

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

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.

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.

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

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.

Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Comm & Confirmation ended for the year.

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

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkowalinski@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 Colanese

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 Easter celebration -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:

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



St. Stephen's R C Church

8 Bank Street, Blairgowrie PH10 6DE, 872171

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

7th Sunday of Easter. Year C. 1/6/25

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 1/6/25

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.

Tues -10.00am. **Funeral mass for Gerry Oko** at St. Steph's.

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

Thursday - 10.00am - Holy mass at St. Luan's.

Thursday - 5.00pm—7pm Confessions at Gen Hope Summer Camp Loch Monzievaird Chalets Crief.

Friday -10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephens.

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

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

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

This Sunday, please join me to welcome His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Andrew McKenzie on his First Pastoral visit to our Parish. Bishop McKenzie will be with us from Saturday 31st of May to Sunday the 1st of June. While here, he will celebrate all the weekend masses of the parish with us, get to know us better and confer the sacrament of Confirmation on our boys and girls. Everyone is invited to the Hall for some refreshments and time with the Bishop.

Mass intentions: Those who have **died recently:** Fr Anthony Udogu, Eva Markova, James McCue, and those whose **anniversary** we remember now especially Jim Warden, Johnny Adams, Patrick O'Brien.



This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord.

I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

This Week's Message in a Glance...

The Priestly prayer of Jesus

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

- ⇒ **-Family Rosary and adoration.** Every Wednesday 6.00pm-7.00pm.
- ⇒ Mass for the sick every Wednesday 7.00pm-7.30pm.
- ⇒ **-Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 5.00pm 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.

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.

This Sunday's Food 4 Thought: In today's gospel we are invited into Jesus' prayer as he speaks to his Father – not for himself, but for us. He is praying for those who have come to believe in him through the word his first disciples passed on. It is one thing to listen in on a conversation at a table next to us in a restaurant. It is quite another to be invited to listen in on Jesus at prayer – especially since we are the ones he is talking to his Father about.

Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples. Jesus knows that his disciples will be stressed after he leaves them and so he prays that the community will hold together and continue to be his witnesses

despite great difficulties.

The word of God is a living, present-tense word. So, Jesus' prayer is alive; he is praying for us who, like his disciples, are gathered with him and one another around the table. He prays for our unity, that we hold together; not only when the church faces persecution, but also during these painful times, as one after another piece of breaking news reveals still more accounts of clergy abuse and cover-ups. We need his prayer for unity more than ever, as more and more leave our church because of the impact the scandal has had on them.

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

CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT: ST LUANS: At the end of the three sessions, I want to thank the group in St. Luan's for taking time to make contributions and deliberate on this matter as requested by Bishop McKenzie. Your contributions are apt and very succinct and will go a long way to add value to the collective response by the people of God in advising the Bishop on the way forward for the diocese of Dunkeld. Thank you very much.

CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT: ST STEPHENS: The group working on the report requested by Bishop Andrew on what the Holy Spirit might be asking from the Church in the Diocese of Dunkeld will have its third session in the Lower Hall immediately after 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 8th of June. If you would like to contribute, do please join us after Mass.

Reflection: The Priestly Prayer of Jesus and the idea that Jesus actually thought of us:

In today's gospel we are invited into Jesus' prayer as he speaks to his Father – not for himself, but for us. He is praying for those who have come to believe in him through the word his first disciples passed on. It is one thing to listen in on a conversation at a table next to us in a restaurant. It is quite another to be invited to listen in on Jesus at prayer – especially since we are the ones he is talking to his Father about.

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We will voice our prayers for healing, unity for our church and for the victims of abuse. As it is with prayer, we express our dependence on God and our trust that the 'standing' Jesus of Revelation will come quickly to help us. At times it feels like we are in a perpetual Advent, waiting time and that our prayer is a constant, 'Come Lord Jesus.' That's a brief prayer, easily said throughout the day, especially when we need the standing Jesus to come and help us and our worshipping community.

