

A Synodal Church - A Listening Church. Very Important



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

4. To what extent do diverse people in our community come together for dialogue? What are the places and means of dialogue within the church?
5. What is the Holy Spirit asking of us?
6. What are difficulties, obstacles, and wounds within the church?
7. How do prayers and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community?
8. What relationship does our church community have with members of other Christian traditions and denominations?
9. How does our church community identify the goals to be pursued, the way to reach them, and the steps to be taken?
10. How is authority and governance exercised within our local church?
11. How do we promote participation in decision making within hierarchical structures? Do our decision making methods help us to listen to the whole people of God?
12. How does the relationship with the local media—not only catholic media? Who speaks on behalf of the Christian community, and how are they chosen?

Electronic reply could be sent as email to: Daria McDowall <dariam@gmx.com>;

Paul Brown <paulbrownadvocate@icloud.com>; Marion Duffy

<m.c.duffy@mirrenjones.co.uk>; whilst hand written reply could be dropped in the collection box/basket.

- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **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.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year —Fr. Gregory Umunna

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent. Yr. C. 19/12/21

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. Stephen's

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

Wed - mass at St. Steph's 7.00pm

Thurs - mass at St. Steph's 10.00am

Fri - Mass at St. Steph's 10.00am

8.30pm: Christmas Carol Service at St. Stephen's

9.00 pm: Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Stephen's

Christmas Day Masses: St. Luan's 9.30am & 11.00am:

St. Steph's

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. For parishioners

Tue - Mass. For Peace as families meet this season

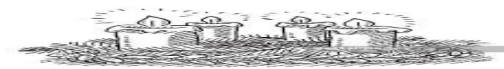
Wed-Mass. For safety as families travel this season

Thurs - mass. For Peace as families meet this season

Fri-Mass. For a truly joyful Christmas

Sat. Vigil: For Peace as families meet this season

This Week's Message in a Glance...



The meeting of two great women:

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

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@dunkelldioocese.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; 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

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.	£349.97
Maintenance Fund Coll.	£
Repository Sales.	£
Hall Rental	£

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



Up Coming Events:

- ⇒ Committee for Altar Servers trip to Rome Meeting 18th December 7.30pm
- ⇒ Altar servers party December 22nd, 6pm.
- ⇒ End of Term Mass 22nd December 10.00
- ⇒ First Anni Mass for Bp Emeritus Logan Jan. 14th

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.

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
At the end of our campaign for Christmas with the Project Matthew 25:35 running from October 25th till the 15th of December. I would really like to thank everyone who has donated to this cause and helped to feed the hungry. God bless you. -Greg

Christmas Party for our dedicated altar Servers. Date: Dec.22nd, 6pm.Venue: Parish Hall. Please support our boys and girls.
Contact Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly



2021

Christmas Mass times for St. Stephen's Church, Blairgowrie. St. Mary's Church, Coupar Angus and St Luan's Church, Alyth

Friday 24th -

St. Stephen's 10.00am

Christmas Vigil-

8.30pm: **Carol Service**
9.00 pm: **Christmas Vigil Mass** at St Stephen's

Saturday 25th -

Christmas Day Masses:
St Luan's 9.30 am
St. Stephen's 11.00am

Sunday 26th -

Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
St Luan's 9.30 am
St. Stephen's 11.00am

Monday 27th -

Feast of St. John's feast
St. Stephen's 10.00am

2nd January - Epiphany of the lord - solemnity

St Luan's 9.30 am
St. Stephen's 11.00am

*God comes into the world not in worldly glamour, magnificence, or majesty but in the powerlessness and vulnerability of an infant as well as in lack of material comfort.
Emmanuel - God is with us.*

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Information on Annual Leave:

Just to inform all our parishioners that I hope to be away from the parish for my annual leave from the 28th of December to the 3rd of February 2022. During this period, I will be able to bury my sister Georgina, stay close to my siblings and manage some rest away from parish settings.

Please give our usual warm welcome to Fr. Andrew Clark who has gladly accepted to cover the Sunday masses which will be limited to 9.30am in St. Luan's Alyth and 11.00am in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie.

In the case of an emergency, he could be contacted on 07846580676.

As we successfully arrive to the end of 2021, I give thanks to the almighty God in "in whom we live and move and have our being" and offer my deepest appreciations to all our parishioners for all your unflinching support to the parish throughout 2021.

Because of your faith, your support and participation, our parish family is alive, stable and focused. May 2022 usher in for us all, a blessed, healthier, happier and more prosperous individual and parish family lives.

I commend our whole parish and my journey to the powerful intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary the mediatrix of all graces and to your prayerful support

With all my love,

Fr. Gregory

"SOCIETY of ST VINCENT de PAUL (SSVP)

St Stephen's SSVP Conference met recently to consider ways in which help can be offered to parishioners and others in difficulties either in a financial or social sense. Parishioners in serious difficulties, whether due to increased gas/electricity costs or spiralling food costs, should also bring this to the attention of any SSVP member. Thank you.

WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY 24 --28 January 2022 only

3 days instead of the usual 5. Monday 24.01.22. - Wednesday,26.01.22. The services to be held in the side chapel in Blair Parish church for all three days at 12 noon. Groups to organise service:
Rachel Stevenson 07823931815

Allotments for cultivation of crops/vegetables available in St. Luan's Alyth

If you are interested in cultivation of crops or vegetables and you need an allotment in a fertile and reserved space in Alyth, please speak to Jim Graham or Fr. Gregory as there is a vacancy on the allotments in St. Luan's Alyth. Thanks.

Reflection: On Christmas

We enjoy anticipating Christmas. We exchange gifts, hold Christmas parties, sing songs, visit relatives and Godparents, decorate lavishly, buy new things for ourselves, etc. But do we have a sharing of faith? Do we talk about the great event of the Incarnation? Do we share how Christmases had affected our relationship with God? Do we marvel at love of God and the great sacrifice Jesus had done for us? It seems that we do and

talk about everything to make Christmas unforgettable but we elect to forget about sharing our faith.

Mary and Elizabeth's (also Jesus and John's) meeting and sharing of faith had a lot to do with the future events particularly John's and Jesus' work of salvation. John and Jesus were faithful to their mission even unto death. Certainly they had inherited part if not most of it from their mothers. Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith to their children.

How have we shared our faith to our children? Do we let media, the school, their friends, and others to teach them about faith? If we believe we have the right faith, then we must share them to our children. Yes, they will, in the future, choose their own faith. But meantime, our faith is their faith. When they were baptized we made covenant with God and the Church to rear the child according to the life of Jesus. In other words, we were responsible for their faith. We were expected to share our faith to them.

Our faith is our destiny. It goes beyond this life. Our faith is our life and vice versa. With joy, this Christmas, let us also have an exchange of faith experiences.

by Fr Benny Tuazon

You are never alone!

For a shared a prayer, or just have someone listen to you, a candle lit for you or yours, have a mass offered for your intention or that of a loved one living or dead, please speak to the priest. Thanks.