

Euthanasia - Catechism of the Catholic Church

Life, from the moment of conception to the final last breath, is always a gift given gratuitously from God. You cannot dispense freely what is never yours. We are stewards of God's creation, called to oversee, enhance and further God's beautiful creation. The highest point of God's creation is the human person, created in his image and likeness. This is why Euthanasia is another word for murder. The catechism of the Catholic church has highlights on this theme:

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@dunkelddioecese.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@dunkelddioecese.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 Colanese

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 RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth

St. Mary's Coupar Angus

1st Sunday of Advent: Year B 3/12/23

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

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddioecese.org.uk

Contact Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE 01250872171



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 26/11/23.

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.

Thurs - Mass at 10.00am in Step's

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

Second 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: 9.30am

Sun: 11am: Jim Warden

Tue: Pauline Alston. Wed: Parishioner struggling with ill

health Thurs: Pauline Alston. Fri: Pauline Alston.



Blessing of Advent Wreath



Priest: We walk by faith and not by sight.

All: As we prepare for the Birth in the flesh of Christ the Emmanuel, Lord help us to look forward in faith to the second coming of your son by a worthy preparation.

Priest: We gather around our wreath to begin the celebration of Advent. Let us ask our Father in heaven to fill our hearts with grace. Silent pause for prayer

Heavenly Father, we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and to the coming of the Lord in glory. Bless this Advent wreath and all of us. As we pray daily around it, fill us with your life and strengthen us for our daily tasks. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

{The First Week of Advent [One candle is lit.]

Priest:

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Reflection for this Sunday:

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the **First Sunday of Advent**, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark,

obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread. Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armour of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh. Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian lifestyle that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognise even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive. —A reflection from Catholic culture



As the year is coming to an end....
Taking stock means assessing the
use of your gifts & talents & oppor-
tunities

Living with uncertainties: When we take a bus or train, we know our destination and we know, more or less, how much time we need to get there. But on the bus of life we also need to know our real destination and not just one we dream about. Unlike riding on a bus or train, we do not know how much time we have for the journey. For some it may be very long (90 plus years). For others it may be much shorter (30, 20, 10 years or even only a few months or weeks). Actually, the length of the journey is not important although we worry about it a lot. What is important is what we do during the journey. On a bus or train, you have people who chat, some are studying the horse-racing or sports pages of the paper, others are apparently doing nothing or daydreaming. For many, the journey is only an unavoidable means to get to their destination and has no value in itself. Yet there are others who are fully aware of what is going as they ride.

They are aware of their surroundings, of the people around them. They may admire the beauty of a morning sky or the loveliness of trees or buildings they pass on their way. The journey and the destination are part of one reality. The going is as important as the arriving and one contributes to the other. Awareness in the journey of life, today's Mass suggests our approach should be similar. If we want to celebrate the First Coming of Jesus and prepare for his Second Coming, then the way to do it is to be aware of his coming into every moment of every day.

The Scripture for today tells us that on the bus of life we should: Be ready to get off the bus at any point, that is, be ready to meet the Lord whenever he calls us to him-

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self, whether that be in the very near future or many years away. The important thing is: Be pre- pared. Do not be afraid, do not worry. Fear, worry and anxiety do not solve any problems. Fear, worry and anxiety are about things which do not yet exist and most probably will never exist as we imagine them. As Fr Tony de Mello used to say: 'Why worry? If you worry, you will die; if you don't worry, you will die. So why worry?'

Let us improve our relations with the people around us. A good life consists not so much in the kind of work we do or how 'successful' we are but how we have related with other people – with family, other relatives, friends, colleagues and total strangers.

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.

Donations of items for parish Christmas Hampers, Please. Box at the foyer for collections. Thanks.

Altar Servers Christmas Party this December. Lots of fun, party, dance, gift items. Look forward to seeing you.

Warm Welcome: Perth and Kinross Council is supporting us to serve Tea/ Coffee, cake/biscuits and a warm welcoming space in the Lower Hall after the 11.00am mass every Sunday from the 26th 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 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 6th May 2024 – 5 Nights;
Monday 10th June 2024 – 5 Nights;
Monday 01st 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
Web: 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.

2019 Christmas Hampers to be drawn on Sunday before Christmas.

Any volunteers to assist the selling of Raffle Tickets after Sunday mass at St. Stephens, approximately 30 minutes, please phone 01828627723

FAMILY MUSICAL EVENING- WITHADASHOF DIVERSITY – FRI. 8th DEC. 2023. 6.00pm.

You are invited - with ALL your family - children PARTICULARLY welcome - to an evening of music, song, dance and enjoyment on Friday 8th of December 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.



-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.

Today and Up Coming Events: -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: SVPD, 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.



- 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.

A massive appreciations to those who support the church via Standing Order,

Direct debit, telephone transfers, envelopes or 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: ...£385.98.**
Building Maint fund collection: £246.10. Many thanks
***Figures exclude takings from Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Thanks.**

2023 Christmas Mass times for St. Stephen's Church, Blairgowrie and St Luan's Church, Alyth

Wednesday 20th 10.00am: 10.00am Holy Mass at St. Luan's Alyth --6.00pm: Exposition/Adoration, Reconciliation. Holy Mass at 7.00pm at St. Stephen's

Thursday 21st 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's --6.00pm: St. Stephen's Primary School Carol Service in St. Stephen's Church. Everyone is invited.

Friday 22nd 10.00am Reconciliation, Holy Mass at St. Luan's Alyth
Saturday 23rd 6.30pm Vigil Mass at St. Stephen's

Sunday 24th 4th Sunday of Advent - B:-St. Luan's 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth --St. Stephen's 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

--Sunday 24th 6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas. Starts with Carol Service followed by Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Monday 25th Christmas Day Masses --9.30am: Carol Service followed by Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth --11.00am: Carol Service followed by Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Tuesday 26th – 10.00am. Feast of St. Stephen. Holy mass at St. Stephen's
Wednesday 27th 10.00am Feast of St. John. Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 28th 10.00am Feast of The Holy Innocents. Holy mass at St. Luan's

Friday 29th 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's
Sunday 31st Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - B: -Vigil Mass 6.30pm: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

-9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth
-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's
Monday 1st January 2024 –Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Solemnity.
-10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Wishing you every grace and peace from heaven above and Healthy and happy New Year.

'Emmanuel – God is with US'
Father Gregory Umunna.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
(JOHN STREET, BLAIRGOWRIE)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF DRIVING EASTBOUND) ORDER 2023

On 21/11/23 the Council made the above Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to prohibit temporarily all vehicular traffic travelling eastbound on John Street, Blairgowrie between the A93 High Street and George Street junctions for 95 metres or thereby. Alternative route for vehicles: – George Street – Newton Street – A93 Perth Street. This applies from 6/12/23 for an estimated period of 5 days to permit SSSEN works. Should these works overrun the maximum duration of this Order is 18 months. Pedestrian and emergency vehicle access to premises will be maintained.

St. Stephen's Vigil Mass time in favour of 5.00pm or 6.30. Opinion Poll

After several suggestions from parishioners on the possibility of changing the time for the Vigil mass in the parish, by some parishioners, we finally found the courage to conduct an opinion poll which was conducted last weekend. Result showed those in favour of:
5.00pm ...60 votes
6.30pm... 23 votes
In favour of either 3 votes.
Hopefully, from February 2024, we will change the vigil mass time to 5.00pm in the parish. Many thanks to all who pushed for this change and actually voted.