

We are beggars of Mercy: The story of the woman caught in the act of adultery in John 7:53-8:11 takes us to the heart of God's mercy. Being caught in the act of adultery would quickly catch headlines, especially when it was considered sinful as well as scandalous. Yet this is well within the embrace of God's mercy. Thank God for the inclusion of this story in the Gospel. The Bible tell us that God's mercy is as wide as the Ocean, deeper than the deepest sea, and higher than the mountains, and as far as the west is from the east.

We are therefore beggars before God in need of mercy and forgiveness. No wonder the Eucharist itself is a prayer for mercy. "This is my blood of the covenant pour out for the forgiveness of sins..." Matthew 26:28.

"No one is beyond the reach of God's mercy" St Theresa of Lisieux

Diocesan Events:

The next Italian Mass will be held on Sunday 26th May 5pm.
St Bride's, Brook Street, Monifieth. Dundee DD5 4BD

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee runs from 7th -14th July 2025. For further information, please email dunkeld@pobox.com or phone 07801227443.

St. Clement/St. Ninian's Dundee are planning a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th August 2025. 4 Nights, 5 Days. Ex Edinburgh to Croatia. Cost: 2 sharing £690; Single Supplement £225. Contacts: Fr. Johnny 07831580361; Bernadette: 07919106129.

Parish Priest/Prison Chaplain: Fr. Gregory E. Umunna Ph.D.

Phone: 01250872171. **Email:** ststephen@dunkelddiocese.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.

Catechist: Alzbeta Krajcikova: Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Comm & Confirmation every Wed, 5.00pm in the lower Hall. Email: Ms Alzbeta.krajcikova@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs Maureen Jackson 07952376985; Email: ststephen-psc@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkawalinski@gmail.com

Music Directors: Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre. (Blair) The Donnelly Family (Alyth)

Responsible Person for Eucharistic Ministers: Mrs Maureen Jackson.

Responsible Person for Children's Liturgy: Mrs Mary Wojtowicz

Responsible Person for Lectors: Mr. Anthony Jervis (Alyth) Mr. Paul Brown (Blair)

Responsible Group for Parish Social Justice Issues: SVP

Responsible Person for Church Flowers: Jean Scott (Blair), Mrs Elma Sharp (Alyth)

Resp. Person: Altar Servers: Mr Rolly Colanse

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer FitzPatrick (Blair)

Responsible Person for St. Luan's RC Church, Alyth: Daria McDowall: dariam@gmx.com

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

Praying for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life: There is a Holy Hour at 6pm followed by the Holy Mass at 7pm to pray for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, as well as for our Priests. This takes place on 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Immaculate Conception, Lochee. The next is scheduled for 8th April, and we warmly welcome everyone to join us in these prayers.

Vocations to the Priesthood:

The next Vocations Event is an overnight at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, on Fri/Sat 16/17th May starting at 6pm with Evening Prayer, and concluding with lunch on Saturday.

This event will include time for personal prayer and reflection, as well as one to one time with a priest, input on Discernment Prayer, as well as Holy Mass, and a look at the Propaedeutic Period (the pre-seminary experience in Salamanca).

Bishop Andrew and Fr Malcolm Hutchison will also be in attendance.



St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DE, 872171

St. Mary's Coupar Angus & St. Luan's Alyth.

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C. 6/4/25

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

E-mail: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC001810



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.

Our Vision: *To be a welcoming and participating Catholic community on a journey, striving to be led by the Spirit, strengthened by a bond of love and unity, guided by the gospel message of Christ, refreshed and nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ at the Eucharistic table. Enriched by a vibrant people of God from diverse backgrounds and supported by many gifts employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a community.*

Parish diary: Week beginning from 6/4/25

Saturday -5.30pm: Vigil mass St. Stephen's.

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

Sunday -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Steph's.

Monday - 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care, all day in Glenochil Prisons.

Tuesday -10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Wednesday - 6.00pm Adoration, Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Stephen's.

Thursday - 10.00am -10.20am: Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Luan's

Thursday 10th April: 6.30pm: Service of Songs in Praise of Mary, who suffered with her Son in his passion in St. Stephens. with her Son in his passion in St. Stephens.

Friday -10.00am -10.20am: Stations of the Cross; 10.20-10.45am Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Friday 11th: Social/Family Night Friday, 11th April 6.00pm:

Why Crosses are covered in Lent:

Crosses and statues are

covered during Lent for the following reasons:

To remind us of the penitential nature of Lent.

To focus our senses and thoughts on Christ's Passion.

To deepen our understanding of the "hidden"

aspects of God's presence.

