

## St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DE, 872171

- St. Mary's Coupar Angus & St. Luan's Alyth.
- **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A 23/7/23**
- **Parish website:** <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>
- **E-mail:** [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.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: Week beginning from 23/7/23**

#### **Sat/Sun:**

- Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. in St. Step's.
- Holy Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's
- Holy Mass at 11.00 am in St. Step's

**Tues** – Holy Mass at 10.00am in St. Step's.

**Wed** – Holy Mass at 7.00pm in St. Steph's.

**Thurs** – Holy Mass at 10.00am in St. Step's.

**Fri** - Holy Mass at 10.00am in St. Step's.

#### **Sat/Sun: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A**

### **PARISH DIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION ONE MASS IN THE PARISH**

- Mass at 11.00 am. in St. Stephen's



#### **Mass intentions for the week:**

**Sat:** 6.30pm. For Parish Benefactors and Benefactresses

**Sun:** 9.30am For Parish Benefactors and Benefactresses

**Sun:** 11am. For Parish Benefactors and Benefactresses

**Tue:** For Bishop Stephen Robson

**Wed:** For Parishioner struggling with ill health

**Thurs:** For Paul and Linus

**Fri:** For Aloysius and Georgina

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**-Family Rosary, adoration.** Every Wed 6pm, and mass for the sick last Wed of the month.

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

**-Divine Mercy Devotion.** Tuesdays after morning mass. Please join us.

**-Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch:** 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

#### **-Have you prayed your Rosary today?**

**-Prayers please:** Kindly remember those on our prayer list: Michael Rolls, Neil Mcdowall. Pam McKenna, Val Naughton, Dr. Paul Kinnear, Mary and George Flockhart, Tomasz Wegner Jaszkin. Snooky Marshall,

Maud McGinn, Alex Forrester, Rita Robertson, Ciprano and Carmelita, Tom O'Mally, Roy Sweeney.

#### **Today's and Up Coming Events:**

--24<sup>th</sup> July **Parish Sponsored Day Coach Trip** for Parish Altar Servers and their Coordinator this Summer.

--27<sup>th</sup> Baptismal session for Aron Dick and family for Alba Esther soon to be baptised

--Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon, Marriage Silver Jubilee celebration: Antoinette Reilly

--30<sup>th</sup> July, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund.

---30<sup>th</sup> July. Baptism of Alba Esther Dick. 11.00am mass.

--30<sup>th</sup> July. Priestly anniversary celebration: Fr. Tob. @ St. Piux Dundee

--30<sup>th</sup> July. **Parish Diversity Day** celebration.

--13<sup>th</sup> August, please support the Special collection for Bishop's Mensal Fund.

--27<sup>th</sup> August, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund.

#### **---St Luan's Doors Open Event: Saturday 16 September 2023**

We're hoping for more photos/stories to add to our collages for the event on 16 September. The sort of thing we have in mind is:

Do you remember going to Mass before Vatican Two? Could you describe any changes in the St Luan's Mass after that?

Were you on the parish Salamanca trip a few years ago? Have you any memories you could share?

Have you had a particular role in St Luan's, eg: altar server, cleaner, flower arranger and could you share any anecdotes?

Have you any stories/memories to share about any of the parish priests who have served in St Luan's since 1950? (Here's a list of their names to help jog your memory: Frs. Jeremiah O'Donaghue, Kevin Smith, Patrick McNamarra, Edmund Purcell, Hamish Stuart, Joseph Creegan, Patrick McNally, Hugh Sreenan, Ian Mullen, James Walls and Gregory Umunna)

Are there any former parishioners who stick in your mind and why? Please put a your photos/stories/memories into the box at the back of the Church or if you prefer, e-mail these to Marion at [m.c.duffy@mirrenjones.co.uk](mailto:m.c.duffy@mirrenjones.co.uk)

--**Parish Sponsored Day Coach Trip** for Parish Altar Servers and their Coordinator this Summer. Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July; Venue: Forth Bridge or Stirling Safari Park. Please confirm your attendance by writing your name on the sheet of Paper at the back of the church this Sunday. Thanks, **Rolly**.

--**Parish Diversity Day** celebration this Summer. As in previous celebrations before COVID19, the various nationalities within the parish are encouraged to be part of this event coming up on Sun 30<sup>th</sup> July after the 11.00am mass.

