

The only way to 'save my soul' is by becoming a truly loving and caring person as part of a loving and caring community of people united in Christ. And sometimes that caring may involve bringing the brother/sister face to face with the loving demands of the Gospel.

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.

The Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invis-

ble. 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.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

As a preacher, Ezekiel has the responsibility to warn sinners to repent. The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows.

"You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you

hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life."

Responsorial: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9

R./: If today you hear his voice! Harden not your hearts. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R./) Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R./) O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test: when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R./)

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Paul condenses all the commandments into "love one another" Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not

steal; You shall not covet" and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Fraternal correction within the Christian family Jesus said to his disciples, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

-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

23rd Sunday of the Ordinary Time. Year A. 6/9/20

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: St. Steph. Vigil: 6.30pm, 9.30am, 11.00am.

Mon:

Tue - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Wed - Mass at St. Steph 7.00pm

Thurs - Mass at St. Luan's 10.00am; 3.00pm Burial Service of Jenny Olyphant at the Cemetery on Dunkeld Road

Frid - Mass at St. Luan's 10.00am.

Sund - St. Steph. Vigil: 6.30pm, 9.30am, 11.00am.

Mass intentions for the week

⇒ For all who are struggling to cope with the pandemic.

⇒ For Jenny Olyphant

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another." ...St Paul



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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.

Divine Mercy Devotion.

Tuesday after morning mass. Please join us.

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: SSV.P.

Financial Adviser: Mr. Mike Coyle.

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanse.

Hall Reservations for Events: Contact no: 872171.

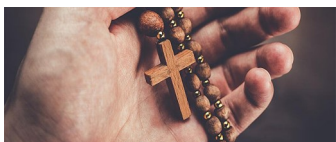
Hospital Chaplains: Please call: N/wells 01382611282;

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, James Warden, Michael Rolls, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes, LieseLotte Stuart, Neil McDowall Michael O'Malley.

Have you prayed your Rosary today?



Parish Finances

Although public masses are suspended, Church related utility bills and maintenances are never suspended. We know that the present difficult situation affects individuals and households in many ways. However, if you feel able to support the parish in whatever way you could, (direct debit, occasional or one-off), is an account number:

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, 14 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AD

Sort code:- 83-1633

Account No:- 00240708

Account name:- Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld No3 Char TST St Stephens RC Church

Many thanks for supporting your parish.

Reflections: Where two or three are gathered in my name...

'If two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my heavenly Father' - This is also mentioned twice in Jn 15:7, 16. This means that Jesus is sure and serious of what He is revealing to us. That is the power of community prayer. Jesus gives the reason: Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.

It is good to pray individually; that is very commendable. In fact, Jesus usually prayed alone. But we cannot say that because we pray

individually, we do not need any more to go to Church for the Mass or to come together in prayer. In fact, Jesus is very clear in this statement. In the gathering of His followers in His name, He is present there. So their prayers will be heard and granted by the heavenly Father. Let us, therefore, give particular attention to the Prayers of the Faithful each time we come to Mass. Let us also remind one another to come together for community prayer, family prayer, and especially to the Eucharistic celebration. Jesus is with us, and our prayers will be lifted up to the Father. That is the meaning of the usual ending of every prayer at Mass: 'We ask this through Christ Our Lord.' Pay attention to the plural 'We' and to the 'through Christ'. He is our sole Mediator with the Father in heaven. The heavenly Father cannot refuse what His Son Jesus asks of Him on our behalf. Isn't it wonderful? - **An extract from a reflection by Catholic for Life**

Personal Reflections

- ⇒ Do I feel nourished after holy communion? Do I feel a sense of relief that Mass is over?
- ⇒ Has the Mass strengthened our identity as a community?
- ⇒ Do I take away a message, thought or prayer for the week?

