



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 Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord...

Ephesians 3:2-3,5 -6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord...

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage. Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord...

These challenging and most difficult Times of Lockdown...

Require us to LEND A HELPING HAND. Please let us know if you would like Somebody to talk to at this difficult time.



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

Epiphany of the Lord. Year B. 03/01/21

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:

Sat. Vigil mass of Sunday 5.30pm; 6.30pm. St. Stephen's

Sun: 9.30am & 11.00am St. Stephen's

Please, there will be no weekday mass next week.

From next weekend and weekdays, mass times will be as follows:

Sat - Vigil mass of Sunday 5.30pm; 6.30pm. St. Stephen.

Sun - 9.30am **St. Luan's** & 11.00am St. Stephen.

Mon:

Tue - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Wed - Mass at St. Steph 7.00pm

Thurs - Mass at **St. Luan's** 10.00am

Frid - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Mass intentions for the week

Sun: Edel Scarlet

Tue: Bishop Gregory Ochiagha (RIP)

Wed: Rosemary Bell

Thurs: Private. Int.: **Fri:** Bishop Gregory Ochiagha (RIP)



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

Phone: 01250872171. **Email:** ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

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

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

Volunteers:

Catechists: Mrs Linda Forsyth. Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation every Monday 6.00pm in the Hall. Email: lady.linda@live.co.uk 01828632024.

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

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

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

Responsible Person for Euch. Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott

Epiphany of the Lord

Arise,

shine out for your light has come,

the glory of the Lord is rising on you,

We saw his star

as it rose and have come to do him

homage

Fam. Rosary, adoration.

Every 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 Primary School:

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

Divine Mercy Devotion.

Tuesday after morning mass. Please join us.

Responsible Person for Lectors: Ms. Seonaid Johnston

Responsible Group- Parish Social Justice issues: SSSV.

Church Flowers: Mrs Jean Scot

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Financial Adviser: Mr. Mike Coyle.

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanese.

Hall Reservations: 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

Prayers please: Please remember the following in your prayers: James Warden, Michael Rolls, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes, Neil McDowall, Michael O'Malley, RoseMary Bell, Pam McKenna

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 via Standing Order, occasional or one-off payment. Details of Parish account number are:

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.

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?

Reflection: Like the Magi, let us offer Jesus our gifts on this feast of Epiphany.
(a) The first gift might be friendship with God. After all, the whole point of Christmas is that God's Son became one of us

to redeem us and call us friends. God wants our friendship in the form of wholehearted love and devotion.

(b) A second gift might be friendship with others. This kind of friendship can be costly. The price it exacts is vulnerability and openness to others. The good news, however, is that, in offering friendship to others, we will receive back many blessings.

(c) A third gift might be the gift of reconciliation. This gift repairs damaged relationships. It requires honesty, humility, understanding, forgiveness and patience.

(d) The fourth gift of this season is the gift of peace: seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, the sacramental life and daily meditation on the word of God. It is out of humble gratitude that we give Him from the heart our gifts of worship, prayer, singing, possessions, and time. As we give our insignificant, little gifts to God, the good news is that God accepts them! Like the Magi offering their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer what we have, from the heart, in response to what that Child has given to us - Himself. Let us conclude with a 19th century English carol, Christina Rossetti's A Christmas Carol, which begins, 'In the bleak midwinter.' The carol sums up, in its last stanza, the nature of 'giving to the Christ Child.' What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I could give a Lamb. If I were a wise man, I could do my part.

What I can I give Him? Give Him my heart! —A reflection from Vatican News

Another way to see the Gospel: In celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord, we celebrate the revelation that Jesus was born as the Son of God. Today's gospel illustrates this revelation through the story of the three wise men who travelled to visit Jesus following his birth.

They embarked on a journey of faith, following the star of Bethlehem until they reached the manger where Jesus laid. They brought gifts that symbolized their revelation of his divinity: gold, which associated Jesus as a king. Frankincense, which was often used in worship, and symbolized the holiness of Jesus. And myrrh, a perfume used for embalming, which symbolized that Christ would one day die for our sins.

As we start a new calendar year, it's a time of rejuvenation for many of us. A chance for a new beginning. A chance to discover new things and make our own revelations. As the wise men in today's gospel did, you too can continue to follow your faith throughout this year. The wise men had a revelation that the Son of God was coming, and they were not afraid to follow their hearts. Do not be afraid to follow your heart when you hear God's call.

