

VATICAN NEWS

Pope Francis asks Catholics to pray in November for people suffering depression

Pope Francis has asked Catholics around the world to pray in November for people suffering from depression or burnout, that they might find the support they need.

He made the appeal in his November prayer intention, shared with an accompanying video on Nov. 3.

"We pray that people who suffer from depression or burnout will find support and a light that opens them up to life," reads the prayer intention, promoted by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In the video explaining his prayer intention, Pope Francis said that "sadness, apathy, and spiritual tiredness [can] end up dominating people's lives."

"Let us try to be close to those who are exhausted, to those who are desperate, without hope," the pope said. "Often, we should just simply listen in silence, because we cannot go and tell someone, 'No, life's not like that. Listen to me, I'll give you

the solution."

Depression is estimated to affect 280 million people worldwide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Although there are known treatments, many people in low-income countries do not receive any help due to lack of resources or social stigma.

In addition to those who suffer from clinical depression, the pope has also asked for prayers for people who suffer from "overwork and work-related stress" that can cause extreme exhaustion.

Pope Francis: Care for creation is one of the 'great moral issues of our time'

—By Courtney Mares

Pope Francis has called care for God's creation one of "the great moral issues of our time" in a letter expressing his regret that he could not attend the COP26 meeting in Glasgow.

"Time is running out; this occasion must not be wasted, lest we have to face God's judgment for our failure to be faithful stewards of the world he has entrusted to our care," the pope wrote in a letter to

Catholics in Scotland signed Nov. 9.

The pope's message was read out by Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the papal nuncio to Great Britain and Scotland, at a live-streamed Mass at St. Augustine's Church in Coatbridge, a town eight miles east of Glasgow.

In the message, Pope Francis said that he was pleased to hear that Catholics in Scotland were praying for a fruitful outcome to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, taking place from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12.

The Glasgow climate summit is meant to "address one of the great moral issues of our time: the preservation of God's creation, given to us as a garden to be cultivated and as a common home for our human family," he said.

"Let us implore God's gifts of wisdom and strength upon those charged with guiding the international community as they seek to meet this grave challenge with concrete decisions inspired by responsibility towards present and future generations."

Pope Francis has sought to galvanize efforts to protect the environment since his

election in 2013. He issued the encyclical 'Laudato si' in 2015, ahead of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris, which negotiated the Paris Agreement.

One of the goals of COP26 is to encourage governments to implement the Paris Agreement and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. "As you know, I had hoped to take part in the COP26 meeting in Glasgow and to spend some time, however briefly, with you. I regret that this did not prove possible," Pope Francis said.

The 84-year-old pope expressed his affection for Catholics in Scotland and asked them to pray for him.

*Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Sunday.
Fr. Gregory Umunna*



ST. STEPHEN'S R C CHURCH BLAIRGOWRIE

⇒ St Mary's Coupar Angus

⇒ St Luan's Alyth

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. Yr. B. 14/11/21

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: November: month of the dead

Catholic Education Week

Vigil mass at St. Steph's 6.30pm

Sun - mass: St Luan's 9.30am & 11.00am; St. Steph's

Tue - mass at St. Steph's 10.00am; **Priest's Retreat**

Wed -

Priest's Retreat

Thurs -

Priest's Retreat

Fri - Mass at St. Steph's 10.00am; Fun.Mass in Dundee@ 12

Vigil - mass at St. Steph's 6.30pm.

Sun - mass: St. Luan's 9.30am & 11.00am; St. Steph's

Mass intentions for the week

Sat. For sick/retired priests Dunkeld. Diocese.

Sun: Mass. 9.30 am & 11.00 am. November List

Tue - Mass. November List

Wed-Mass. November List

Thurs - November List

Fri-Mass. For Georgina Ajax health & well-being

Sat. Vigil: For sick/retired priests Dunkeld. Diocese.

This Week's Message in a Glance...

⇒ *Asleep in Jesus Blessed sleep... Envelops are provided for all Souls. Please add the names of your beloved dead and your mass offerings and return to the basket on the altar.*

⇒ *Catholic Education Week. Retiral Collection today 14/11/21. Pls support it. Ta*

⇒ *Poor Mission Fund Retiral collection throughout the diocese on Sunday 21/11/21. Please support it. Thanks.*

⇒ *Building Maintenance Fund Retiral Collection 28/11/21. Pls support it. Ta*

Fam. Rosary, adoration. Every Wednesdays 6pm, and mass for the sick last Wednesdays of the month.

Mass with St. Stephen's Primary School: 1st 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., S.T.L., Ph.D.

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

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

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

Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons:

Catechists: Mrs Linda Forsyth. Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation every Wednesday 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 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: Ms. Seonaid Johnston

Responsible Group- Parish Social Justice issues: SSSVP.

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Mrs Jean Scot

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Financial Adviser: Mr. Mike Coyle.

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanse.

Hall Reservations: Contact no: 872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: [N/wells_01382611282](tel:01382611282); [P.R.I. 01738259371](tel: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

Parish News

Prayers please: Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Rolls, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes, Neil McDowall, Michael O'Malley, Pam McKenna, Mhari McRae, Georgina Ajas, Val Naughton,
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.

Last Sunday Collection:

Mass Offertory Coll.	£322.77
Maintenance Fund Coll.	£
Repository Sales.	£100.00

This figure excludes donations from parishioners who have signed up to Standing Orders/Direct debit. Thank you everyone.



Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.
Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171

Up Coming Events:

- ⇒ Council of Priest's Retreat in Kinnoull, Perth 16th-18th. No mass on Wed/Thur
- ⇒ Meeting with Parents of Altar servers Sat 20th, 7.30pm.
- ⇒ First Holy Communion 21st November 10.00am.
- ⇒ Epacts Meeting at the Parish Hall, 25th Nov, 7.00pm
- ⇒ End of Term Mass 22nd December 10.00
- ⇒ Fire Risk Assessment for Church, Hall and presbytery, 23rd November.
- ⇒ Altar servers party. December 17th.
- ⇒ First Anni Mass for Bp Emeritus Logan Jan. 14th 2022



Christmas food hampers raffle in support of our Altar servers proposed trip to Rome
Price £

Project Matthew 25:35.

St. Stephen's Parish campaign
for Christmas food bank

Canned food, packed food and Vouchers **only** for those who might need them this Christmas. Project Matthew 25:35 would run from October 25th till the 15th of December. Pls leave items in the lower Hall. Thank you.



Christmas Party for our dedicated altar Servers.

Date: Dec 17th, **Venue:** Parish Hall.
Please support our boys and girls.
Contact Person for Altar Servers:
Mr. Rolly Colanse.



St. Stephen's Parish Library

Selection of Books on:

- ⇒ Spirituality/Prayer
 - ⇒ Lives of Saints/Martyr
 - ⇒ Theology/philosophy
 - ⇒ History/Psychology
 - ⇒ Pilgrimage sites
- Pls feel free to borrow any from the shelves in the lower hall and return a week after use. Thanks.

Very Important Information to Parents of St. Stephen's Altar Servers.

The altar servers of our parish have been acclaimed as the best in the Diocese of Dunkeld. They have been described as well-behaved, articulate and orderly around the altar. After years of dedicated and exemplary services at the altars of St Stephen's parish, a few ideas are emerging to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of our boys and girls.

I was wondering if all the parents/guardians of our altar servers could please attend a 45 minutes focus based meeting with me on Saturday 20th of November. Meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm-8.15pm. The aim of the meeting is to table these ideas before parents and to hear your views. Fr. Greg.



Reflection: By Fr Gerald M Musa

Predictions about the end of the world are not new phenomena. Hundreds of years ago, in the first century, a Jewish religious sect – the Essenes, predicted the end of the world. According to them, the end of the world was to come during the Jewish rebellion against the Romans between 66-70AD and this event would signal the coming of the Messiah. Martin Luther prophesied that the world was to end in 1600s. According to Luther: 'We have reached the time of the white horse of the Apocalypse. This world will not last any longer... than another hundred years.' And from 1966 onward Jehovah's Witnesses preached that the final year (Armageddon) for the world was to be in 1975.

There were even more prophecies pointing to the years 1999 and 2000 as the years that were to be the end of the world. Among these prophecies was that of the famous Nostradamus, also known as 'the Man who saw tomorrow.' He had a fearful prediction about the end of the world when he spoke about a 'King of Terror' who was to appear in July 1999. Furthermore, Philip Berg of the Jewish Kabbalah Centre pointed to September 11, 1999 as a day when the world was to be engulfed in a destructive fire. In addition, there were strong rumours in 1999 that all computers would crash as a result of Y2K bug at the end of that year. In the same year, 1999, there arose a fanatical movement in Uganda called The Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, led by Cremonia Mwerinde and Joseph Kibwetere. These leaders preached strongly about the end of the world. They led about 778 followers into what many commentators describe as group suicide. There are some religious leaders whose predictions are yet to be

fulfilled. For example, Said Nursi, a Sunni Muslim theologian in his writings says the world would come to an end in 2129. History shows us so many failed end-time predictions and prophecies. However, Jesus responds to all people who are seeking to know the exact day or hour when the world would end. He says, 'No one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father' (Mk 13:32).

In ancient times prophets and sacred writers predicted and had visions of how the final days of the world would look like. The style of writing about future final events is known as apocalyptic literature. The word 'apocalypse' is derived from the Greek word 'apocalypsis' which means revelation or opening up what was hidden.

In the Gospel of Mark Jesus announced the destruction of the temple, which was the pride of the Jews. He spoke to them about terrors, troubles, cosmic catastrophes, distress and upheavals that were to happen. He was blunt to his disciples in speaking about the trials that they would encounter in the future. He told them how the powers in heavens would be shaken to the foundations and how they would see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory. This coming with great power and glory would be a time when God would turn all those who eternally oppose goodness, love and mercy into His footstool (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 10:13).

We can summarise the following important points from the words of Jesus and the prophets who spoke and wrote about the end of the world. First, that there would be different forms of disorder in the world, before a perfect order is established; secondly, that God would visit his people even in the midst of chaos and catastrophe; thirdly, that people who suffer pain, persecution and endure to the end

will shine brightly and be rewarded; fourthly, that the Messiah 'Son of Man' would come back to gather the faithful, re-establish peace and restore order.

In view of the teaching of Jesus Christ, we cannot not know when the world will end, but we can be certain that the world and our lives will end someday. We love to make plans for the future and we are familiar with the axiom, 'He who fails to plan, plans to fail.' That explains why we engage in elaborate strategic plans for earthly goals such as making beautiful architectural designs and making great business plans. Regrettably, in our typical human nature we are so absorbed and engrossed in day-to-day life that we devote little or no time to planning for a life beyond earthly life.

Let us therefore take the following passages as guide towards planning for the final days:

1. Be watchful and be spiritually alert (Mark 13:33)
2. Think of what is above and not what is on earth (Colossians 3:2)
3. Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace (2 Timothy)

Biographies of Church Fathers.

Did you know?
Who are the Church Fathers?

St. Methodius

Died 311. Bishop and martyr, famous for his writings. St Jerome wrote of his martyrdom at Chalchis, in modern Greece. Methodius was the bishop of Olympus, Lycia, in Asia Minor. He then ruled Tyre, Lebanon, or possibly Patara, in Lycia, and was the author of the treatise On the Resurrection and the Symposium.