===== **From the Director of Mission Dunkeld Diocese.**

At the beginning of September our Diocesan Mission team will decide with Bishop

Stephen if we will go ahead with our Diocesan Mission day on the 31st of October. The theme for the day, chosen last year, is our mission to care for the planet. This is

very much based on the issues raised by Laudato Si. It is general accepted by serious theologians that continuing with our present day measures it is too late to save the earth so what should Christians be doing. Hopefully we will be able to point a direction and come up with practical suggestions for our parishes. The theme is very much in vogue just now and especially in the next few months as we remember the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si and the Season of Creation we are currently in. May I suggest you invite a few parishioners to take advantage of the various online lectures and discussions that are available (mostly via Zoom) in the next few weeks. Perhaps they can assist and if they think something is really important, or can help in the parish's mission, they can report back to you. If you go on to the following WEB page most of them appear here:

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/events>

Most of them you have to register to participate as they will be very popular. I would indicate especially the talk on Tuesday 8th September at 6.30pm (Carring for our common home in your parish <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/events/513-season-of-creation>) which is on practical suggestions of what can be done in parishes. But they all look very profitable. I hope you find this helpful and if you have any questions feel free to contact me. **Fr. Mike**

Dear Parishioners, kindly sign up to this if you are very keen on this subject and please let me know so that as a parish we can harvest your insights from this awareness for the benefit of all the parish. Thanks. Fr. Gregory

Foods 4 Thought:

CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY

Contd from last week

10. It is noteworthy how such cultural changes and the evolving territorial ties are fostering within the Church, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, a new discernment around community, "which consists in seeing reality with the eyes of God, with a view to unity and communion"[11]. The whole People of God must urgently embrace the Holy Spirit's invitation to begin the process of "renewing" the face of the Church.

III. The value of the Parish today

11. In virtue of this discernment, the Parish is called upon to read the signs of the times, while adapting both to the needs of the faithful and to historical changes. A renewed vitality is required that favours the rediscovery of the vocation of the baptised as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a missionary of the Gospel, in light of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent Magisterium.

12. The Council Fathers were prescient in writing: "the care of souls should always be infused with a missionary spirit"[12]. In continuity with this teaching, Saint John Paul II specified that: "whilst the Parish is perfected

and integrated in a variety of forms, it nevertheless remains an indispensable organism of primary importance in the visible structure of the Church", whereby "evangelisation is the cornerstone of all pastoral action, the demands of which are primary, preeminent and preferential"[13]. Subsequently, Benedict XVI taught, "the parish is a beacon that radiates the light of the faith and thus responds to the deepest and truest desires of the human heart, giving meaning and hope to the lives of individuals and families"[14]. Lastly, Pope Francis recalled how "the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers"[15].

13. In order to promote the centrality of the missionary presence of the Christian community in the world[16], it is important not only to think about a new experience of Parish, but also about the ministry and mission of priests, who, together with the lay faithful, have the task of being "salt and light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:13-14), a "lamp on a lamp-stand" (cf. Mk 4:21), showing forth the face of an evangelising community, capable of an adequate reading of the signs of the times and of giving witness to coherent evangelical living. **To be continued...**

Learning to live with Covid-19

Among the many difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been the particular challenge of sustaining a normal faith life involving worship in Church. When we chose to close all church buildings on 19th March 2020, no one could predict when they would re-open and how the 'new normal' would look. With our churches now re-opened, we still face significant restrictions on our worship. While undesirable, these are necessary if we are to minimise the risks of gathering in confined spaces.

In order to learn from this unique pandemic experience, and to identify how any subsequent challenges might be met, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland invited parishes to participate in a Pastoral Ministry Survey by the end of July 2020. The results of the survey indicate that, while it has clearly been difficult to sustain a 'normal' parish life, parish clergy and laypeople have worked hard to serve the needs of parish communities, as far as they were able to, given all the restrictions.

While the survey shows that COVID-19 has presented many challenges, it also suggests that parish communities have responded to these challenges with creativity, determination and love to find solutions for the good of all.

This newsletter reports on this experience and provides information and advice which may be of benefit to parishes across Scotland. It also points to sources of support which might assist the Catholic community to deal with some of the effects of the pandemic and to continue living in Faith as we deal with any future issues arising from the crisis.

"The Bishops are well aware of the challenges which COVID-19 has presented for clergy and for parish communities. We greatly appreciate all that has been done to assist people to remain involved with their parishes and with the Church. I know that the Spirit is breathing new life, May God bless you and keep you safe."

+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll & the Isles, Chair of Pastoral Ministry Working Group