

Apparent outsiders may be closer to God than their supposed betters. Social or religious standing means little in the sight of God. The dictum "actions speak louder than words" is fleshed out in the parable of the two sons, neither of whom does what he says he will do. Doing good actions is better than speaking fine words.

The story of the Good Samaritan helps us to see that...Doing good actions is better than speaking fine words.



### GLORIA:

Glory to God in the high-est, 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 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.

### 1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

*God deals justly with us, forgiving the sinner who repents and rewarding those who persevere*

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn

away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

### Responsorial: Psalm 24:4-9

*Response: Remember your mercies, O Lord*  
Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me; for you are God my saviour. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

### 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

*Unity depends on Christians imitating the humility of Christ who became obedient unto death*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

*The parable of the two sons reminds us that good actions speak louder than fine words*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders: "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

*-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

**26th Sunday of the Ordinary Time. Year A. 27/9/20**

**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.

--- **Fun. Service** for Robert Duffy; Perth Crematorium 2.00pm

**Wed** - Mass at St. Steph 7.00pm.

**Thurs** - **Funeral Mass** at St. Stephen's for Janet Melville 10am

**Frid** - Mass at St. Luan's 10am. **End of Term at St. Step P.S 11am**

**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 Robert Duffy whose funeral is this week
- ⇒ Janet Melville whose funeral is this week

**This Sunday Gospel addresses the fundamental human dilemma that we are all too familiar with: the gap between words and deeds, between intention and decision, between desires expressed in the calm of reflection and the quick fixes of lived life.**

### Rosary Whirlwind British Isles - October 2020 for Faith, Life & Peace

*October is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.*



### Fam. Rosary, adoration.

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

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.

### Mass with St. Step P. Sch.

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

### 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.

**Parish Website:** [www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk](http://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk)

**Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No:**

**Prayers please:** Please remember the following in your prayers:=== James Warden, Michael Rolls, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes, Lieselotte Stuart, Neil McDowall, Michael O'Malley and Bill Anderson.  
**Have you prayed your Rosary today?**



**Parish Finances**

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: God's justice and mercy.

Jesus shared the parable in today's Gospel to teach about God's justice and mercy. The chief priests and elders answered correctly when they said the first son was the obedient one. The point of the parable is that it is better late than never. In other words, it is better to repent and turn in obedience to God later, even if you disobey God at first, than it is to say you will obey (acting as if you are righteous) and not obey. In that regard, the first son represents the worst of sinners, includ-

ing tax collectors and prostitutes in Jesus' day. They had lived very sinful lives, but when the opportunity to repent came, they responded and decided to work in God's vineyard. The second son represents the self-righteous, including the chief priests and elders to whom Jesus was speaking. They thought they had it all together and gave lip-service to God's commands, but did not take action to live as God would have them. In essence, the first son represents those who are humble enough to recognize the error of their ways and turn in repentance, while the second son represents those who are prideful and unwilling to change their ways. The second group may give lip-service to God's commands but will not follow-through.

The moral of the story, then, is that it is better to respond to God's call late, even if you reject it at first, than to say you will but never take action. Note that God invites both sons (who represent different types of people) to come into His vineyard (which represents His kingdom). They had the choice of how to respond. In the same way, God invites all of us into His kingdom, but how will we respond? Will we take action and accept that invitation so we can find life, or only give lip-service to the invitation and reject it by our actions?

—A reflection from St Joseph's Catholic Church, Iowa

**Personal Reflections**

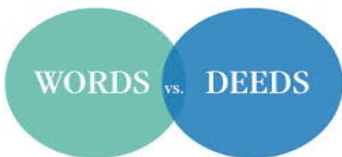
- ⇒ Do I feel nourished after holy communion? Do I feel a sense of relief that Mass is over?
- ⇒ Has the Mass strengthened our identity as a community?
- ⇒ Do I take away a message, thought or prayer for the week?



*"It is necessary to apply merciful love in all human relationships: between spouses, between parents and children, within our communities, in the Church and also in society and politics. "Remember the end and stop hating." Nice sentence! Think about the end! Do you think that you will be in a coffin ... and you will carry the hate there? Think about the end, stop hating! Stop the grudge. Let's think of this very touching sentence: "Remember the end and stop hating."*

—Pope Francis

*Kindness* is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person.



**Rosary Whirlwind British Isles – October 2020**

**for Faith, Life & Peace**

October is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. Nations around the world are hosting their great Rosary Crusades and we join them, especially Ireland in a great union of prayer.

