



St. Stephen's R C Church 8 Bank Street

Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

14th Sunday, Year C. 6/7/25

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 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: Week beginning from 6/7/25



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 – 9am-Wednesday 5pm: Prison Chaplaincy Training all day: Brightons, Edinburgh.

Wed – 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

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

- 2pm Baptism of Sandy in St. Stephens

Frid - 10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

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

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

Mass intentions: Those who have died recently: Ngozi Anukam, Jerry Oko.

The call to Discipleship:

Our discipleship can be summed up in two phrases: **"Come and see"** and **"Go and tell."** If we have personally felt the value of having Jesus in our lives, we will want to tell others about him. There is a difference between witnessing and preaching. We are all called to witness, but not all are called to preach. Many good Christians would melt rather than preach in public. But we can all bear witness to Christ, through the quality of our living. Let's ask ourselves the challenging question attributed to

G. K. Chesterton: "If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

Opening Prayer:

Boundless, O God, is your saving power; your harvest reaches to the ends of the earth. Fill our hearts with zeal for your kingdom and place on our lips the tidings of peace. Grant us perseverance as heralds of the gospel and joy as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Isaiah 66:10-14 Isaiah gives a message of peace and hope, a sample of the kind of message the followers of Jesus bring. *Galatians 6:14-18* Paul ends his letter to the Galatians with a plea for Christians to be reconciled.

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 The sending out of the 72 disciples, with instructions not to delay for any reason. These 72 are to be messengers of peace, as was foretold in the first reading.

Other Participatory Programmes of the Parish.

-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: Amarachi Okwuru

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.

Today's and Up Coming: 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.

-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 Sunday offertory collection: £383.14; Mission appeal by Visiting Priest £629.38 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 .

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 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. Stephen's Parish Library. Selection of Books on: Spirituality/ Prayer. Lives of Saints/ Martyrs, 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.



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Reflection: THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

1. On March 27, 2020, at an early point in the global pandemic, Pope Francis walked alone in the rain across an empty St. Peter's Square to offer prayer for the world in a time of crisis. "Faith," he said, "begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars."1 Recalling when Jesus was asleep in the boat as a tempest was raging (Mk 4:35-41), the Holy Father said, "The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith."2 On that day, Pope Francis presided over the rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction in order to focus our attention on the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Pope was reminding us that even in a time of turbulence and crisis, Jesus is present among us, as present as he was long ago in the boat on the Sea of Galilee. 2. In similar fashion, Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us of this ongoing presence when he repeated to us the words of Christ: I am with you always, to the end of the age (Mt 28:20). He proclaimed: "This promise of Christ never ceases to resound in the Church as the fertile secret of her life and the wellspring of her hope. As the day of Resurrection, Sunday is not only the remembrance of a past event: it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people."3

We call on these inspiring words of the saintly Pope John Paul II as we offer these reflections on the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. We do so mindful of how the pandemic has forced us to stay physically distant from one another and, for a time, to view the celebration of the Mass on a television or computer screen. Many of the faithful appear to have had their faith and their desire for the Eucharist strengthened by such a long separation. At the same time, as pastors we sense that others, having lived without Mass for so long, may have become discouraged or accustomed to life without the Eucharist. In many ways the pandemic is still with us. 4. As Christians we know that we need Christ to be present in our lives. He is our very sustenance as he reminded us: unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you (Jn 6:53). 5. The Lord accompanies us in many ways, but none as profound as when we encounter him in the Eucharist. On our journey toward eternal life, Christ nourishes us with his very self. Once, when told by someone that she no longer saw the point of going to daily Mass, the Servant of God Dorothy Day reflected: "We go eat of this fruit of the tree of life because Jesus told us to. . . . He took upon himself our humanity that we might share in his divinity. We are nourished by his flesh that we may grow to be other Christs. I believe this literally, just as I believe the child is nourished by the milk from his mother's breast."4 Yet, we also know that he is present to us in a way that binds us together as one body, which we proclaim by our "Amen" in responding to the invitation: The Body of Christ.- USCCB. To be continued.

Annie Stewart writes... This year, Sea Sunday will be on the weekend of 10th August. As you know, this is the day in the Church's year when it prays and collects funds for all those who live and work at sea. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Your parish's support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need.

St John's RC High School have launched the Nanette Hanson Memorial Appeal to raise £3000 for a new stained glass window for the chapel (made with a local artist along with pupils) in memory of Mrs Hanson who laid down her life in a heroic manner on All Saints' Day, 1967. Donations by the community are very welcome. If you can support, please use the details below or hand in a cheque to the school office. Parents of the school can contribute via ParentPay. Name: St John's High School, Sort Code: 80-73-31, Account: 00620628. Please use the reference 'Memorial'. More information is on the school website.

"A Portrait Purloined".

St. Stephen's, Blairgowrie, Summer 2025

If you'd like to be part of this summer's production of the mystery comedy "A Portrait Purloined," please speak to Leo or Esther Brown, or complete the form below and leave it in the box.



Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory