



**St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**  
**St. Luan's R C Church Alyth**  
**St. Mary's Coupar Angus**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent: Year B 10/12/23**  
**Parish website:** <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>  
**E-mail:** [ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddioocese.org.uk)



**This weekend**, John the Baptist is the focus of the liturgy on the Second Sunday of Advent each year. His challenge to us to 'prepare a way for the Lord' is at the heart of the Advent message. We worship the one who will surely come to us.

**Prayer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent:** With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Parish diary: Week beginning from 10/12/23.**

**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.  
 - School Carol Service at the Church, 6.00pm  
**Thurs** - Mass at 10.00am in Step's  
**Fri** - Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's

**Third Sunday of Advent Year B**

**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, **Sun:** 9.30/11am: For Parishioners  
 Tue, Wed: Sick Parishioners, Thurs: Paul Baxendale,

**Reflection for this Sunday:** John the Baptist exemplifies humility, a virtue essential for Advent preparation. He acknowledges his role as merely the forerunner to someone greater – Jesus. John's humility in recognising his place in God's plan is a powerful model for us. In our parish communities and personal lives, embracing humility like John's allows us to make room for others to lead and for God's work to be done through them.

Our Advent journey, then, is marked by a dual movement: inward, to confront and repent of our sins, and outward, to embrace humility and allow God to work through us and others. As we reflect on the messages of Isaiah and John the Baptist for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B, we're invited to smooth the path for Christ's coming into our hearts and communities, transforming our lives in anticipation of His arrival. This preparation is not just an Advent exercise but a continual call to live in alignment with the divine will, guided by Jesus, our shepherd, who leads us out of the exile of sin into the embrace of God's love. – From Young Catholics.

**As the year is coming to an end,...** Taking stock means assessing the use of your gifts & talents & opportunities.



**Be a Peacemaker, be reconciled to Christ...**

**SAY NO TO ALL WARS! SAY NO TO THE SALE OF WEAPONS OF ALL KINDS! DO NOT INVEST IN COMPANIES THAT PROFIT FROM THE SALE OF ARMS!** Be opposed to the use of war or violence to settle a dispute - personal, family, communal, national or international. Talk through your differences with others instead of fighting, using the means of forgiveness and reconciliation. "we must admit that war is always a defeat for humanity." Pope Francis.

**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.

**Altar Servers** Christmas Party on 22/12/23. Lots of fun, party, dance, gift items. Look forward to seeing you.

**Warm Welcome:** Tea/Coffee, biscuits and a warm welcoming space in the Lower Hall after the 11.00am mass every Sunday from the 26<sup>th</sup> of November to May 2024. Please feel free to pop in. More volunteers to help with serving please. Thanks.

**-Dates for the Sacraments in 2024:**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Wednesday, 8th of May 2024. Time.?? **Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sunday, 19th of May 2024. Time 2.00pm. **First Holy Communion** for School and Parish Candidates: Sunday, 2nd of June 2024. Time 2.00pm.

**-Catechism Classes:** Pls. Email: or call Email: [alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com](mailto:alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com) Ph:07934884759. There will be no late registrations please.

**Knock pilgrimages:** We have a few dates left if you were interested in a Pilgrimage. This would be flying from Edinburgh to Knock Airport.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 5 Nights; Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - 5 Nights; Monday 01<sup>st</sup> July 2024 - 5 Nights

Contact: Natali Forkan, Knock Pilgrimages 483 Green Lanes London N13 4BS United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1268 762 278 Mob: +44 (0) 7740 175557 Mob Irish: +353 (0) 87

1890 236 Email: [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

Web: [www.knockpilgrimages.com](http://www.knockpilgrimages.com)

**-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, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Roy Sweeney, Diana Richardson –

**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-** was amazing. I wish to thank all who helped to put everything together to give us all an lovely parish get together.

**Today and Up Coming Events:**

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

-13<sup>th</sup> December, School Carol Service at the Church, 6.00pm.

- 19<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Nativity Show. It is at 1830 in school

-25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Offering. Please support the Special collection.

-31<sup>st</sup> December Building maintenance Fund collection. please support the Special collection.

- 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Justice and Peace special collection. Please support it.

-28<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Ecclesiastical Student's Fund. Please support the Special collection.

**-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.

**-At this time of the year,** we invite you to choose our Christmas Cards to help our parish and to "Keep Christ in Christmas" Each pack contains assorted cards with envelopes. Also available is our 2024 Diary, rosaries, medals, holy pictures, candles etc and these will make lovely presents for family and friends.

**Please visit Our Parish Repository.**

**-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.

**-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.

**-Offertory Collection** is part of our church tradition. A massive appreciations to those who 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 coll. can earn the parish a bit more. Thanks.

**Details of Parish account:** 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:** ...£374.07. Many thanks

\*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 Umunna**