

Euthanasia - Catechism of the Catholic Church

2276 Those whose lives are diminished or weakened deserve special respect. Sick or handicapped persons should be helped to lead lives as normal as possible.

2277 Whatever its motives and means, direct euthanasia consists in putting an end to the lives of handicapped, sick, or dying persons. It is morally unacceptable.

Thus an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder gravely contrary to the dignity of the human person and to the respect due to the living God, his Creator. The error of judgment into which one can fall in good faith does not change the nature of this murderous act, which must always be forbidden and excluded.

2278 Discontinuing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary, or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be legitimate; it is the refusal of "over-zealous" treatment. Here one does not will to cause death; one's inability to impede it is merely accepted. The decisions should be made by the patient if he is competent and able or, if not, by those legally entitled to act for the patient, whose reasonable will and legitimate interests must always be respected.

2279 Even if death is thought imminent, the ordinary care owed to a sick person cannot be legitimately interrupted. The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable. Palliative care is a special form of disinterested charity. As such it should be encouraged.

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

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

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.

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No: SC00810

Parish Ministries, Volunteers and Contact Persons:

(May God bless these & others for their selfless service)

H/T: St. Steph's P. S: Lindsey Smith. Ph: 871950.

Catechists: Elizabeth Bush: Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Comm & Confirmation everyin the Hall. Email: alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com Ph:07934884759

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mo Stanhope: 07970467564; Email: ststephenpsc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkow-alinski@gmail.com

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

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott.

Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy: Mary Wojtowicz

Responsible Person for Lectors:

Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues: SSVDP

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Jean Scott (Blair), Elma Sharp (Alyth)

Resp. Person: Altar Servers: Rolly Colanase

Grounds Flowers: Jennifer FitzPatrick

Adviser on Finance: Mr. Mike Coyle

Adviser on Fabric: Mr. Jim Graham

Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday -Fr. Gregory

Tear this off please:... Are you going into the hospital? Do you have someone going into the hospital? Would you like him/her/you to be visited with communion, please fill the form below and return to Fr. Gregory.

Name:.....

Hospital:.....

Date:.....

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

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

St. Mary's Coupar Angus & St. Luan's Alyth.

25th Sunday of the Ordinary Time. Year A 24/9/23

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

E-mail: 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 25/9/23

Sat-- Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. in St. Step's.;

Sun: - Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's;

- Mass at 11.00 am in St. Step's

Tue - Mass at 10.00am in St. Steph's.

Wed - Mass at 7.00pm in St. Step's.

Thur - Mass at 10.00am in St. Step's.

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

Sat--

Vigil Mass 6.30pm. in St. Step's.

Sun: - Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's;

Mass at 11.00 am in St. Step's

Mass intentions for the week:

Sat: 6.30pm. For the Parish

Sun: 9.30am. For the Parish

Sun: 11am. For Laura Campbell Anniversary

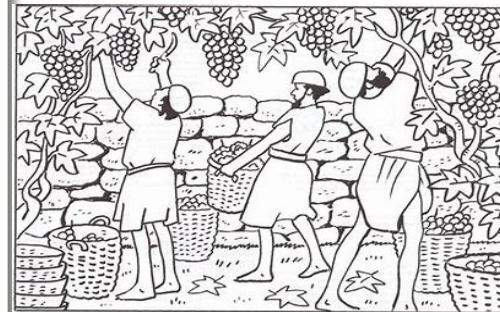
Tue: For Paul and Margaret

Wed: For Parishioners struggling with ill health

Thurs: For Linus and Aloysius

Frid: For Georgina

This Week's Message in a Glance...



Food 4 Thought

This Sunday:

'Why be envious because I am generous' (Mt 20:16).

Today's readings not only illustrate the divine logic, the logic of gift. They also challenge us to imitate God's ways of thinking and acting in our relationships with one another. They challenge us to stop focusing on our entitlements or counting our deserts, and move from the narrow world of human calculation, of competition and rewards, into the magnanimous world of divine logic, where nothing has to be earned and everything is a gift; everything is free. In the words of a popular contemporary hymn: 'Freely, freely, you have received. Freely, freely, give.

-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,

-Family Rosary and adoration. Every Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm.

- Mass for the sick every Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm.

-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.

-St. Stephen's Parish Safe-guarding Training.

-Please Note:

Those who were unable to attend last Safeguarding training in our parish would have to complete their mandatory training to be able to continue their role and this is subject to trainers availability. We would look to hold a Saturday session for the remaining PVG holders asap. Thanks. —

-St. Luan's Alyth Doors Open Day was a huge success. About 80 visitors – believers and non-believers came through the door to hear a bit of the 1900 St. Luan's church and a bit of the 6th Century St. Luan himself thereafter proceeded to the Bowling Club Hall for refreshments. A team effort, generated a lot of interest among parishioners and other local people. In a special way, I want to thank the members of the St. Luan's Doors Open Committee: Marion, Oliver, Daria and Elma for a stunning preparation and execution of the programmes of that day. I also want to thank Kian, Martin, Bernard, Tony and all those who baked, welcomed and served our visitors and indeed all the parishioners in Alyth and Blairgowrie who were part of that event.

