



## St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth

St. Mary's Coupar Angus

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Year B

Parish website: [https://www.st-stephens-](https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/)

[blairgowrie.org.uk/](https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/)

E-mail: [ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)



The temptation of Jesus

Parish diary: Week beginning from 18/2/24.

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

Wed – 6pm adoration, 7pm: Holy mass at St. Step's

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

Fri - 10.00am: St. of the Cross & mass at St. Step'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

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 We pray for him, and for one another and for the whole local Church. He will be ordained a bishop on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April at the Cathedral, 11am . Everyone is invited."

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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

-25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Building maintenance Fund collection. please support the Special collection.

-10<sup>th</sup> March 2024, SCIAF Sunday . Please support the Special collection.

-30<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

-Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 appreciation 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 £316.20.

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.

New Mass time for Vigil Mass in the Parish which will see Vigil mass time move from 6.30pm to 5.30pm will take off from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March. Please share this information. Thanks.

**Reflection:** The gains of temptation....

**First**, enduring a temptation and conquering it helps us see the strength of God in our lives.

**Second**, temptation humbles us, stripping away our pride and our struggle of thinking we are self-reliant and self-made.

**Third**, there is great value in completely rejecting the devil. This not only robs him of his ongoing power to deceive us, but it also clarifies our vision of who he is so that we can continue to reject him and his works.

**Fourth**, overcoming temptation clearly and definitively strengthens us in every virtue.

**Fifth**, the devil would not tempt us if he were not concerned about our holiness. Thus, we should see temptation as a sign that the evil one is losing hold of our lives.

Overcoming temptation is like acing an exam, winning a contest, completing a difficult project or accomplishing some challenging feat. We should take great joy in overcoming temptation in our lives, realizing that this strengthens us to the core of our being. As we do so, we must also do so in humility, realizing that we have not accomplished this on our own but only by the grace of God in our lives. The opposite is true also. When we fail a particular temptation over and over again, we get discouraged and tend to lose the little virtue we have.

Know that any and every temptation from the evil one can be overcome. Nothing is too great. Nothing is too difficult. Humble yourself in confession, seek the help of a confidant, fall on your knees in prayer, trust in the almighty power of God. Overcoming temptation is not only possible, it is a glorious and transforming experience of grace in your life.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus facing the devil in the desert after spending 40 days of fasting. He faced every temptation of the evil one so as to assure us that if we but unite ourselves completely to Him in His human nature, so we also will have His strength to overcome anything and everything the vile devil throws our way.

***On this Sunday's Gospel...*** As we begin our own Lenten journey this first Sunday of Lent, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side every step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which he received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.

Let us Pray: God of the covenant, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism your people are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, we beg you, unseal for us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

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