



## **St. Stephen's R C Church.**

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

21st Sunday, Year C. 24/8/25

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 24/8/25

Warm welcome to Fr. Charles Ejieji who speaks to us this Jubilee for Priests Sunday in continuation of the Jubilee year of Hope Programme. He speaks to us from the perspective of his work as a diocesan Priest.



**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** - Prisons.

**Tues** - 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephens.

- 4.00pm Retreat in Glasgow

**Wed** - Retreat continues all morning and afternoon

- 6.00pm Rosary, adoration, St. Stephens.

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens. St. Monica

**Thurs** - Prisons. St. Augustine

**Frid** - 10.00am. **Funeral mass for Sandra Morrison** at St.

Stephens. The Passion of John the Baptist

- 6.00pm: Parish Concert and Music

**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 the Happy repose of Sandra Morrison

This week, With so much talk about Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and its outcome over the past few Sundays, it is not surprising

people are asking if many or only few would be saved. Actually, this was a frequently asked questions in Jewish circles. Some held that only a few people would be saved: would Jesus agree? He avoids a direct answer. What matters is that people reflect in their lives the values Jesus has been teaching.

**Opening Prayer:** To the banquet of your kingdom, O God of the nations, you have invited people of every race and tongue. May all who are called to a place at your table come by the narrow way to the unending feast of life. We make our prayer 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.** *Isaiah 66: 18-21* Isaiah dreams of the time when all the nations will accept God's message and be gathered together. *Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13* Suffering is interpreted as a way of being trained to do what is right. *Luke 13: 22-30* Salvation is open to all people, but many now first will be last into the kingdom of God.

### **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.

-Sac of Reconciliation: 5.00pm every Sat and 9am every Sun.

-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.

**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'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 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.

**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. Next session: 5<sup>th</sup> September. 6pm.** 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.



**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!

**A Pile of Crosses:** A man died and his soul was brought to purgatory. An Angel led him to a field where he saw a huge pile of crosses. "Before I take you to heaven," the angel told him, "you must first carry all these crosses to that faraway hill." The man shock his head in frustration. The crosses were too many, and the distance between the hill and the field where they stood was too great. It would take him a long time to finish the task since he was allowed to carry one cross at a time. "I cannot understand this," the man complained. "I have lived a good life

and carried my crosses while on earth. Why are you asking me to carry so many crosses more here?" Yes, you lived a good life and carried some crosses while you were on earth. But these are some crosses you complained about while you were on earth. Every cross you carry grudgingly returns here in Purgatory for you to carry once again after death.

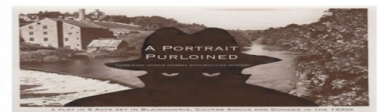
Lesson: If only he knew well enough, he would have carried his cross without complaint while on earth.

**Parish Diversity Day Celebration:** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> August. 6.00pm. Please bring BYOB and your friends and have a truly lovely evening.

#### **The Narrow Door:**

The invitation to 'enter by the narrow door' can be read in light of another saying of Jesus: *'I am the door; the one who enters through me, will be saved'* (John 10:9). Entering by the narrow door is 'following Jesus'; learning to live as he did; taking up his cross and trusting the Father who has raised him from the dead. In following him, not everything counts, not everything is equal; we need to respond to the Father's love faithfully. What Jesus asks isn't legalistic rigorism, but a radical love for God and neighbour. That's why his call is a source of demand, but not of anxiety. Jesus Christ is a door that is always open. No one can close it, only ourselves if we close ourselves to his forgiveness. (José Antonio Pagola)

#### **News from the Vatican: Even at darkest moment, never too late to love and forgive. -Pope Leo XIV**

Dear brothers and sisters, in our catechesis on the Jubilee theme of "Christ our Hope," we continue to reflect on Jesus' passion, death and resurrection by considering his forgiving love. Despite his betrayal, Jesus loves his disciples until the end: he washes their feet, and even offers a morsel of bread to his betrayer in one last attempt to demonstrate that love. This morsel, in fact, signifies that God does everything possible to reach us in order to offer his love and forgiveness. While never denying that evil exists or acting as if bad things do not happen in this world, the example of Jesus shows us that true forgiveness does not wait for contrition but is offered first as a gift. When we experience wounds and betrayal, let us ask for the grace to offer true forgiveness, even when we feel misunderstood and abandoned, or even when it seems to be in vain. In this way, may we know the freedom and peace that comes from a loving and forgiving heart.

-- *Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory*