

No GLORIA Pls

1st Reading: Exo 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5

8 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel: John 4:5-42 Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there. I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the

place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the

grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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 very lovely Sunday. Fr. Gregory Umunna

ST. STEPHEN'S R C CHURCH BLAIRGOWRIE

→ St. Mary's Coupar Angus

→ St. Luan's Alyth

3rd Sunday of Lent. 15/03/2020

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



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.

Parish diary for the Week

Sunday Masses: Vigil. Vigil: 6.30pm; 9.30am Mass;

St Luan's and 11.00am: St. Steph.

Mon:

Tue - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Wed - Mass at St. Steph 7.00pm

Thurs - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Frid - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Sat - Vigil Mass of Sunday 6.30pm

Sund - St. Luan's 9.30 am. St. Steph 11.00am.



The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels.

—The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus.

—The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

—The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit.

Divine Mercy Devotion.

Tuesday after morning mass. Please join us.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.

1st Saturday of the Month:

Mass of Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary and Rosary. 10.00am.

Fam. Rosary, adoration.

Wednesdays 6pm, and mass for the sick last Wednesdays of the month.

Mass with St. Step P. Sch:

1st Fri & 3rd Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.



God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings.



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

Phone: 01250872171. **Email:** peacegreg2002@yahoo.com.

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

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

Parish Volunteers: **Catechists:** Linda Forsyth

Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation every Monday 6.00pm in the Hall.

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.

Responsible Person for Euch. Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott

Responsible Person for Lectors: Mr. John Thompson

Responsible Group- Parish Social Justice issues: SSSVP.

Financial Adviser: Mr. Mike Coyle.

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanese.

Hall Reservations for Events: Contact no: 872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: N/walls 01382611282;

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.

Prayers please:

Please remember the following in your prayers:=====
Janet Melville Nancy Dellaquaglia, James Warden, Michael Roils, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes LieseLotte Stuart, Neil McDowall Michael O'Malley. To be continued

Diocesan Events:

This year's WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal focuses on women who are survivors of violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some of their stories are heart-breaking and difficult to hear, but this is a crucial part of SCIAF's mission.

Dunkeld Youth Service upcoming annual trip to the Life Teen Summer Camp in the Netherlands.

The camp will take place between 2nd-9th August 2020, and is targeted at teens from 14-19 years of age. Registration may be made by emailing the youth office or through our online sign-up form.

The deadline for registration is Monday 9th March. More information can be found on our website <https://www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk/summer-camp/> Charis McCrossan Youth Co-Ordinator.

Safeguarding 2020; Very Important

The diocesan safeguarding team are holding a training/refresher evening in St Stephen's Church hall on Monday 30th March at 7pm.

This event is for all current volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults within our Parishes. Volunteers MUST undertake regular training to keep their PVG current which enables volunteers to continue with their parish ministry.

Unfortunately, anyone who does not

complete the training may be asked to step back from volunteering until refresher training is completed.

Anyone who cannot attend the parish meeting should contact Linda Forsyth, 07972352598 to arrange an alternative session as soon as possible.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with any of the following should also attend this training and complete the required paperwork before undertaking active participation in Parish ministries.

-Children's Lit -Eucharistic Minister
-SSVP -Alter server trainer

Anyone carrying out the following should contact Linda or Fr Gregory for clarification as to their requirement

-Transporting parishioners to Mass
-Visiting sick/housebound parishioners

Children's liturgy volunteers should all attend and hold a current PVG, this includes parent helpers who regularly help on Sundays.

PVG for parish volunteering must be applied for by the Diocesan Team and is in addition to other PVG's held for work or other organisations.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH

Important Dates for your Diary Please

1. Diaconate Ordination of Christopher Doig in Rome on the 3rd of May 2020. Please keep him in your prayers.
2. Pastoral Visit of Most Rev Stephen Robson to St. Stephen's Blairgowrie and the Confirmation of our children with the 11.00am mass on Sunday the 3rd of May 2020. There will be no

3. Vigil mass that weekend. First Holy Communion for our boys and girls will be held on Sunday the 14th of June 2020, 2.00pm mass.
4. Wedding Nathalka and Macej in St. Stephen's on the 4th of July 1.00pm.
5. Wedding of Katie and Jordan in St. Stephen's on the 15th of August 1.00pm

Other Dates:

Special Collections.

