

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

3. At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy* as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a *Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instils hope. On the following Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Rome – that is, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran – will be opened. In the following weeks, the Holy Doors of the other Papal Basilicas will be opened. On the same Sunday, I will announce that in every local church, at the cathedral – the mother church of the faithful in any particular area – or, alternatively, at the co-cathedral or another church of special significance, a Door of Mercy will be opened for the duration of the Holy Year. At the discretion of the local ordinary, a similar door may be opened at any shrine frequented by large groups of pilgrims, since visits to these holy sites are so often grace-filled moments, as people discover a path to conversion. Every Particular Church, therefore, will be directly involved in living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal. Thus the Jubilee will be celebrated both in Rome and in the Particular Churches as a visible sign of the Church's universal communion. 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 every .....in the Hall. Email: alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com Ph:07934884759

**Parish Safeguarding Coordinator:** Maureen Jackson. 07952376985; 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

# LENT

**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 17/3/24.**

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

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

**Sunday 17th March** -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

**Tuesday 19th March** -10.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's: **St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity**

**Wednesday 20th March** - 6.00pm adoration, 7pm: Holy mass at St. Stephen's

**Thursday 21st March** - 10am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Luan's;

- 5.30pm: **In Praise of Mary, who suffered with her Son at the foot of the cross in his passion** in St. Stephens.

**Friday 22nd March** - 10.00am: Stations of the Cross & mass at St. Stephen's.

**Saturday 23rd March** - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's

**Sunday 24th March** - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth

**Sunday 24th March** -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**This Sunday, the fifth of Lent, ...**

Jesus reveals the manner of his death and resurrection.

"I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."  
"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself."

**St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie**

**St. Luan's R C Church Alyth**

**St. Mary's Coupar Angus**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent: Year B 17/3/24**

**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.**

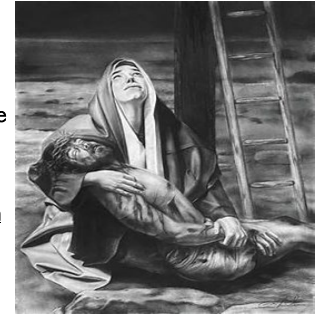
**Parish website:** [https://www.st-](https://www.st-stephensblairgowrie.org.uk/)

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01250872171



The depth of the sorrows of a mother

**"Brothers and sisters,** today, let us also recall our first encounter with the Lord. Each one of us has had the first encounter, whether within the family or outside it... When did I encounter the Lord? When did the Lord touch my heart? And let us ask ourselves: are we still disciples, enamoured of the Lord, do we seek the Lord, or do we settle into a faith made up of habits? Do we stay with him in prayer, do we know how to stay in silence with him? Do I know how to stay in prayer with the Lord, to stay in silence with him? And then, do we feel the desire to share, to proclaim this beauty of the encounter with the Lord?"  
—Pope Francis.

**Mass intentions for the week:**

Jim Warden, 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: 5.00pm 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.

**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, 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 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.

**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.



**Today and Up Coming Events:**

**-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.

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

**-29th March:** Holy Places Special Collection on Good Friday. Please support it.

**-Friday 5th of April: -St. Stephen's Easter Musical Evening Please sign up your name, act and time on the sheet at the back of the church.** 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.

**-Couper Angus and District Action Group of the Scottish Bible Society:** Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th April in St. Anne's Church Hall Forfar Road C/A 10-12noon £3 for adult, £1 for children. —Pauline Dolby.

**-28th April:** Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

**-27th of April:** Episcopal Ordination of **Father Martin Chambers** as the new Bishop elect of Dunkeld on the 27th of April at the Cathedral, 11am . Everyone is invited."

**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.

**-June 12th:** National Prayer Breakfast for Scotland, Edinburgh all morning and afternoon.

**-19th May:** The Apostolate of Communication. Special collection.

**26th May:** Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

**-9th June:** Day of Life Special Collection. Please support it.

**-30th June:** Building maintenance Fund collection. please support it.

July: Peter's Pence.

August: The Apostleship of the Sea.

**-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.

**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 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 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 coll. £230.80; SCIAF £450.65.** 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: Seeing Jesus**

Some Greeks came up to Philip and made this request: 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' They are to find Jesus, of course, in the grain of wheat fallen to earth and dying. They are to find Jesus in the one who is lifted up from the earth and loses his life. If we should like to see Jesus we need to look for the fallen grains of wheat around us, the sick and impoverished, the abused and oppressed. If we should like to see Jesus, we need to look for those who are losing their lives, the victims of poverty, abuse, discrimination, and war. What we need is a new covenant, a covenant of love and forgiveness. We need to have written in our hearts that we are God's people, that we aspire to be like Christ in transforming the darkness of the world's pain into the life and joy of Easter. *Jesus who came as 'Emmanuel' and who promises to be with his people until the end of the age is hidden in those most in need; to reject them is to reject God made manifest in history.* **U.S. Bishops, Economic Justice for All, 1986: 44**

**Family Celebration of the Holy Week 2024**

**ST. STEPHEN'S R.C. CHURCH, BLAIRGOWRIE**  
8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

&  
**ST. LUAN'S R C CHURCH ALYTH**

Alexander Street, PH11 8AS

Parish email: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk  
Phone: 01250872171

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

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

**Friday 22nd March:** Opportunities for all day Individual and Family reconciliation by appointment.

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B - Sunday March 24th**

Distribution, Procession, Blessing of Palm at all Masses  
+ Vigil Mass at 5.30 p.m. in St. Stephen's  
+ Mass at 9.30 a.m. in St. Luan's  
+ Mass at 11.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's  
+ Evening Prayer and

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4.00 p.m. in St. Stephen's.

**Monday of Holy Week** – March 25th Mass at 10.00 am in St. Stephen's

**Tuesday of Holy Week** – March 26th Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's

**Wednesday of Holy Week** – March 27th Mass & Stations of the Cross at 10.00am in St. Luan's

**Holy Thursday of the Lord's Betrayal** – March 28th

Morning Prayer in St Stephen's 10am.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00pm in St. Step's. No washing of feet.

**Good Friday of the Lord's Passion** – March 29th (Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

**Morning Prayer** in St Stephen's 10am.

**Stations of The Cross** at 12.00noon in St. Luan's followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

**Stations of The Cross** at 3.00pm in St. Stephen's followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

**Holy Saturday – March 30th** A day of waiting at the Lord's tomb.

-Morning Prayer in St Stephen's 10am.  
+ 11.00am: Blessing of Easter Food Basket for the Polish Community

**THE EASTER VIGIL MASS:** Night of all nights. + This is the crown and highpoint of the Christian liturgical year, from 5.30 pm at St. Stephen's.

**Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord** - March 31st

Renewal of Baptismal Promises and blessing with Holy Water  
9.30 am. in St Luan's  
11.00 am. in St. Stephen's Blairgowrie

**Suggested Scriptural Readings for the Holy Week and Easter celebrations:** Genesis 1:1-2:2, Genesis 22:1; Exodus 14:15; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10.

Have a blessed Easter celebrations — **Father Gregory Umunna**