—Reflections on The Feast of the Epiphany



Summary of Justice & Peace Work in Scotland-2020

Refugees, Asylum and Migrants

- Organised a Zoom webinar 'Conversation on Migration' in October with speakers sharing their experiences in Calais nearly four years after the demolition of 'the jungle'
- Campaigned to 'Lift the Ban' to allow people to work whilst navigating the asylum system in the UK, calling for an end to 'no recourse to public funds', and for an end to detention.
- Arranged for Catholic chaplaincy at Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, Scotland's only Immigration Detention Centre
- Attended a peace witness event at Dungavel with Mother's Day gifts
- Organised the sending of Christmas cards to detainees held at Dungavel
- Continued to work as a member of SFAR (Scottish Faiths Actions for Refugees) to raise awareness and coordinate actions related to asylum, integration and resettlement with other faith groups. This year they produced "Sanctuary in Scotland" resource, Secured funding from the Bishops' Conference to help ensure SFAR's future
- Secured funding from the Bishops' Conference to help pay for bus passes for vulnerable pregnant asylum seekers and refugees in the Bumps to Babies scheme

Care For Creation

- Worked in collaboration with SCIAF and Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) to deliver training for teachers across Scotland to participate in Laudato Si Schools
- Continued to work with partner agencies such as SCIAF and Eco-congregations to plan for the UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow 2021
- Provided Care for Creation resource sheets to help parishes, schools and families with ideas for practical suggestions to become more environmentally friendly

Working towards Peace

- Produced podcasts exploring a faith perspective on peace building and the arms trade

- Marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima with a Peace Statement signed jointly by Bishop Nolan and Bishops of England and Wales
- Developed resources with Campaign Against the Arms Trade highlighting Scottish companies breaching international law in the arms trade
- Hosted a Zoom webinar 'Reflection on Bethlehem' in December highlighting the current situation in Palestine as experienced by Christian families

Alleviating Poverty

- Produced a short video in support of Challenge Poverty Week in October
- Campaigned to Cancel the Debt of the poorest nations
- Called on our Government to make changes in the social security system to stem the rising tide of poverty

Website and Social Media

- Improved our presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to reach more people
- Produced weekly blogs reflecting a wide range of issues across the country and beyond
- Shared weekly Catholic Social Teaching quotes
- Improved the Justice and Peace Scotland website with resources and links to related articles and events
- Produced resource sheets on Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' latest encyclical

Pope at Audience: Those who pray, pray for all

Continuing his catechesis on prayer, Pope Francis on Wednesday focused on "intercessory prayer"; that is, prayer which asks on behalf of another. Those who are accustomed to pray, said Pope Francis, "never turn their backs on the world." If prayer is not engaged with every aspect of human existence - its joys and sorrows, its hopes and anxieties - it becomes a "decorative" activity.

Bread, broken and shared:

The Pope noted a resemblance between those who pray for others, and Christ in the Eucharist. "In prayer," he said, "God takes us, blesses us, breaks us, and gives us," to satisfy everyone's hunger." Every Christian, he added, "is

called to become bread, broken and shared, in God's hands." Men and women of prayer, the Pope said, always "keep the doors of their hearts wide open," even when they seek solitude and silence. They pray for those who do not pray, or do not know how to pray, as well as for those "who have erred and have lost the way." In their solitude, those who pray "separate themselves from everything and everyone" precisely in order to "rediscover everything and everyone in God."

Praying for all

The Pope said these people "pray for each and every person," they see "the face of Christ in every poor person who knocks at their door, in every person who has lost the meaning of things." Prayer is "simply human," Pope Francis said. "The human heart tends toward prayer." But prayer necessarily involves love for our brothers and sisters. Human experience, said the Pope, "is present in every prayer, because no matter what errors people may have committed, they should never be rejected or discarded."

Neither judgment nor condemnation

Pope Francis insisted that when those who pray offer prayers for sinners, there should be no judgment or condemnation; those who pray, pray for all, and first of all for themselves. The Holy Father suggested, for this very reason, a prayer that all can pray: "Lord, no one is just in your sight; we are all debtors, each with an outstanding balance to pay; no one is sinless in your eyes. Lord, have mercy on us!" The Pope continued, noting that, even despite the sins of His people, God remains faithful, persevering "in His service as a Shepherd even with those force him to get His hands dirty; He does not close His heart to those who have even made Him suffer."

A mission of intercessory prayer

The Church, too, said Pope Francis, "has the mission, of practicing the prayer of intercession" - and this duty is especially incumbent upon those who have responsibility for others. "Like Abraham and Moses," he said, "they must at times defend those entrusted to them before God." In fact, the Pope said, by praying to God, they are "guarding them with God's eyes and heart, with His same invincible compassion and tenderness."

Leaves on the same tree

"We are all leaves on the same tree," the Pope said in conclusion. "Each one that falls reminds us of the great piety that must be nourished in prayer for one another."