Today's and Up Coming

Today, Easter offering, 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.

Please pray for the Candidates who make their Confirmation this Sunday

1. Karolina Peplinska
2. Fabian Marawski
3. Maja Danuta Sroczyk
4. Rhia Henvey
5. Fia Tenant
6. Leon Suchomski
7. Samuel Benjamin Brown
8. John Markova
9. Philip Czerwinski

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: Name: TRUSTEES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DUNKELD NO3. Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60 St Stephens RC Church. Last Sund. offertory colls: £445.66 BMF 285.00 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. Many thanks for your support to the parish.

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



Ellie Morrocco: is running a Private Tuition with some group classes this summer on study skills and also for students starting the National 5 and Higher maths courses. There are offers of some places free of charge to the kids in the parish. There will be 12 spaces available on each course. Please speak to Ellie Morrocco Private Tuition. Phone:

New Sunday Missal:

CTS is making the people's New Sunday missal available for sale at 13.99 for bulk buying of 10 copies as against 18.99 for a copy sales price. If you wish to join the bulk purchase please speak to Mary O'Brien 01828627723. Thanks.

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

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.



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.

You are never alone:

For a shared 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

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.



On behalf of the Bishops of Scotland, Bishop Frank Doogan has issued the following Pastoral Letter to be read in all parishes on Sunday 1st June, 2025.

"Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we come to the end of our Easter season, those final words of Christ should be the words that ring in our ears every day. They are a command that the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended to his heavenly Father, and they are a command he makes to us daily. Christ's earthly mission was marked by an urgency, a restlessness, that took him from place to place proclaiming the Good News. That urgency and that mission was passed on to his disciples so that others would come to believe through their witness. That was the mission of the Church then, and that remains her mission now... Pls see electronic attachment for full information.

Launch of new Dunkeld Youth Association

The new Dunkeld Youth Association has marked its launch with a successful Young Adult's Quiz Night at the Cathedral in Dundee. Joined by Bishop Andrew, who celebrated 6pm Mass alongside youth director Fr. Michael Ngobil, the young people of the DYA got involved in the parish community firstly by serving through the liturgy, and then by extending an open invitation to the youth to join together in community for an evening of fun and fellowship. With plenty of pizza and refreshments generously supplied by Canon Kevin Golden and Fr. Michael, a competitive quiz evening was enjoyed by about 25 participants, with additional inputs from Fr. Michael and Bishop Andrew, as well as Miss Kelly O'Reilly, a youth missionary with the Neo-Catechumenal Way in Athens, who came to share her inspiring testimony and join in the fun.

The DYA already has two more dates for the diary – a Pizza and AGM meeting on 4th June at 6pm, open to all youth who want to have a say in the activities or get involved, and a save-the-date for their next event, Sunday 29th June from 3pm. More details, social links and regular updates can be found through the youth website at www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk.

Justice and Peace call for 'Dignity not Detention'

Dignity Not Detention – Dungavel – Sun 15th June, 1pm
Join Justice & Peace Scotland to call for "Dignity Not Detention" and advocate for an end to the inhumane practice of unlimited immigration detention. The UK is the only country in Europe that does not have a statutory time limit on detention, meaning people can be held in prison-like conditions indefinitely with no idea when they will be released. Guest speaker: Archbishop William Nolan. Dungavel House, Strathaven, ML10 6RF. Contact office@justice@peacescotland.org.uk for more info.

Together For Sanctuary – Immaculate Conception, Maryhill – Thurs 19th June, 7pm

Justice & Peace Scotland invite you to Together for Sanctuary, a special ecumenical Christian worship service held as part of Refugee Festival Scotland. Organised in partnership with SFAR (Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees), this gathering will bring together people of all backgrounds to stand in solidarity with those who seek sanctuary for a time of prayer, worship, music and reflection and will include speakers with lived experience of seeking safety and welcome. Join us on Thurs 19th June, Immaculate Conception Church, 2049 Maryhill Road, Glasgow G20 0AA, at 7pm.

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

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No: