

## St. Stephen's RC Church Blairgowrie

St. Luan's R C Church Alyth & St. Mary's Coupar Angus

Third Sunday of Easter Time Year C 4/5/25.

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

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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.

*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 back- grounds and supported by many gifts employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a community.*

### Parish diary for the rest of the Week beginning from 4/5/25.

**Saturday** 3rd May-5.30pm: Vigil mass St. Stephen's.

**Sunday** 4th May - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 4th May -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Monday** 5th May- 10.30am/1.30pm Masses and Ministry of Care all day in Glenochil Prisons.

**Tuesday** 6th May 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

**Wed** 7th May – 6.00pm Adoration, Rosary; 7.00pm Holy mass for the Sick at St. Stephen's.

**Thurs** 8th May – 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's

**Friday** 9th May - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Step's.

**Saturday** 10th May - 5.30pm: Vigil mass St Stephen's.

**Sunday** 11th May - 9.30 am: Holy mass at St. Luan's Alyth.

**Sunday** 11th May -11.00am: Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Mass intentions: Those who have died recently: Pope Francis, Valeria Naughton Alexander Forrester, Bill Waldron, Geo McGoldrick and those whose anniversary we remember now especially Johnny Adams, Patrick O'Brien.

### 3rd Sunday of easter (C).

#### **Caught in his net**

Could we imagine ourselves as among the fish that Jesus sent Peter out to catch? Like them, we are immersed in a sea of troubles and distractions, moved by every ripple of excitement, shaken by the level of doubt and disbelief that marks our world today. We spend so much energy on what are ultimately trivialities. We dally with temptation, and let ourselves be hooked by unhealthy lures, from gambling to drugs to vacuous celebrity. It is little wonder that Christ chose simple fishermen when he chose his first apostles. Today's story reflects the miracle of salvation as an offer. Through his church, Christ has thrown over us his net of salvation, a net of grace. He says: "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind." Though it remains unseen beneath the surface, we are drawn into it, if we let that happen. We can make our own the prayer "may we be caught in God's net"

The miraculous catch of fish is really about the grace of God. There is no telling what size the catch will be until the net is finally drawn in at the end of time. Like today's catch, it may well astonish even the most seasoned fisherman. Who knows what queer fish will be caught there spluttering and

gasping at the wonder of God's mercy? The "big catch" is Christ's answer to those prophets of gloom who imagine that most people are outside his reach.

Prayer Intentions: The nine days mourning for Pope Francis end today, but the Good News of the Easter season continues to reverberate in the Liturgy. Joyfully we worship God who raised our Saviour from the dead, as we pray for the cardinals who gather to elect a new pope for us on Wednesday next. May God the Holy Spirit guide them!

Opening Prayer God of life, in your risen Son you reveal your abiding presence among us and summon those reborn in baptism to lives of worship and service. Fill this assembly with reverence as we come before you in prayer. Grant us courage and zeal in bearing witness before the world to your Son, Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who lives and reigns with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings *Acts 5:27-32* Peter and the apostles are reprimanded for teaching about Jesus. *Apocalypse 5:11-14* John shares his vision of heaven. *John 20:1-19* Jesus' third appearance to the disciples is described.

In your prayers, kindly remember those on our prayer list:

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.

You are never alone: Reach out! join any of the church groups e.g. readers, flowers ladies, Divine Mercy, adoration group etc. 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.

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.



Parish Repository is packed with lovely items at very subsidized prices: Candles, cards, prayer books, bibles, pictures, statues and various gift items that you would love.

-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, Wed. 7.30pm; Divine Mercy, Tues 10.30am; Adoration, Wed. 6.00pm.

-"The World Day of Prayer" takes place each year in different churches within EPACT. This year The World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm in St Stephen's, Blairgowrie. It would be appreciated if parishioners could come along and join the service".

-All the Committees for the Finale 170<sup>th</sup> and 125<sup>th</sup> Joint Anniversary of St Stephen's Blairgowrie (1856 – 2026) and St. Luan's Alyth (1900 – 2025) need to move very quickly now with meetings. Could all the committees have their dates for meetings and progress reports between now and the middle of March with the Organising Committee Chairman or delegate and Fr. Greg in attendance.

-Today and Up Coming Events: 11<sup>th</sup> May, Apostolate of Communication; 25<sup>th</sup> May Day of Life Collection.

-Confirmation and pastoral Visit by the Bishop: Sunday the 1st of June 2025, 11am mass. First holy communion will be on Sunday the 15th of June 2025, 2pm. Reconciliation will be on Wednesday the 26th of February 6.00pm.

Be you Pilgrims of Hope:

The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." But what does this mean for us? How can we, as individuals, families and as a parish community journey together as Pilgrims of Hope, bringing our experiences and professionalisms?

Where do we see hope and how can our concrete situations sustain hope or help us participate in it?

Bishop Andrew writes...Spiritual Conversations

Following on from our meeting of priests and deacons at St. Mary's Monastery Kinnoull, I invite you to arrange for your parish(es) a series of spiritual conversations, three in total, during the Easter Season, focusing on what the Holy Spirit might be asking from the Church in the Diocese of Dunkeld. I would be pleased to receive a short report from each of the parishes by Pentecost Sunday. These reports will help us as together we plan for the diocese. I have attached to this email some advisory materials which I trust you will find helpful. Thank you again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Conversations in the Spirit ... ' *Conversation in the Spirit is a tool that, even with its limitations, enables listening in order to discern "what the Spirit is saying to the Churches" (Rev 2:7). Its practice has elicited joy, awe and gratitude and has been experienced as a path of renewal that transforms individuals, groups, and the Church.* ' #3 Synodal Final Document

National Day of Prayer for Life this Sunday.

Please find attached a pastoral letter from the Bishops of Scotland to be read and/or distributed at Masses this weekend 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> May.

Bishop John Keenan will lead a Rosary in prayer for our country to care not kill in St Augustine's Parish Church, Coatbridge at 6pm (following 5pm Mass) on Sunday evening. All are welcome to attend in person or watch online (search 'Being Catholic TV' on YouTube). Please find attached a poster with more information about this event.

-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: £505.52; BMF:£223.43. 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.

-wishing you a happy weekend. Fr. Greg.