1. 1st Mar; Sick and retired Priests.
2. 22nd March: SCIAF collection.
3. 29th March Building Maintenance Fund.
4. 10th April: Holy Places Good Friday Coll
5. 26th April: Building Maintenance Fund.
6. 24th May: Apostolate of Communication.
7. 31st May: Building Maintenance Fund.

Liturgy of the Word for Children.

Please remember that 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.

The Catholic Church in Scotland is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary.

For more information please contact your Diocesan Vocations Director (Fr Mark Cassidy, St Mary's, Lochee, 01382-611282) or e-mail priests@pfs.org.uk #priesthood2020 'Discernment Evening for those thinking about Priesthood to be held in St Andrew's Cathedral on Sunday 26th January at 7pm (after the evening Mass)'.
@ststephensrcpri

Message to Parents of school age children.

Just to remind all parents, seeking to enroll their children in a Catholic School for the first time that, as baptized Roman Catholics, they are only really guaranteed a place in the Catholic School in whose catchment area they live; i.e. if they apply for a Catholic school outwith their catchment area, it will be treated as a placement request and have little or no more weight/chance of success than other placement requests. Sometimes, parents think that because they are Catholics, they have automatic rights to entry into any Catholic school - this is not the case in Perth and Kinross. -Fr. Tom Shields.

St. Stephen's Primary School.

"Our local primary school has a limited number of places this year in all classes. The school's values of "Love, Integrity, Faith and Tolerance" underpin an excellent Roman Catholic education for young learners. St Stephen's Primary provides education in preparation for sacraments and the Pope Francis Faith Award, along with a biannual pilgrimage to Iona. Funding is in place to provide transport to and from school for families of St Stephen's and St Luan's who live out with Blairgowrie. To find out more phone 01250 871950. Please follow the school on Twitter @ststephensrcpri"

Foodbank. Support to the foodbank supplies is an ongoing effort towards those who need to be served by this provision. Please contribute to this very worthy cause and, if Sunday isn't convenient, donations can be handed in to St Catharine's Centre during the week. Thankyou very much for your support in this direction.

"SSVP HOMELESS APPEAL

Over the winter months, the SSVP

Conference wish to repeat the annual appeal for donations of woollen gloves, scarves, hats, socks Thankyou."

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 Finances

Offertory collection: £507.76. 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, complete it and hand in the form or just pop it in through the door of presbytery. Thanks.

International Rosary

(multilingual - Polish, Maltese, English Tagalog and others if present): after 10.00 a.m. Mass on 1st Saturday each month Please join us, Thanks.

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.

St. Stephen's school "Stations of the Cross"

in the school at 1415 on the 2nd April. Everyone is invited to please join us.

Please support Our Seminarians in Rome: for justgiving website for supporting the Scots College in Rome

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mary-ross-2?](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mary-ross-2?utm_id=1&utm_term=JgbWgjzgg)
utm_id=1&utm_term=JgbWgjzgg

As you may know, the Scottish government are at present consulting on gender self-recognition. The form for the consultation has 5 questions. It's fairly straightforward and contributors

to the consultation can opt out of having their name included in the published results.

Parish Lenten Retreat

Date: Frid. 27th - Sun 29th March
Venue: St Stephen's Parish
Retreat Moderator: Fr. Jean Gove.
Tea/Coffee will be served in the hall during break and there will be opportunities for confession before and after the Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome to make use of this opportunity this time of Lent.

WHERE IS YOUR UPPER ROOM?

Have you been there lately? Everyone needs an Upper Room, a place whether it be an actual physical locale or simply a spiritual meeting of minds and hearts, where it is possible to pause and pray and be together with others who believe in and are committed to Christ.

Reflection: God has a Plan that we find our identity in Christ

Maybe sometimes we murmur because we focus on what we don't have or what we think we should have, rather than focusing on what God has already done for us. The Hebrews in the desert forgot one fundamental point: God had a plan for them and would see that plan through. Do we forget God has a plan for us and will provide for us? The first reading is not just about the Hebrews in the desert. The first reading is also about us. So when things are not as we think they should be, 'Keep calm and carry on.' God knows what we really need, not what we think we need, and God knows what will best prepare us for our future. God is to be first in our lives. God is the one who will make us happy. God has a plan.