



St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie
St. Luan's R C Church Alyth
St. Mary's Coupar Angus
6th Sunday of the Year B
Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>
E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk



Healing Love: Jesus touches the Leper.
Under the law, Jesus now takes the condition of the Leper!

Parish diary: Week beginning from 11/2/24.

Sat/Sun -6.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

-9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Tue -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

SEASON OF LENT BEGINS! Prayer, Fasting, alms giving & Abstinence

Ash Wed – 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

---11.45 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

---6.00pm Mass St Stephen's

Thurs - 10am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Fri - 10.00am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Stephen's.

Sat/Sun -6.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

-9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence. It ushers in the Holy season of Lent. Lent prepares us for easter. The Lenten liturgy disposes both the faithful and the catechumens to celebrate the Paschal mystery as the centre of the liturgical year and of the Christian life. During this period, the liturgical colour is purple which is a mark of repentance. Music is used only to support singing, flowers are not used and the glory is sung or said only on feast days.

Mass intentions for the week: Happy repose of John Reid, Mary Reid, Bridget Reid and Helen Reid. Mary O'Brien Anniversary.

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 Primary School: 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

Great News: We have a new Bishop!

The Holy Father has appointed **Father Martin Chambers** as the new Bishop of Dunkeld. Father Martin is a priest of the Diocese of Galloway and I know you will join me in giving him the warmest of welcomes to the Diocese of Dunkeld. We pray for him, and for one another and for the whole local Church."

Be a Peacemaker. 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.

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.

Warm Welcome: Tea/Coffee, biscuits and a warm welcoming space in the Lower Hall after the 11.00am mass every Sunday 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.

– **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 –

-St. Stephen's Easter Musical Evening Friday 5th of April, St. Stephen's Easter Musical Evening 6pm: Featuring talents, music, songs and instruments from parishioners and friends of the parish. Bring your friends and BYOB.

Today and Up Coming Events:

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

-25th February 2024 Building maintenance Fund collection. please support the Special collection.

-10th March 2024, SCIAF Sunday . Please support the Special collection.

-30th March 2024, Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-Friday 5th of April: St. Stephen's Easter Musical Evening 6pm. Featuring talents, music, songs and instruments from parishioners and friends of the parish. Bring your friends and BYOB.

-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, 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, it would be very much appreciated.

-Offertory Collection is part of our church tradition. A massive appreciations to those who make their offertory collection or support the parish via Standing Order, Direct debit, telephone transfers, envelopes or put their support in the offertory collection box in the Church. By signing the Gift Aid form, your offertory collection 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 Sunday's offertory collection £295.40, BMF £300.62.**

Many thanks for your support to the parish.

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

Reflection: Pray, Fast, alms! The Wings to fly in Lent beginning from this Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a season of repentance and self-denial expressed through the ancient disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

From the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of our mortality and exhorted to repent and believe in the gospel.

This much is true – we are pilgrims on a journey of conversion back to the father's house.

How fitting that in dedicating ourselves to prayer, we should focus on the Our Father, that most perfect of prayers, a summary of the whole gospel.

The Father knows all our needs, wants and desires and gives his children good things. So we dare to pray and call God "Father."

Our Father captures beautifully and succinctly the two greatest commandments – to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbour as ourself.

Our Father is a kind of Creed, a proclamation of what we believe, celebrate and live. Therefore, we don't pray 'My Father' but 'Our Father' because when we pray, we join ourselves in love and solidarity to the worldwide communion of believers. Every time we say the Our Father, we express not only our love for God but God's love for everyone.

On this Sunday's Gospel...A man walks up to Jesus covered with scales and scabs. According to prescriptions (found in our First Reading) the man should 'dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.' He should ring a bell and cry 'Unclean, unclean!' In approaching Jesus in the manner he does, the man is committing a terrible anti-social blunder and he may be breaking the law too! In the face of all this, Jesus is not repulsed or shocked, he is 'moved with pity.' Just three words, but they tell us so much. 'If you want to, you can make me clean.' What? Of course our saviour wants to! Jesus touched him with care and said, 'Be made clean.' Our spiritual life consists of being 'made clean,' no matter how disgusting our failings may be.

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