

St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie
St. Luan's R C Church Alyth St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Palm Sunday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord Year C 13/4/25

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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.

Family Celebration of the Holy Week 2025

Saturday 12th April: 10.00am -12noon, 4.00pm-5.00pm: Opportunities for all day Individual and Family reconciliation.

Palm Sunday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord Year C - Sunday April 13th

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 – April 14th Chaplaincy/Masses at 10.15am/1.30pm in Glenochil Prisons

Tuesday of Holy Week – April 15th Stations of the Cross and Mass at 10.00am in St. Stephen's

Wednesday of Holy Week – April 16th Stations of the Cross and Mass at 10.00am in St. Luan's

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Betrayal – April 17th

+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 – April 18th (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. Step's followed by The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

Holy Saturday – April 19th 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.

8.00pm at St. Stephen's. **(At the Bishop's instruction to all parishes of the diocese latterly)**

Easter Sunday Holy Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord – April 20th

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

Blessing of palms (*sprinkling follows*). Almighty and eternal God, bless + these palms and make them holy; and grant that we who joyfully accompany Christ the King today may by his grace arrive one day in the new and eternal Jerusalem, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *After the Gospel of the palms, the invitation is given:* Acclaiming Jesus, like the people of Jerusalem, let us go forth in peace

The Opening Prayer. Almighty and eternal God, when you sent our Saviour into the world, you gave us all an example to follow: in humble obedience he took upon himself a body like ours and gave himself up to death on the cross. In your mercy, grant us the grace to learn from the example of his passion and to share in the glory of his resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings. *Isaiah 50:4-7* Describes someone under attack. Our tradition applies Isaiah's writings to the sufferings of Jesus; *Philippians 2:6-11* An ancient hymn to Christ, which tells us that Jesus achieved glory through suffering; *Luke 22:14 to 23:56* Luke's account of the passion is probably the most familiar. We view the sufferings of Jesus through the eyes of Peter, and Simon of Cyrene, and the good thief.

Take to contemplate ... The Greatest Week

Today we are beginning the best week in the whole liturgical year. Centuries ago it was called the '*Great Week*'. Nowadays we Catholics call it '*Holy Week*'. We follow Jesus every step of the way. We start with his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where he is welcomed, applauded and acclaimed, by a big crowd of followers. On Thursday we will join him at table and receive the gift of himself in bread and wine. After dining with him we will walk with him along the path that leads from the Upper Room to the Garden of Olives. There we will see him falling to the ground in fear and anxiety about the cruel death that awaits him. Friday will find us standing beside his mother at the foot of the cross, and

feeling compassion for him in both his physical agony and his mental torment.

We will be feeling especially some of his sense of being alone and abandoned, betrayed and deserted, not only by friends and followers, but even by God. On Saturday we will be quiet and silent around his tomb, as we remember the injustice, hostility and cruelty, of all those evil men who murdered him. Then, late on Saturday, we will move from the darkness of our journey to the place of the brightly burning fire. There we will join the procession of the great Easter Candle, representing the risen Christ, as he lights up the darkness of our church and lives.

There and then, the pain and sadness of our journey with Jesus to Calvary, will give way to the hope and joy that comes with our awareness. Jesus Christ is not dead and gone. No, he is alive, strong and powerful, alive in himself, and alive in us. And so we will be hearing in our hearts those assuring words that Juliana of Norwich in her vision of Christ Crucified heard from his own lips: '*All will be well, all will be well, all manner of things will be well.*' Ass. Cath. Priest.

-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. By signing the Gift Aid form, your offertory collection can earn the parish a bit more.

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. £521.03.** 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. **-Wishing you a fruitful Holy Week, Fr. Gregory**