

O. Lord, I would be ready to go to prison with you, and to death.

N. Jesus replied,

✘ I tell you, Peter, by the time the cock crows today you will have denied three times that you know me.

The Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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



St. Stephen's R C Church Blairgowrie
St. Mary's C/Angus/St. Luan's Alyth

14th April 2019, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.
Year, C. 2019.

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



Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Umunna MA, Ph.D.
Phone: 01250872171; Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com.
Address: 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE

Catechists: Mrs. Kamila Doig. Email: mazur-ka7tak@btinternet.com; Mrs. Margaret Young e-mail: mararcrafts@talktalk.net 01250 875086

Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation every Wednesday 6.00pm.

H/Teacher: St. Steph's P. S. Mr Simon Mckell. Ph: 871950

Hall Reservations for Events: Contact no: 01250872171

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs Linda Forsyth.
Email: lady.linda@live.co.uk 01828632024.

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkowalinski@gmail.com

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

***Hospital Chaplains:** Please call: N/wells 01382 611282; P.R.I: 01738259371. *Please let the priest know if you are having a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit .

***Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:** Please make appointment with the Priest before any arrangement and date.

Warm Welcome to all our visitors. Whether you are visiting our parish or just moved into the area, please feel very welcome ... thanks.

Divine Mercy Devotion. Tues after morning mass. Pls join us.

Sac of Reconciliation. 6.00pm every Sat & 9am on Sundays.

First Saturday of the Month: Mass of Our Lady the BVM and Rosary . 10.00am.

Fam Rosary adoration Weds 6pm, and mass for the sick last Weds of every month.

Mass with St. Stephens P. School: 1st Thurs & 3rd Fridays of the month.

Parish diary for the Holy Week

Vigil Mass: 6.30pm Mass: St. Stephen's.

Sunday: 9.30am Mass: St Luan's; 11.00am: St. Step.

3.00pm Evening prayer & Benediction

Mon: 10.00am: Mass at St. Stephen's.

Mon: 12.00 noon: 10.00am: Funeral Mass for Late Hugh McNally at the Cathedral Dundee

Tue: 9.30am/10.00am: Morning prayers and Mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed: 9.30am/10.00am: Morning prayers and Mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed: 7.00pm **Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.**

Holy Thurs : 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Stephen's. 10.00pm : Night prayers to conclude the watch

Good Fri: 10.00am. Morning prayers at St. Stephen's 3.00pm. Stations of the Cross followed by Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. **Night prayer at 10 pm**

Holy Sat: 10.00am. Morning prayers, **9.00pm.** Easter Vigil

Easter Sun: **9.30 am** Mass: St. Luan's; **11.00am** Mass: St. Stephen's.

Please support the SCIAF collection this Sunday. Please remember to return the SCIAF boxes also.

Mass Intentions for the week

- For Late Canon Hugh McNally
- For Late Canon Robert McDonald

You are never alone!

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.

MASS READINGS OF THIS SUNDAY & POSSIBLE POINTS TO REFLECT ON.

Psalm blessing and procession readings: Luke 19:28-40 - Jesus sends the disciples ahead to Jerusalem to get a colt for him". Psalm 23: The Lord is the earth and its fullness / who shall climb the mountain of the Lord. Psalm 46: All people clap your hands. **Mass readings:** First: Isaiah 50: 4-7 - The Lord has given me a disciples tongue ... I offered my back to those who struck me. Psalm: 21 - My God, why have you forsaken me . Second: Philippians 2: 6-11 - His state was divine yet Christ Jesus ... was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. But God raised him high. Gospel: Luke 22:14 - 23:56 - The Passion, from Jesus celebrating the Passover meal, until his body is placed in the tomb by Joseph of Arimathea.



Prayers

please:

Please remember the following in

your prayers:

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Ursula Edgar,
Janet Melville

Roy Melville

Nancy Dellaquaglia,

James Warden

Michael Rolls.

Ron Crisp

Eilidh MacInnes

LieseLotte Stuart,

Neil McDowall

Michael O'Malley

Kate O'Malley

To be continued

REFLECTION:

Our Greatest Week

We begin the most solemn week of the liturgical year. Once called the 'Great Week', nowadays we know it as 'Holy Week'. In it we witness the total self-giving of Jesus. St Paul describes it as his "kenosis" (Greek: κένωσις is the act of emptying) or 'self-emptying' by which Jesus made himself entirely receptive to the divine will. See Philipians 2:7 εαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν μορφῆν δούλου λαβὼν "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." Paul goes on to affirm to total vindication of Jesus: ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ὑπερύψωσεν καὶ ἐχαρίσατο αὐτῷ τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν ὄνομα. "God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name."

Our liturgy this week invites us to follow Jesus every step of the way, beginning with his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There he was welcomed, applauded and acclaimed by a crowd of well-wishers. On Thursday we will join him at table, to receive his gift of himself in the eucharistic bread and wine. After dining with him we will, in our reflections, go with him along the trail from the Upper Room to the Garden of Olives. There we will see him struggling with fear and anxiety about the cruel death that awaits him. On Good Friday we will be standing in spirit beside his mother at the foot of the cross, while he hands his spirit back to the Father who sent him.

On Saturday we will be quiet and silent around his tomb, as we remember the injustice and cruelty of humanity, for which he died. Then, late on Saturday, we will move from the darkness of our Passion journey to the place of the bright Easter fire. There we will join the procession of the great Paschal Candle, representing the risen Christ, as he lights up the darkness of our church and lives.

The pain of our compassion with Jesus to Calvary will give way to the hope and joy of Easter. Jesus Christ is not dead and gone. No, he is risen, strong and powerful, alive in

himself, and alive in us. Then we can hold in our hearts those assuring words that Juliana of Norwich in her vision of Christ Crucified. From his own lips she heard this promise: 'All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well.'

Ass. Of Cath. Priests.

Liturgy: The coming weeks culminating to the Holy Week will make a big demand on the Sacristans and Mass Helpers, Readers, Music directors, Cantors, Flower Group, Liturgy Group, Eucharistic Ministers and our webmaster. To be in control of the situation, may I ask that all those responsible for these areas confirm time and date as well as remind all persons playing any role(s) of their participation during this period and especially the Holy Week. Thanks.

Information for Gift Aid Donors: £12,500 is the new personal tax allowance. All donors, therefore, should be reminded to check that they are paying sufficient tax to cover the total amount of contributions they pay to not only the church but to all organisations with whom they have signed Gift Aid forms.

There are no cost implications in joining the scheme for individuals who pay enough tax: the church, however, would receive the same benefit as if you had increased your weekly donation by 25%. For any parishioners wishing to join, the declaration form is very simple to complete and is available from Mike Coyle.

READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C:

First: Acts 10:34, 37-43 - Peter gives Cornelius an eyewitness account of Jesus: his life and work, his death and his resurrection.

Psalm: 117 - This day was made by the Lord, we rejoice and are glad / Give thanks to the Lord / The Lord's right hand has triumphed / The stone which the builders rejected.

Second: Colossians 3:1-4 - Let your thoughts be on heavenly things - now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

Gospel: John 20:1-9 - Mary of Magdala discovers that the tomb is open, she tells the disciples and they go to the tomb .. he saw and understood and believed.

FROM DUNKELD DIOCESE

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is in our diocese and is visiting parishes and families. At the moment, this Statue of our Lay of Fatima is with us here in St Stephens. If you wish to have a turn and have the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima bless your home please sign a sheet at the back of the church. Everyone is invited welcome her into their home.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH

Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday at the St. Stephen's Pri. school at 1400, thanks.

Liturgy of the Word for Children.

It is important that all children attend their Sunday Liturgy. The true message of each week of the year will be explained and the reasons for our joy explored. Age bracket for children's liturgy: 1-8. **To be continued after Easter.**

Foodbank. Support to the foodbank supplies is an ongoing effort towards those who need to be served by this provision. Thankyou very much for your support in this direction.

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 someone who is need of this care. Thanks.

Last Sunday's offertory collection: £710.00. Many thanks to you for supporting your parish.

Gift Aid: Gift Aid is available to all who pay tax as an incentive to generate some extra 25p from every £1 donations/offering you make. The form is available on request. Thank you for supporting your parish.

East Perthshire Acts of Churches together are holding their annual retreat at Craig Lodge House of

Prayer, Dalmally on Monday 29th April to 3rd May. To find out more speak to Margaret Young 01250 875086. If you would like to join us at £200 for full board contact Liz Crichton Tel: 07810803132.

TOUGHEST QUESTION of LENT

is "Where are you?" This happened to be the first verbal record of God's coming in the creation story, which includes God seeking Adam and Eve after their disobedience. God calls the couple, 'where are you'. This is still by far, the major question of advent. You provide the answer yourself.

Holy Week Programme:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A - Sunday 14th April

Distribution, Procession, Blessing of Palm at all Masses
Vigil Mass at 6.30 p.m. in St. Stephen's Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Luan's, Alyth
Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's, Blairgowrie
Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.00 p.m. in St. Stephen's.

Monday of Holy Week - 15th April

Mass at 10.00 am in St. Stephen's preceded by Morning prayers at 9.30am. 7.00pm: Together in Faith. Readings and Hymns. The Story of Holy Week @ Blairgowrie Parish Church of Scotland.

Tuesday of Holy Week - 16th April

Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's preceded by Morning prayers at 9.30am. Together in Faith: Scriptural Way of the Cross at 7.00 p.m. in St. Stephen's

Wednesday of Holy Week - 17th April

Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's preceded by Morning prayers at 9.30am.

The Mass of the Chrism: The oils to be used for the Sacraments in the coming year are blessed today during the mass in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee at 7.00 p.m. It is a great thing to be able

to join in the celebration of the Mass of Chrism at the cathedral if you can.

7.00pm: Together in Faith: St Catherine's

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Betrayal - 18th April

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's. The church remains open until 4.00 p.m. for silent prayer
The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 p.m. in St. Stephen's with the washing of feet (please feel free to have your feet washed. Simply sit at the end of a pew with your shoes off and please join in the procession and watching at the Altar of Repose. Night Prayer concludes the watching at 10.00 p.m.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - 19th April

Office of Readings & Morning Prayer at 10.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's; the church remains open until after the Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Stations of The Cross at 3.00pm. in St. Stephen's Followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion in St. Stephen's. Night Prayer round the Cross in St Stephen's at 10.00 p.m. Please return to end Good Friday together.

Holy Saturday - 20th April

A day of waiting at the Lord's tomb
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 10.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's

THE EASTER VIGIL MASS: Night of all nights. **9.00 p.m.** at St. Stephen's around the Paschal Fire

Easter Sunday Mass 9.30am, 11.00am of the Resurrection of the Lord - 21st April

Renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Holy Water 9.30 a.m. in St Luan's Alyth, 11.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie

Have a wonderful Easter celebrations

-Father Gregory Umunna