



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

20th Sunday, Year C. 17/8/25

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

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

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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 and Mission: 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 and talents employed in various ministries and stewardships, we journey together hand-in-hand through life as a parish family of God's people.

Parish diary: Week beginning from 17/8/25

Warm welcome to Dr. Jim McManus who speaks to us this weekend in continuation of the Jubilee year of Hope from the perspective of his work on Hope and Consolation



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. Stephen's.

Monday - Prisons.

Tues - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Wed - 10am. All Day in Uni Glasgow for Catholic Teachers Prog

- 6.00pm Rosary, adoration;

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens. **St. Bernard**

Thurs - Prisons. **St. Pius X**

Frid - 10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephens. **Queenship of Mary**

- 6.00pm: Joint Anniversary all committee meeting

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.

Mass intentions: For quick recovery for Fr. Bonaventure Ozigbo, and Philip Jackson. For the Happy repose of Diana Richardson, Sandra Morrison

This week, as we pause to reflect, the words of the gospel "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing

already... Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."

Following Jesus may not always bring us happiness in this life, but we are challenged to follow him nevertheless.

It's not easy for us to accept Jesus as bringing fire, destined to destroy so much lying, violence and injustice. He wanted to radically transform the world, even at the cost of challenging and dividing people. Following Jesus isn't a kind of passive and resigned attitude to the status quo.

Christians should seek eagerly, creatively and in solidarity for a better world. Those who really listen to Jesus are moved by his passionate desire for completely changed world. True disciples have "revolution" in their heart, in the sense of wanting a more just society.

Opening Prayer: O set the earth ablaze, O God, your Son submitted to a baptism unto death, and from his cup of suffering you call the Church to drink. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and give us strength in time of trial to run the race that lies before us. 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. *Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10* Jeremiah, whose preaching disturbed his king, had to suffer for it. This illustrates Jesus' words in the Gospel. *Hebrews 12: 1-4* We are encouraged us to keep struggling on. *Luke 12, 49-53* Those who follow Christ need not expect a trouble-free life.

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, Sheila McGinnis

Kindly remember also 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, Giles Umunna and Tony Donnan, Lisa Robertson, Philip Lafferty. Philip Jackson.

"Today, I am taking slow, deep breaths thanking God for the gifts provided in my life. Today, I am thinking more of others and less of myself. Today, I am walking closer to God and seeing him in everyone I meet...." Quotes of Joe

Today's and Up Coming: 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: Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80 -22-60 **St Stephens RC Church.** **Last Sunday offertory collection: £440.17; Apostleship of the Sea £232.14** 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 .

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.

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.

Ellie Morrocco: Group class schedule for church kids, scheduled for this term. The classes will be free for church kids to attend. To make it easier for people to book, I have created a discount code which can be published along with the link to my booking page: Booking link: <https://elliemorrocotuition.as.me/> Discount Code: SCHOLAGRATIS. (Please note that this initiative is entirely a private venture and a kind hearted initiated from our parishioner, Ellie and **NOT** part of a Church programme).

Journeying together in Faith Group first session held last Friday was a huge success. Our discussion point was on Prayer. Following the recommendations of the parish group "Conversation in the Spirit." we shall continue to test run this initiative in our parish within an atmosphere of a relaxed, friendly and welcoming gathering every fortnight.

News from the Vatican: Cardinal Cupich on Nagasaki anniversary: Peace demands more than a fearful truce Marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Cardinal Cupich, who is on a Pilgrimage of Peace with other US Church leaders, delivers a speech at the Interreligious Symposium of Nuclear Issues and World Peace in Nagasaki, offering a stark assessment of the U.S. decision to use atomic weapons in World War II.

He offered a reflection from the perspective of a Church leader but also of an American citizen assessing the U.S. decision to use atomic weapons in World War II.

The Archbishop of Chicago called the 1945 bombings "deeply flawed" due to the abandonment of core principles in international law and Catholic moral teaching, particularly the distinction between combatants and civilians.

The cardinal also referred to the importance of integral disarmament, a term developed by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which he said calls for addressing the social, economic, and ecological foundations of peace.

The illusion of nuclear deterrence. In a critique of nuclear deterrence, Cardinal Cupich stated: "The use of threats... can never bring about the peaceful coexistence between nations that an ethic inspired by solidarity, authentic development, and human rights can produce."



Children's Liturgy: I want to thank Mary Wojtowicz and her team of 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.

COFFEE MORNING : SATURDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2025 COFFEE MORNING: DONATIONS PLEASE

We're now collecting for our stalls for the coffee morning for "Happy Tummies" and would be really grateful if you could put any suitable donations into the bag at the back of the church. We're hoping to collect enough items to have a bottle stall, a raffle, tombola, etc - and to make up a hamper (as the main raffle prize). We're also asking for donations both to serve up with coffee/tea at the coffee morning and to sell on the cake and candy stall. If you'd like to donate some packets of biscuits and/or some home-baking, please fill in the sheet at the back of the church. The other sheet is for those of you happy to help on the day to write down your name/contact details, or alternatively please give your name to Gail or Daria. Thank you!

"Life is good when you keep positive and pray"

- The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness
- To an opponent, tolerance, to a friend, your heart
- To your child, a good example, to your father, a deference, to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you, to yourself, respect, to all men, charity. ---Quotes of Joe

Parish Diversity Day Celebration: Sunday 28th September 2025. This year will showcase cultural diversity in a unique setting: Flags A4bsize, multi linguistic mass celebration and prayers, songs, poems, cloths, prints, culinary and many other initiatives from our diver communities in the parish.

"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.



This parish concert in the Parish Hall is scheduled for Friday 29th August. 6.00pm

Please bring BYOB and your friends and have a truly lovely evening. **Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory**