To symbolize fasting from sacred depictions.



⇒ **-Family Rosary and adoration.** Every Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm.

⇒ Mass for the sick every Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm.

⇒ **-Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.

⇒ **-Divine Mercy Devotion.** Tuesdays after morning mass. Please join us.

⇒ **Mass with St. Stephen's Pri. Sch:** 1st Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

⇒ **Stations of the Cross** Every Thurs/Fri before mass

This Sunday's Food 4 Thought: **What did Jesus write with his finger on the ground?** The Gospel gives us a possible clue. Possibly he may have listed on the ground some common sins against humanity or each of the sins of those wicked men, to make them think. At any rate, his challenge that the person who was without sin should cast the first stone met with no response. Although Jesus did not condemn the woman, neither did he excuse what she had done. "Don't sin any more," was both a pardon and a warning to her.

God does not ask of a of a religion cold and loveless. As St Paul

Some poetry, songs and drama on the theme of the Dundee poet William McGonagall and more. BYOB and your friends/family.

Saturday: Palm Sunday - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

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

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

The Jubilee Year of Hope Celebration in our Parish: Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers.

This Sunday, please join me to welcome Monina Pachon and Dina Colanese, who have worked in the Health care sector and for over two decades and have seen firsthand, the brokenness of the human person due to ill health. They will share with us this weekend, their experiences of what keeps them going in the face of all the wreckage. #Hope for humanity.

This Week's Message in a Glance...

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy".

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

"And Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

In your prayers, kindly remember our Beloved Dead:

Those who have died recently: Valeria Naughton Alexander Forrester, Bill Waldron, Geo McGoldrick and those whose anniversary we remember now especially Mary Kate O'Brien.

Kindly remember also those on our prayer list: Pope Francis, Michael Rolls, Neil McDowall, Pam McKenna, Mary and George Flockhart, Snooky Marshall, Maud McGinn, Cipriano and Carmelita, Tom O'Malley, Diana Richardson, Giles Umunna and Tony Donnan, Lisa Robertson, Philip Lafferty.

says in the 2nd Reading, trying to relate to God just by strictly keeping the Law is an obsolete kind of religion. Only when we let God's love, as seen in Christ, to embrace and change our heart, can we begin to grow.

While proud self-righteousness left the Pharisees feeling no need to ask God for mercy, she needed it. Like the woman in danger, we need to admit our own sins and pray for mercy rather than condemn others. Even when we fail in our ideals, we trust in the mercy God extends to the sinner. For even our sins make no difference to God's enduring love for us.

ST. STEPHEN'S R C CHURCH, BLAIRGOWRIE

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

ST. LUAN'S R C CHURCH ALYTH

Alexanderia Street, PH11 8AS

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

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

Family Celebration of the Holy Week 2025

Thursday 10th April: 6.30pm: Service of Songs in Praise of Mary, who suffered with her Son in his passion in St. Stephens.

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. Stephen'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. Stephen'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. Stephens'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.



Today's and Up Coming

Please return your SCIAF WEE BOXES -18th April: Good Friday. Holy Places Collection. 27th April, Building maintenance Fund; 11th May, Apostolate of Communication; 25th May: Building maintenance Fund; 8th June: Day of Life Collection; 29th June: Building maintenance Fund; 13th July: Peter's Pence; 27th July: Building maintenance Fund; 10th August: Apostleship of the Sea; 31st August: Building maintenance Fund; 14th September: Bishop's Mensal Fund; 28th September: Building maintenance Fund; 12th Oct: Mission Sunday; 26th October: Building maintenance Fund; 9th November: Sick and Retired Priest's Fund/Catholic Education Service; 30th Nov: Building maintenance Fund; 14th Dec: Poor Mission Fund; 28th Dec: Building maintenance Fund.

Conversations in the Spirit...an invitation by Bishop Andrew McKenzie

Following on from The Council of Priest's meeting in Kinnoull, Bishop Andrew would like to propose a diocesan initiative based around Conversations in the Spirit. He has proposed that each parish forms a group(s) which engage for three sessions of Conversations in the Spirit.

Materials will be provided for each session. Sessions should take place during Eastertide with a brief report being submitted by Pentecost.

These sessions will focus on the question, What is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church in the Dioceses of Dunkeld? More information will follow.

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.** Last Sunday's offertory collections: £365.30; BMF:£. Many thanks for your support to the parish. *Figures exclude takings from Standing orders, bank transfers and direct debits. Comprehensive Parish Financial Audits and Accounts are published on the Notice Board. Thanks.



