

GLORIA:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

The stoning of Stephen

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep.

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 22:12-14,16-17,20

Come, Lord Jesus

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: 'Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to every man according to what he deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.'

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning.

The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come.' Then let all who are thirsty come: all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.

The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel: John

Father, may they be completely one

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.'

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 Coupar Angus
→ St. Luan's Alyth

2nd June 2019, 7th Sunday of Easter, Year, C. 2019.

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



Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Umunna MA, Ph.D.

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

Parish Volunteers:

Catechists: Mrs. Kamila Doig. Email: mazurka7tak@btinternet.com; Mrs. Margaret Young e-mail: maracrafts@talktalk.net 01250 875086

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

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs. Linda Forsyth.

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

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

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanese

Hall Reservations for Events: Contact no: 01250872171

***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. Sch: 1st Thursdays & 3rd Fridays of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

Parish diary for the Week

Sunday: Vigil. 6.30pm;

9.30am Mass: St Luan's;

11.00am: St. Stephen's.

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

Wed: 6.00pm— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Wed: 7.00pm—Mass at St. Stephen's.

Thurs: 10 am— Mass at St. Stephen's.

— 7.00pm Parish Diversity Cele. Stirring Meeting.

Fri: 10.00am—Mass at St. Stephen's Visitation of BVM.

7.00pm: Service of Songs and Benediction in Praise of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Mark the May devotion.

Sunday Mass: Vigil. 6.30pm;

9.30am Mass: St Luan's;

11.00am: St. Stephen's.

I. Please support the special collection for the Apostolate of communication this Sunday. Thanks.



Priestly Prayer of Christ



READINGS

1st: Acts - Stephen sees a vision of heaven thrown open and the Son of May at the right hand of God. **Psalm: 96** - For you indeed are the Lord. **2nd: Apocalypse** - John hears a voice "Very soon I shall be with you again ... these revelations come from Jesus" **Gos: Jn** - Jesus prays to the Father for all the disciples and the people who will come to believe in him through their words - prays for unity and love - may they be completely one. **Theme:** Love and unity in Christ, the Son of God.

Mass Intentions

-Sadie Woodford.

-Annie-Marie (Nancy) Fraser

-Aloysius Umunna

Prayers

please:

Please remember the following in

your prayers:
=====
Ursula Edgar,
Janet Melville

Roy Melville

Nancy Dellaquaglia,

James Warden

Michael Rolls.

Ron Crisp

Eilidh MacInnes

LieseLotte Stuart,

Neil McDowall

Michael O'Malley

To be continued

Celebrating our Parish Diversity Day

**Our Parish is blessed!
We are a people drawn from diverse nations -**

+ Scottish +English +Polish
+Ukraine +French +German
+Romania +Filipino +Nigerian
+Irish +Spanish +Kenyan
+Belgian +South African
+India +Colombia
+Czech Republic +??

We are United joyfully as one family of God's people.

Please Join us as we celebrate our gifts and talents.

**Date: August. Details shortly.
Any suggestions please?**



The first stirring meeting of the representatives of all the nationalities was last Thursday. We agreed that it was a lovely idea to celebrate our diversity/gifts and we came up with date & some ideas. Next meeting to further our preparation for this celebration will be on 6/6/19 at 7.00pm. Everyone is invited.

From a homily on the Song of Songs by Saint Gregory of Nyssa, bishop

The glory you gave to me, I have given to them

When love has entirely cast out fear, and fear has been transformed into love, then the unity brought us by our saviour will be fully realised, for all men will be united with one another through their union with the one supreme Good. They will possess the perfection ascribed to the dove, according to our interpretation of the text: One alone is my dove, my perfect one. She is the only child of her mother, her chosen one.

Our Lord's words in the gospel bring out the meaning of this text more clearly. After having conferred all power on his disciples by his blessing, he obtained many other gifts for them by his prayer to the Father. Among these was included the greatest gift of all, which was that they were no longer to be divided in their judgement of what was right and good, for they were all to be united to the one supreme Good. As the Apostle says, they were to be bound together with the bonds of peace in the unity that comes from the Holy Spirit. They were to be made one body and one spirit by the one hope to which they were all called. We shall do better, however, to quote the sacred words of the gospel

itself. I pray, the Lord says, that they all may be one; that as you, Father, are in me and I am in you, so they also may be one in us.

Now the bond that creates this unity is glory. That the Holy Spirit is called glory no one can deny if he thinks carefully about the Lord's words: The glory you gave to me, I have given to them. In fact, he gave this glory to his disciples when he said to them: Receive the Holy Spirit. Although he had always possessed it, even before the world existed, he himself received this glory when he put on human nature. Then, when his human nature had been glorified by the Spirit, the glory of the Spirit was passed on to all his kin, beginning with his disciples. This is why he said: The glory you gave to me, I have given to them, so that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, I want them to be perfectly one.

Whoever has grown from infancy to manhood and attained to spiritual maturity possesses the mastery over his passions and the purity that makes it possible for him to receive the glory of the Spirit. He is that perfect dove upon whom the eyes of the bridegroom rest when he says: One alone is my dove, my perfect one.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH

First Holy Comm

Today again, we also welcome **Thirteen** of our boys and girls who are making a spiritual journey into an intimate union with Christ through the Eucharist. From this Sunday until the Sunday of the Solemnity of the body and Blood of Christ in June, they will witness to their faith through active participation at all the Sunday masses. Please pray for them.

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.

Readers at 11.00am Sunday Mass

Could all readers for the St. Stephen's Sunday 11.00am Mass please send their e.mail address to John Thomson joanne.thompson@gmail.com to enable rotas be sent by email. This will hopefully ease the communication gap and make for easy access/reminder to all. Thanks.

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: £522.36. Many thanks to you for supporting your parish.

A newcomer to the parish?

Have you registered your name and family in the parish record? The parish community welcomes you. Please get a form from Fr Gregory, fill and hand in the form or just pop it in through the door of presbytery. Thanks.

Reflection:

Do you believe in the power of prayer?

I know we don't always get what we pray for and we have to deal with that mystery. Still, there are times we pray for someone and they are helped by our prayer. When we, or someone we love, is in personal need, even if we don't receive immediate relief, the very fact that someone is praying for us brings comfort and assurance.

Their prayer gives us access to a community of concerned believers and that can help us through times of trial, discouragement, temptation and even despair. Prayer can also help us keep focused on our need and dependence on God. When we pray we are not only addressing God, we are also reminding ourselves that, for what really matters in life, we need God.

In today's gospel we are invited into Jesus' prayer as he speaks to his father - not for himself, but for us. He is praying for those who have come to believe in him through the word his first disciples passed on. It is one

thing to listen in on a conversation at a table next to us in a restaurant. It is quite another to be invited to listen in on Jesus at prayer - especially since we are the ones he is talking to his Father about.

Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples. Jesus knows that his disciples will be stressed after he leaves them and so he prays that the community will hold together and continue to be his witnesses despite great difficulties.

The word of God is a living, present-tense word. So, Jesus' prayer is alive; he is praying for us who, like his disciples, are gathered with him and one another around the table. He prays for our unity, that we hold together; not only when the church faces persecution, but also during these painful times, as one after another piece of breaking news reveals still more accounts of clergy abuse and cover-ups. We need his prayer for unity more than ever, as more and more leave our church because of the impact the scandal has had on them.

We will voice our prayers for healing, unity for our church and for the victims of abuse. As it is with prayer, we express our dependence on God and our trust that the 'standing' Jesus of Revelation will come quickly to help us. At times it feels like we are in a perpetual Advent, waiting time and that our prayer is a constant, 'Come Lord Jesus.' That's a brief prayer, easily said throughout the day, especially when we need the standing Jesus to come and help us and our worshipping community.