

A Synodal Church - A Listening Church. Very Important!

- ⇒ *Throughout the next few months* we have been asked to feedback our feelings and opinions on what we think the Roman Catholic Church everywhere (in our parish or in general) could do to become a more welcoming place of communion and worship, in full participation and flourishing spiritual growth.
- ⇒ *Pope Francis wants us all to journey together* as a church. He wants the church to be a listening church. He has set a task for you and for me. This task is to be done through a series of questions set by Bishop Stephen.
- ⇒ To effectively undertake this task, a small group in our parish is helping us to position ourselves well and to direct this process and collation of feedbacks.
- ⇒ *Every parishioner has a voice and is encouraged to work through the questions* which will be included in the weekly newsletter and we ask that as many people as possible respond so that we can give the Bishop and Rome an accurate picture or account of our views as we are a part of the universal church.
- ⇒ To ensure that we reach as many people as possible the first question we ask is – *How would you like to respond?* E.g. person to person, paper questionnaire, suggestion box, post-it notes on the noticeboard, small groups of friends or neighbours, family groups. Please indicate at the bottom of page 4 of this newsletter, fold and drop inside the collection box or basket at the entrance of the Church each weekend (tick or tally mark in the appropriate box).
- ⇒ *The questions* you will be asked are to consider where, as a church, you think we are and what we can do as a Church in general or Parish in particular with some further thought as to how we can improve. *This task demands prayers, reflection and discernment.* This is a great opportunity for the Catholic parishes to come together, listening and talking to each other and supported by the Holy Spirit, we can continue to move forward as a Parish together.

A Synodal Church - The Church wants to hear your voice!



First task: Please complete this section of the newsletter and return to the table at the back of the church this Sunday or next Sunday. Thanks.

Person to person	Paper questionnaire	Suggestion box	Post-it notes on the noticeboard	Small groups of friends or neighbours	Family groups

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

ST. STEPHEN'S R C CHURCH BLAIRGOWRIE

⇒ St Mary's Coupar Angus

⇒ St Luan's Alyth

Second Sunday of Advent. Yr. C. 05/12/21

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 ...*

Parish diary for the 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;

Wed - mass at St. Steph's 7.00pm: 2.00pm Perth Crematorium for the funeral serv of Alice M. Harris

Thurs - mass at St. Steph's 10.00am;

Fri - Mass at St. Steph's 10.00am;

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.

Tue - Mass. Alice Harris

Wed-Mass. Muriel Thomson

Thurs - mass. Mary Bannagen McGivern

Fri-Mass. Eddie Kaunju

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

This Week's Message in a Glance...



⇒ "The voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⇒ In Advent, the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity, when we recall Christ's first coming. We look forward in faith to his Second Coming at the end of time.

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

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 Colanese.

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, 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.	£297.68
Maintenance Fund Coll.	£
Repository Sales.	£

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



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Up Coming Events:

- ⇒ Committee for Altar Servers trip to Rome Meeting 4th December 7.30pm
- ⇒ General Meeting of all parishioners of St. Stephen's on the 11th of December 2021 at 11.00am.
- ⇒ Altar servers party December 22nd, 6pm.
- ⇒ End of Term Mass 22nd December 10.00
- ⇒ First Anni Mass for Bp Emeritus Logan Jan. 14th

Very Important General Meeting

of all parishioners of St. Stephen's on the 11th of December 2021 at 11.00am. Please keep this date in your diary.

Parish Repository is packed with loads of seasonal gift items such as sacramentals, cards, candles and framed pictures at very modest prices. Please pop in to have a look. Thanks.

A PASTORAL LETTER from the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Scotland to be read this Sunday of Advent. Electronic copy is also attached to emails.



Christmas food hampers raffle in support of our Altar servers proposed trip to Rome
Price £2.00
Tickets on sale from 21st Nov

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.

A Synodal Church - Pope Francis' Homily on the inauguration of the synod.

A certain rich man came up to Jesus "as he was setting out on his journey" (Mk 10:17). The Gospels frequently show us Jesus "on a journey"; he walks alongside people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, on the often rocky roads of life. Today, as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves - all of us, Pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity - whether we, the Christian community, embody this "style" of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity. Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: "It's useless" or "We've always done it this way"? Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern. I would like to reflect on these three verbs that characterize the Synod.

The first is encounter. The Gospel passage begins by speaking of an encounter. A man comes up to Jesus and kneels down before him, asking him a crucial question: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17).

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So important a question requires attention, time, willingness to encounter others and sensitivity to what troubles them. The Lord is not stand aloof; he does not appear annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to this person. He is open to encounter. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each individual's history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone's life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing. Jesus did not hurry along, or keep looking at his watch to get the meeting over. He was always at the service of the person he was with, listening to what he or she had to say.

As we initiate this process, we too are called to become experts in the art of encounter. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another. Time to devote to prayer and to adoration - that form of prayer that we so often neglect - devoting time to adoration, and to hearing what the Spirit wants to say to the Church. Time to look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say, to build rapport, to be sensitive to the questions of our sisters and brothers, to let ourselves be enriched by the variety of charisms, vocations and ministries.

Every encounter - as we know - calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others. If at times we would rather take refuge in formality or presenting the proper image - the clerical and courtly spirit, where I am more Monsieur l'abbé than Father - the experience of encounter changes us; frequently it

opens up new and unexpected possibilities. Following today's Angelus, I will meet with a group of street people who came together simply because a group of people made an effort to listen to them, sometimes just to listen to them. And from that listening they succeeded in setting out on a new path. So often God points out new paths in just this way. He invites us to leave our old habits behind. Everything changes once we are capable of genuine encounters with him and with one another, without formalism or pretense, but simply as we are.

The second verb is listen. True encounter arises only from listening. Jesus listened to that man's question and to the religious and existential concerns that lay behind it. He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a prepackaged solution; he did not pretend to respond politely, simply as a way of dismissing him and continuing on his way. Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. Most importantly, he is not afraid to listen to him with his heart and not just with his ears. Indeed, he does more than simply answer the rich man's question; he lets him tell his story, to speak freely about himself.

Christ reminds him of the commandments, and the man starts to talk about his youth, to share his religious journey and his efforts to seek God. This happens whenever we listen with the heart: people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey. Let us ask ourselves frankly during this synodal process: Are we good at listening? How good is the "hearing" of our heart? Do we allow people to express themselves, to walk in faith even though they have had difficul-

ties in life, and to be part of the life of the community without being hindered, rejected or judged?

Finally, discern. Encounter and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. On the contrary, whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey. And in the end, we are no longer the same; we are changed. We see this in today's Gospel. Jesus senses that the person before him is a good and religious man, obedient to the commandments, but he wants to lead him beyond the mere observance of precepts. Through dialogue, he helps him to discern. Jesus encourages that man to look within, in the light of the love that the Lord himself had shown by his gaze (cf. v. 21), and to discern in that light what his heart truly treasures. And in this way to discover that he cannot attain happiness by filling his life with more religious observances, but by emptying himself, selling whatever takes up space in his heart, in order to make room for God. **The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God.**

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FR. COLIN GOLDEN, FORMER PARISH PRIEST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, PERTH.

Thursday, 9th December, 2021 - Reception of Remains of Fr. Colin with Mass at 6.00 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Perth.
Friday, 10th December, 2021 - Requiem Mass at 12 noon in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Thereafter at Wellshill Cemetery, Perth, followed by refreshments at McDiarmid Park Function Suite, Perth, PH1 2SJ.