"I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Phil 3:8-14



Adoration in St. Stephen's, every Wed. 6.00pm-7.00pm. 'The Eucharist is that love which surpasses all loves in Heaven and on earth.' - St. Bernard. Please feel free to join us for adoration.

Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust <http://www.ecuadortrust.org.uk> St. Joseph's Justice and Peace Group are organising a fundraiser in support of the Martin Chambers Ecuador Trust. St. Joseph's suggest that other parishes may wish to join them either by organising their own fundraising or by taking up a collection. Cheques marked and payable to the Diocese of Dunkeld. Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 10th April, 2025 at 1.00 p.m. in St. Andrew's Cathedral marking the first anniversary of Bishop elect Martin Chambers.

SS Leonard and Fergus Parish Community request your presence to concelebrate at the Golden Jubilee Mass to give thanks on the anniversary of the opening of our Church Building. Mass will be at 6.30pm on Friday 25th April 2025 in SS Leonard and Fergus Parish Church. Refreshments afterwards.

Social/Family Night

Friday, 11th April

6.00pm: Some poetry, songs and drama

on the theme of the

Dundee poet Wil-

liam McGonagall,

and more. ('And

more' refers to others

wishing to contribute

as usually happens

on these evenings)

Bring your own

bottle. All welcome.

St. Stephen's Parish Library Selection of Books on:

⇒ Spirituality/ Prayer

⇒ Lives of Saints/Martyr

⇒ Theology/ philosophy

⇒ History/ Psychology

⇒ Pilgrimage sites

Pls feel free to borrow any from the shelves in the lower hall and return a week after use. Thanks.



Communion to nursing homes, house bounds

and the elderly is part

of our ministry of care.

Please let any of the

Eucharistic Ministers or

myself know if you

know some- one who is

in need of this care.

Thanks.

Thursday 10th April: 6.30pm: **Service of Songs in Praise of** Mary, who suffered with her Son in his passion in St. Stephens.

with her Son in his passion in St. Stephens.

Let us Pray: God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures. Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen the Christ may truly confess him as our Lord and God and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.



Children's Liturgy: I want to thank Mary Wojtowich 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. There, the children learn about the message of each Sunday but also interact socially with other children.

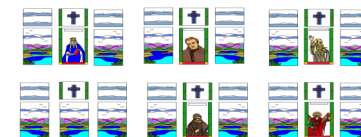
First Pastoral Visit of Bishop Andrew McKenzie: Saturday 30th May - Sunday the 1st of June 2025. He will preside over all the masses of the weekend and Confirm our boys and girls with then 11am mass. mass.

First holy communion will be on Sunday the 15th of June 2025, 2pm.

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.

Tea/Coffee, Everyone is welcome to tea and coffee served in the Lower Hall after 11.00am mass in St. Stephens every Sunday morning after 11.00am mass. Thanks.

St. Luan's Church Stained-Glass Windows Explained.



Late last year, the idea of putting up the Stained-glass windows in St. Luan's as an outstanding character/feature of the church in readiness for the 125th anniversary was considered. It was made public and everyone had an opportunity to share in the work and the grace therein. Stunning work on the windows has now been completed.

Inspiration:

1. The choice of the **five Saints:** Sts. Andrew, Margaret of Scotland, Ninian, Columba and John Ogilvie were inspired by their contributions to our Scottish Christian heritage. Of course St. Luan sits on the window left of the sanctuary as patron of this little but beautiful church while Our blessed mother Mary sits on the window right of the sanctuary.

2. **The concept** on the windows surrounding the images of the saints are personal sketches of my perception of the beautiful landscape of Scotland as I see them and handed to the glazier: the hills, mountains, lakes, green vegetations, clouds and birds in the skies.

The window in the Sacristy has inscribed on the Cross on top of it, '1900-2025' to mark the 125th anniversary of St. Luan's Church.

Excluding the two windows on the sanctuary, there are 36 panels of glasses consisting of 6 large windows around the main body of St. Luan's church and costing £900 each for construction and £1000 for fixing all of them. Total amount realised so far £4,800.

We are greatly indebted to the following parishioners who generously supported this project by either fully sponsoring a window or partly sponsoring a window: Gerald Cameron, Godfrey Holden, Martin Donnelly, Oliver Wright, Anita Donald, Elma Sharp, Monica Collins, Daria McDowall and 3 other people who prefer to remain anonymous.

Many thanks to all parishioners who continue to help the parish grow from strength to strength. With an assurance of prayers. Kindest regards, Fr. Greg

Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.

Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com

Phone: 01250 872171



Parish Website: www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No: