

FRANCIS
BISHOP OF ROME
SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD
TO ALL WHO READ THIS LETTER
GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

1. Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (*Eph 2:4*), after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (*Ex 34:6*), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the "fullness of time" (*Gal 4:4*), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn 14:9*). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person,^[1] reveals the mercy of God.

2. We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness. To be continued....

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: Maureen Jackson. 07952376985; Email: ststephen-psc@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 Colanse

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

LENT

Laetare Sunday

Warm Welcome

to all our Parishioners and visitors.

Whether you are visiting our parish or just moved into the area, please feel very welcome ... thanks.

Parish diary: Week beginning from 10/3/24.

Saturday 9th March - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

Sunday 10th March - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 10th March - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Tuesday 12th March - 10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Wednesday 13th March - 11am: Mass at St. Stephens Primary School
- 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

Thursday 14th March - 10am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Luan's

Friday 15th March - 10.00am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Stephen's.

Saturday 16th March - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

Sunday 17th March - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

Sunday 18th March - 11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

This Sunday, the fourth of Lent, we come to the midpoint of Lent. The season is half over, and the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus is nearer to us. On this midway Sunday, it is traditional to honour mothers, praying for those still with us and remembering those who have died.

Mass intentions for the week: Jim Warden (anniversary), Thomaz Wegner Jazskin, Lyn Bowen, Peter Rich. Monsignor Vincent Mba.

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.

Thursday 21st March: 5.30pm: In Praise of Mary, who suffered with her Son at the foot of the cross in his passion in St. Stephens.

In your prayers, kindly remember those on our prayer list: Michael Rolls, Neil Mcdowall. Pam McKenna, Val Naughton, Dr. Paul Kinneer, Mary and George Flockhart. Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Alex Forrester, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Roy Sweeney, Diana Richardson, Pamela -

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

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth

St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Year B 10/2/24

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@dunkelddioecese.org.uk

Address: 8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE

Father Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

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

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

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddioecese.org.uk

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

this is her.
she's older but new.
she's softer but resilient.
she's marked but worthy.
she's the body that carried life.

this is her.
she's tired but awake.
she's lost but found.
she's empty but full.
she's the being that raises life.

this is her.
she's worried but brave.
she's emotional but strong.
she's torn but whole.
she's a woman being raised into a mother.



Emma Heaphy x charlie nanna

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: 5pm. **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.

Great News: We have a new Bishop! The Holy Father has appointed **Father Martin Chambers** as the new Bishop elect 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 27th of April at the Cathedral, 11 am . Everyone is invited."

-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



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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:

-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.

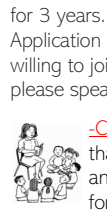
-At the repository: available are our 2024 Diary, rosaries, medals, holy pictures, candles etc and these will make lovely presents for family and friends. Please visit Our Parish Repository.

-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.

"Catholic Families for Life" - Latest issue of newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life - download a copy on www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk from 1st March onwards.

Very Important Information: Following the incident that happened in St. Stephen's a fortnight ago with a visitor taking ill during mass, as a parish we are working to equip more people with the knowledge of First Aid, I have been advised to encourage parishioners to either renew, update or avail themselves of this training. Parish will be happy to pay for this training if we can get people to volunteer undertake a first aid course. Certificates are valid

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for 3 years.
Application is ongoing and if you are willing to join this First Aid course, please speak to Fr. Gregory.

-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.

-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.

-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 coll. £362.80**
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: God's love for humanity and our interconnectedness

Lent is a time of reflection, penance and spiritual discipline. If we spend time in reflection, thinking seriously about our journey through life, we may discern errors in the ways we have journeyed in the past. This may lead us to seek penance for our erroneous actions. This process creates in us the disciplined approach needed for deepening our own faith and personal spirituality.

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis reminds us that 'Everything is connected.' During Lent, we reflect not only upon our own life and journey but also our interconnectedness with the world and the people in it. Pope Francis goes on to say, 'No one is saved alone.' This means that we all have a role to play in ensuring that the human and environmental rights of all who live in God's world are fully respected.

Today, we find ourselves at the fourth Sunday of Lent, over halfway through our Lenten journey of reflection, penance and spiritual discipline. Today's readings remind us of the importance of living out our faith through good works and service to others. We are called to be witnesses to the love of Christ in the world, to reflect His light and to share His message of hope with all whom we encounter. We are called to action, to play the role that Pope Francis says we all have in saving each other.

An extract from a reflection by Patricia Walsh Warren, Animator for Newfoundland and Labrador
<https://devp.org/en/weekly-reflection-for-march-10-2024-4th-sunday-of-lent/>



The Catechism of the Catholic Church

THE LITURGY - WORK OF THE HOLY TRINITY

I. The Father-Source and Goal of the Liturgy

1077 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us before him in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."²

1078 Blessing is a divine and life-giving action, the source of which is the Father; his blessing is both word and gift.⁴ When applied to man, the word "blessing" means adoration and surrender to his Creator in thanksgiving.

1079 From the beginning until the end of time the whole of God's work is a blessing. From the liturgical poem of the first creation to the canticles of the heavenly Jerusalem, the inspired authors proclaim the plan of salvation as one vast divine blessing.

1080 From the very beginning God blessed all living beings, especially man and woman, the covenant with Noah and with all living things renewed this blessing of fruitfulness despite man's sin which had brought a curse on the ground. But with Abraham, the divine blessing entered into human history which was moving toward death, to redirect it toward life, toward its source. By the faith of "the father of all believers," who embraced the blessing, the history of salvation is inaugurated.

1081 The divine blessings were made manifest in astonishing and saving events: the birth of Isaac, the escape from Egypt (Passover and Exodus), the gift of the promised land, the election of David, the presence of God in the Temple, the purifying exile, and return of a "small remnant." the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, interwoven in the liturgy of the Chosen People, recall these divine blessings and at the same time respond to them with blessings of praise and thanksgiving.

1082 In the Church's liturgy the divine blessing is fully revealed and communicated. the Father is acknowledged and adored as the source and the end of all the blessings of creation and salvation. In his Word who became incarnate, died, and rose for us, he fills us with his blessings. Through his Word, he pours into our hearts the Gift that contains all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

1083 The dual dimension of the Christian liturgy as a response of faith and love to the spiritual blessings the Father bestows on us is thus evident. On the one hand, the Church, united with her Lord and "in the Holy Spirit,"⁵ blesses the Father "for his inexpressible gift⁶ in her adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. On the other hand, until the consummation of God's plan, the Church never ceases to present to the Father the offering of his own gifts and to beg him to send the Holy Spirit upon that offering, upon herself, upon the faithful, and upon the whole world, so that through communion in the death and resurrection of Christ the Priest, and by the power of the Spirit, these divine blessings will bring forth the fruits of life "to the praise of his glorious grace."⁷

1088 "To accomplish so great a work" - the dispensation or com-

munication of his work of salvation - "Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the Sacrifice of the Mass not only in the person of his minister, 'the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross,' but especially in the Eucharistic species. By his power he is present in the sacraments so that when anybody baptizes, it is really Christ himself who baptizes. He is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. Lastly, he is present when the Church prays and sings, for he has promised 'where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.'"¹¹

1089 "Christ, indeed, always associates the Church with himself in this great work in which God is perfectly glorified and men are sanctified. the Church is his beloved Bride who calls to her Lord and through him offers worship to the eternal Father."¹²

... which participates in the liturgy of heaven

1090 "In the earthly liturgy we share in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. With all the warriors of the heavenly army we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord; venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, until he, our life, shall appear and we too will appear with him in glory."¹³