



**St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**  
**St. Luan's RC Church Alyth**  
**St. Mary's Coupar Angus**

28th Sunday of the Ordinary Time. Year A 15/10/23

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/> E-mail: [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

**Parish diary: Week beginning 15/10/23.**

**Please join us for October Devotion with Rosary 20 minutes before every mass.**

There is a plenary indulgence for those who pray the rosary in the church or at home. Present your intentions to Mother Mary.

**Sat** - Vigil Mass 6.30pm- St. Stephen's;

**Sun** - Mass at 9.30 am St. Luan's; 11.00 am in St. Step's

**Tue** – Mass at 10am in St. Stephen's;

**Wed** –Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's.

**No Thurs/Fri Masses Pls.**

**Sun– Only 2 masses: St. Luan's; 11.00 am in St. Step's**

**Mass intentions for the week:**

**Sat:** 6.30pm. and **Sun:** 9.30am. For the Parish

**Sun:** 11am. For the Parish; **Tue:** For private intentions

**Wed:** For parishioners with ill health; **Thurs:** For private intentions; **Fri:** For private intentions.

**This Week at a Glance: As the Synod on Synodality opens in Rome: African Perspective**

\*Synodality and Ecumenism\* In our quest to be a more synodal Church, it is necessary but insufficient to journey together. We must differentiate between what is authentic about our journey and what is inauthentic. An authentically synodal path is an authentically ecumenical path, and an authentically ecumenical path is an authentically synodal path. An authentically ecumenical path is a journey undertaken together towards a common comprehension of apostolic tradition. Merely walking together does not make us synodal. For we may be walking together in the wrong direction.

Our guide must be the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel that Christ is, a Gospel which may be rejected today. The Gospel as handed down to us through the ages is the pillar of fire guiding us through the dark. Without the

Gospel we walk into perdition even if we are walking together.

Our journey is authentically synodal and authentically ecumenical if and when we walk together behind Jesus, not walking behind the world. The journey of authentic discipleship will, from time to time, compel us to make choices that are not politically correct, choices and pastoral dispositions that will make some think we are exclusive in our way of life. On this journey undertaken together, we must differentiate between what is compatible with the Gospel and what is not even if it will make us unpopular as a Church.

The synodal path is the path of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Following his way together, having the audacity to say yes to him even if it means saying no to the world is the way of authentic synodality. The ecumenical path is not a path to political consensus. For it is quite possible to build a consensus around values that are contrary to the Gospel handed down to us from the apostle. It is another thing to be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We cannot embark on the journey expected of us by the Lord if we have opted, even before the journey begins, for an undifferentiated acceptance of the values and behaviour of the world. Travelers are brave. The Church of our time must have the bravery to be different even if it is unpopular to do so.

The 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea is an opportunity to interrogate ourselves as a Church whether or not we give the faith of Nicaea its dues. It is an opportunity to dialogue with all Churches and ecclesial communities on the teachings and implications of Nicaea for our time; an opportunity to inquire if we journey by listening to tradition or if, journeying together, we have strayed together. Have we been listening to the Holy Spirit or to the spirit of the age together? Which spirit is guiding us on this journey: the Holy Spirit or the spirit of the age?

The imperative of ecumenism is the imperative of listening to tradition together. This teaches us that our synodality is not to be reduced to listening to one another. Synodality is a journey with Jesus that obliges us to listen to the word of God, not just the word of contemporary culture.

The two disciples on the way to Emmaus were journeying together but in the wrong direction. They listened to each other as they journeyed together. Yet, they were confused until they listened to Jesus. They were able to retrace their steps because they listened to Jesus together instead of just listening to each other together. They listened to him together before they could recognize him at the breaking of bread. -Rev. Fr. Prof. Anthony

Akinwale, OP -----

**\*\*Remembering our beloved ones this November...\*\***

**\*\*Church dedicates October to its Missions... Pls support Mission Sun collection this weekend\*\* Ta.**

**-Offertory Collection** is part of our church tradition. A massive appreciations to those who 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:** Pls. 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, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, 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. -Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

**FAMILY MUSICAL EVENING-WITHADASHOF 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:**

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

-29<sup>th</sup> October, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund. -12<sup>th</sup> November, please support the Special collection Catholic Education Service.

-26<sup>th</sup> November, please support the Special collection for maintenance Fund. -10<sup>th</sup> December, please support the Special collection for Poor Mission Fund.

**-Cathedral Dinner:** The next Cathedral Dinner will take place on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 after the 6.00 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral. All young people from 18-30 years are welcome. Many thanks. Canon Kevin Golden.

**-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 Wojtowicz 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.

**-Reflection:** The Readings for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A tell of the abundance of the Kingdom of God. In the gospel Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a lavish wedding banquet.

**Kingdom as a Feast:** The parable describes the Kingdom of Heaven as a wedding banquet thrown by a king. This theme visualizes the divine realm as a celebratory and communal event. **Invitation Rejected:**

Initially invited guests refuse the call, illustrating how some might reject or ignore divine invitations. This reflects the theme of human indifference or hostility to divine outreach. **Open Invitation:** The king extends the invitation to everyone, both good and bad. This emphasizes God's inclusivity and the universal nature of the divine call. **Unprepared Guest:** A guest without a wedding robe faces consequences, suggesting that while the invitation is open, certain preparations or transformations are expected for full participation.-- **From Young Catholics**

**-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: 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 Sun Collection: ...£197.02 + Hall ...£30**

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

**-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:.....

*Wishing you and your loved ones a lovely Sunday,  
Fr. Gregory Umanna*