Once again Catholics across England, Wales, Scotland and the Isles are invited to take up their rosaries for an intensive Rosary Whirlwind Mission for the spiritual well-being of the British Isles and for its preservation from degeneration, disaster, sickness and war.

Daily we are witnessing increasing levels of violence, rebellion and lawlessness. The Church is under great attack, the faith is being undermined, the sanctity of life is not honoured and peace is lacking everywhere. The covid-19 global pandemic threatens a second wave – people are fearful of what the future may hold. More than ever we need to intercede for our Isles and for the conversion to Christ of our peoples and that they be protected from all danger, from all sickness and from all evil.

Our refuges are the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the mantle of protection of St. Michael & the Angels, St. Joseph, and our Saints & Martyrs.

**Rosary Whirlwind will invoke the mighty intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary inviting a WHIRLWIND of Heavenly Grace to blow where it wills across our Nations.**

It will take place from wherever you are and will have four main components!

1. **Invitation to a nightly online Rosary at 8pm led from a different Marian Shrine, Cathedral or Parish - line up to follow.**
2. **On Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup> - Feast of Our Lady of Fatima of the Holy Rosary we will undertake the Rosary Whirlwind British Isles from wherever we are.** You are invited to sign up your location on the Map at [www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk](http://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk) Participants are encouraged to arrange Rosaries in places all over our

Isles - Rosary in your neighbourhood, Rosary around your parish or diocese, Rosary from your convent or monastery, Rosary in your home, from your hospital bed, your prison cell, from your care home, Rosary online – Rosary from wherever you are called.

When forming outside groups – they should be no larger than 6 and you need to be in a protective social bubble so that social distancing is honoured! This rule of 6 may change as further government guidelines re covid-19 unfold.

**3. Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> – Eve of All Saints - National Rosary relay Rally from 9am to 9pm** – where the Dioceses of the British Isles are invited to take an hour where the Rosary is said in parishes, homes etc throughout the Diocese during their designated hour.

**May the Rosaries offered on the Eve of All Saints 2020 – be a defence for our peoples and Isles from the snares, traps and entanglements of the devil.**

**4. The Culmination of the Rosary Mission will be on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of All Saints** – when Bishop John will lead a thanksgiving Rosary at 8pm from St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley, Scotland.

Here in the diocese of Dunkeld, Bishop Stephen will lead the Rosary livestreamed from St. Joseph's Chapel in the Diocesan Centre at 12 noon for one hour. He do hopes as many people as possible will join in.

**"I want you to know that in this kind of warfare, the battering ram has always been the Rosary. St. Dominic Imagine the joy of the Blessed Mother when she sees the entire British Isles full of people imploring her powerful intercession! Our Lady of Walsingham, Our Lady of the Rosary pray for us, pray for Scotland, pray for our Isles"**

**Foods 4 Thought:**

**CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY**

*Contd from last week ....*

23. The Church perceives here the need to rediscover Christian

initiation, which generates new life, as it is placed within the mystery of God's own life. It is a journey that is ongoing, that transcends celebrations or events, because, in essence, it is defined, not as a duty to fulfil a "rite of passage", but rather as a perpetual sequela Christi. In this context, it would be useful to establish a mystagogical itinerary that genuinely affects existence[25]. Catechesis needs to be presented as an ongoing proclamation of the Mystery of Christ, the objective of which is to foster in the heart of the baptised that full stature of Christ (cf. Eph 4:13) that is derived from a personal encounter with the Lord of life.

Pope Francis has recalled the need to "mention two false forms of holiness that can lead us astray: gnosticism and pelagianism. They are two heresies from early Christian times, yet they continue to plague us"[26]. In the case of gnosticism, one is dealing with an abstract faith that is purely intellectual and made up of knowledge that is far from lived reality; meanwhile, pelagianism leads man to depend on his own abilities, thus ignoring the action of the Holy Spirit.

24. In the mysterious interplay between the action of God and that of man, the proclamation of the Gospel comes through men and women who give credibility to what they say through the witness of their lives, together with their interpersonal relationships that inspire trust and hope. In these times, marked as they are by indifferentism, individualism and the exclusion of others, the rediscovery of brotherhood is paramount and integral to evangelisation, which is closely linked to human relationships[27]. In this way, the Christian community makes Our Lord's words their own, as they spur us to "put out into the deep" (Lk 5:4), trusting in the Master as we pay out the nets in the assurance of hauling a "large catch"[28].

*To be continued...*