**New to the Parish?** Please pick a form at the entrance of the church, complete and hand in the form. Thanks. New members are always welcome to come along and attend or visit the following parish groups: SVDP, Wednesdays 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tuesdays 10.30am; Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm.

--**Please visit Our Parish Repository** for your very lovely selection of Cards and other precious gift items.

**Bric-a-Brac:** If you have unwanted gift items you may wish to donate to the church in support of the ongoing repair works, please hand them in or leave in the Lower Hall. Stalls will be set up in the Lower Hall and outside on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact MOB 01828627723.

**The Mass to mark Bishop Stephen's retiral** has now been rescheduled. It will take place n St Andrews's Cathedral on **Thursday 24 August at 7pm**. An open invitation is extended to everyone.

**The Bishop's Conference of Scotland** sincerely thanks clergy and parishes for their efforts to cope with the Covid pandemic. Now, since our country has returned to normal, and restrictions have been lifted, all parishes should have returned to pre-pandemic pastoral and liturgical practices. Clergy and parishes still maintaining restrictions should no longer do so. Parishioners who choose to follow restrictive measures should be treated with pastoral sensitivity.

**Parish 200 Club:**

As a parish community, we had the Parish 200 Club and it was organised by Roddy McDonald who, sadly has passed. If you would like to volunteer and run our parish 200 Club, kindly let Fr. Gregory know. Thanks.

**-Parish Finances:** All of us hope to leave the world a better place than when we came into it. When making your will please consider leaving something to St. Stephen's R C Church so that you will continue to assist our parish to flourish and leave behind a legacy of Faith.

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:

⇒ Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, 14 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AD.

⇒ Sort code:- **83-16-33**; Account No:- **00240708**. Account name:- Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld No3 Char TST St Stephens RC Church. Many thanks.

\***Last Sunday Collection:** £235.90

\*Figures exclude takings from Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Thanks.

**Very Important Information on the Condition of the Presbytery External Walls.**

-Estimates for fixing the eternal walls + double glazing of 11 windows on Bank Street of the Church House:£15,543.00. (Savings:£8,000.00) Target £7,543.00

**New Donations:**

Anonymous donations .... £100.00

Anonymous donations .... £750.00

Total donations so far for this project £2,483.54. Thanks.

**Reflection: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Unlike the last parable of the sower there are two sowings in this parable, the good wheat sown during the day by the good sower and the bad weed which is sown under the cover of darkness when all were asleep, by his enemy. Both grew up together and were not distinguishable from each other. It is likely that the weed was Darnell, weeds that at first looked just like wheat and were impossible to separate until the ears of the wheat appeared – just as we cannot always tell good from evil until the fruit is seen. Darnell is poisonous and leads to symptoms of drunkenness and possibly death if ingested, but it is not a disaster, it won't ruin the whole crop, there is hope.

Jesus says the weeds will be collected and ultimately be destroyed before the good grain is harvested. The weed will be burned, evil will be defeated and removed. Only then will the good fruit be harvested and stored.

We do live in an imperfect world and we can't prevent that, we can't rid the world of evil, indeed we cannot always see which is evil. If we watch the news how many of us can understand the crisis in Israel and Palestine, people try and blame one side or the other and declare that they are evil, but the conflict is so deeply rooted how can we decide who is the protagonist and who the defender, who is wheat and who the weeds.

If we look closer to home who can claim our church is perfect, it is not the shining example we would wish to be, nowhere is, but Jesus is making it clear it is not up to us to judge, whether that is world issues or things happening in our local church. But we can live as faithfully as possible and produce good fruit, Jesus promises there will be a harvest, evil must pay the price for it actions.

So this parable is not comfortable but it is an important reminder to continue to produce good fruit, Jesus promises hope for the future, the harvest is secure. - from Deacon John Scanlon

*Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday*

*-Fr. Gregory*

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

**Hall Reservations:** Contact no: 01250872171.

**Hospital Chaplains:** Please call: N/wells Direct line: 07821624124, Hospital Pager 01382660111; **P.R.I:** 01738259371.

\*Pls let the priest know if you are on a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

**Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please make appointment with Priest before any arrangements are made.**

