



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

27th Sunday of the Ordinary Time. Year A 8/10/23

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

Parish diary: Week beginning 8/10/23.

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 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 7.00pm in St. Stephen's.

Thurs - Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's

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

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

Sun - Mass at 9.30 am 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:

The long awaited Synod on Synodality opened formally on the 4th October 2023, in Rome. At the eve of the Synod, some controversial questions have tended to distract attention from other significant issues of the Synod.

This particular Synod is unique. It is the Synod of all synods. One particular accent, which reflects the orientation of Pope Francis, is the emphasis on the local Church. The Church is universal, but it is more importantly and basically local. The Pope insists that problems be first addressed at the local level and with concrete persons rather than engaging in endless quarrels on the theoretical level. One can gather this emphasis from these significant extracts from the *Instrumentum Laboris* (IL) of the Synod:

"5. It is in this context, diverse but with common global features, that the synodal journey takes place. The Synodal Assembly of October 2023 will be asked to listen deeply to the situations in which the Church lives and carries out its mission. What it means to walk together gains its missionary urgency when this question is asked in a particular context with real people and situations in mind. What is at stake is the ability to proclaim the Gospel by walking together with the men and women of our time, wherever they are, and practising the catholicity that emerges from walking together with the Churches that live in conditions of particular suffering (cf. LG 23).

6. To the Synodal Assembly, we bring the fruits gathered during the listening phase. First of all, we have experienced the joy expressed in the sincere and respectful encounter between brothers and sisters in the faith: to meet each other is to encounter the Lord who is in our midst! In effect, this rich diversity is the gift of each local Church to all the others (cf. LG 13), and the synodal dynamic is a way to appreciate and enhance this rich diversity without flattening it into uniformity. Similarly, we have discovered that there are shared questions, even if synodality is experienced and understood in a variety of ways in different parts of the world on the basis of a common inheritance of the apostolic Tradition. Part of the challenge of synodality is to discern the level at which it is most appropriate to address each question. Equally shared are certain tensions. We should not be frightened by them. Only in this way can these tensions become sources of energy and not lapse into destructive polarisations."

"11. The first phase enables us to understand the importance of taking the local Church as a privileged point of reference, as the theological place where the Baptised experience in practical terms "walking together". However, this does not lead to a retreat. No local Church can live outside the relationships that unite it with all others, including that particular relationship with the Church of Rome, which is entrusted with the service of unity through the ministry of its Pastor, who has summoned the whole Church in Synod.

12. This focus on local Churches requires taking into account their variety and diversity of cultures, languages and modes of expression. In particular, the same words — think, for example, of authority and leadership — can have very different resonances and connotations in different linguistic and cultural areas, especially when in some contexts a term is associated with precise theoretical or ideological approaches.

The synodal process first given expression in the local Churches has now reached its second phase in the universal Church, with the unfolding of the two sessions of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops."

As expected, this Synod will raise many questions, which will radically address the way we see ourselves as Church and as Church members. Controversial issues will arise, inevitably, but in the end more people will be spiritually enriched and enlightened.

We pray for God's guidance as the Church begins this exciting common walk in listening and reasoning! -Luke Ijezie.

-Offertory Collection is part of our church tradition. A massive appreciation to those who continue to support the church via Standing Order, Direct debit, telephone transfers, envelopes 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, 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.

-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.

-MARY'S MEALS BLUEBERRY PICK at Thomas Thomson Blairgowrie Ashgrove Mill Ashgrove Road Rattray PH10 7EX Saturday 14th October from 10 am to 1 pm.

-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. 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 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 Sunday Collection:£256.54**

*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