-Offertory Collection A massive appreciations to those who continue to support the church via Standing Order, Direct debit, telephone transfers, envelops of use of the offertory collection box in the Church. By signing the Gift Aid form, your offertory collections can earn the parish a bit more. Thank you.

-Catechism Classes for boys and girls out with St. Stephen's Primary School who wish to make First Holy Communion and Confirmation in our parish in June

2024 is starting shortly weekly in the parish Hall. Register your child now. Email: or call Email: alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com Ph:07934884759. There will be no late registrations please.

-Have you prayed your Rosary today? – In your prayers, 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.



Other Devotional Programmes of the Parish

Family Rosary and adoration. Every Wednesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm. -Mass for the sick every Wed 7.00pm. -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.

-FAMILY MUSICAL EVENING WITH A DASH OF DIVERSITY - FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2023 You are invited - with ALL your family - children PARTICULARLY welcome - to an evening of music, song, dance and enjoyment on Friday 24th November 2023 in the Hall at St Stephen's, Blairgowrie. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks and prepare for a fabulously entertaining evening of music and song. If you would like to put on a display of song, dance or even a culture-specific "party piece", please let Fr Gregory know so that it can be included in the Programme. Please come along

and be part of this November show and make it even more enjoyable!

-Today and Up Coming Events: -24th September, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund.

-15th October: please support the Special collection Mission Sunday collection.

-29th October, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund.

-12th November, please support the Special collection Catholic Education Service.

-26th November, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund.

-10th December, please support the Special collection for Poor Mission Fund.

-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.

-St. Mary's Coupar Angus will, ad interim, be happy to receive and store your unwanted gift items and other items you may wish to donate in support of the Church fund. Please hand them in or leave in the Lower Hall. Stalls will be set up in St. Mary's Coupar Angus at specified date in Spring and Summer. Contact MOB 01828627723.



-Children's Liturgy: Many thanks to Mary Wojtowich and her team of the Liturgists for the wonderful work they do for us and I encourage the parents to please support their children to use this wonderful opportunity. There, the children learn about the message of each Sunday but also interact socially with other children.

-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 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: P 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:**£275.76

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

The Beginning Experience Scotland

Team: Helps with recovery through the experience of loss of a loved one, separation, divorce, or death. They support through a weekend away for a lifetime of change. Centre is Conforti Centre Coatbridge, 29th September – 1st October 2023. For further details phone: 07926571004.

Pope Says...: Grandparents and young 'grow together' in fruitful exchange

As the Church celebrated the

old - young



3rd World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday, Pope Francis presided over Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for around 8,000 elderly people from across Italy. The theme for this year's iteration of the World Day is "His mercy is from age to age," recalling a passage from Luke's Gospel. In his homily at Mass, Pope Francis reflected on each of the three parables recounted in the day's Gospel reading, focusing on the common theme they share of "growing together".

Wheat and weeds growing together Jesus' first parable in the Gospel passage, said the Pope, notes that wheat and weeds grow next to one another in the same field, which therefore reminds Christians to be realistic in our outlook on life. "In human history, as in each of our lives, there is a mixture of light and shadows, love and selfishness," he said. "Good and evil are even intertwined to the point of seeming inseparable." He said that such a realistic attitude pushes aside ideologies and helps us realize that evil dwells not only "outside" of ourselves, but must also be confronted within ourselves.

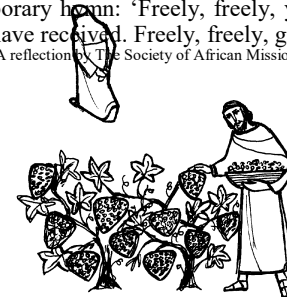
..Pope Francis

"Every day, at home, on the street, at work, on holiday, we have the possibility of discerning good. And it is important to know how to find what counts: to train ourselves to recognize the precious gems of life and to distinguish them from junk. Let us not waste time and freedom on trivial things, pastimes that leave us empty inside, while life offers us every day the precious pearl of the encounter with God and with others! It is necessary to know how to recognize it: to discern in order to find it." Pope Francis

-Reflection: 'Why be envious because I am generous' (Mt 20:16). These words alert us to

what the parable is all about. It is not about work and wages, about industrial relations or social justice. It is about God's magnanimity of heart, his extravagant generosity, especially to the late comers, those overlooked, left behind, or pushed to the margins of society. God's ways, while not contradicting the demands of social justice, infinitely transcend them. As Pope Benedict teaches in his encyclical letter, Caritas in Veritate (Love in Truth), God acts according to a higher logic than that which normally governs industrial relations – the logic of gift or gratuitous love, rather than the logic of entitlement. Only in the light of this logic can we understand the foolish generosity of the Vineyard Owner, or the lavish welcome of the Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son for his errant son. Only by this logic can we appreciate the extraordinary behaviour of Jesus in mixing with tax-collectors and sinners. Today's readings not only illustrate the divine logic, the logic of gift. They also challenge us to imitate God's ways of thinking and acting in our relationships with one another. They challenge us to stop focusing on our entitlements or counting our deserts, and move from the narrow world of human calculation, of competition and rewards, into the magnanimous world of divine logic, where nothing has to be earned and everything is a gift; everything is free. In the words of a popular contemporary hymn: 'Freely, freely, you have received. Freely, freely, give.'

..A reflection by The Society of African Missions



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