



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

22nd Sunday, Year C. 31/8/25

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 31/8/25

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

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

-11.00am: Holy mass at St. Steph's.

Monday — Prison ministry all day.

Tues — 10.00am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

Wed — 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's. **St. Gregory the great**

- 6.00pm Rosary, adoration, St. Stephens.

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Thurs — Prison ministry all day.

Frid - 10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephens. **Sch. pupils in attendance**

-1.00pm — Funeral of Diana Richardson in Edinburgh

- 6.00pm - Journeying together in Faith Group

Saturday — 10.00am Parish Coffee Morning in support of for "Happy Tummies Kids Kitchen"

- 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: John Patrick Rea. 1st Anniversary

This week, The error of pharisaism stares us to the face! It is their self-sufficiency, their lack of true humility. They vied for the places of honour, which they saw as rightly theirs for strictly observing the Law. We, too, can fall into that error and forget our complete dependence on the grace of God, freely offered and unmerited.

Jesus frequently dines with Pharisees in Luke's Gospel, and he seldom spares his hosts! On this occasion Jesus notices the fight for the best places at table — a sign of social status. Jesus offers two comments. First, don't risk being moved to a lower place at table when someone more important arrives, Second, dinners etc should be used as an opportunity to do good to the poor and others who cannot repay the favour.

Opening Prayer: God and judge of all, you show us that the way to your kingdom is through humility and service. Keep us true to the path of justice and give us the reward promised to those who make a place for the rejected and the poor. 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. Amen.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings. Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 3: 17-20, 28-29 A profound humility follows the awareness that all is God's. Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24 The new Jerusalem is accessible to all who believe in Jesus. Luke 14: 1, 7-14 Contains a warning against arrogance.

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: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60.

Last Sunday offertory collection: £485. 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://elliemorroccotuition.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. 5th 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.

COFFEE MORNING : This 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!

Parish Diversity Day Celebration: Sunday 28th September 2025. This year will showcase cultural diversity in a unique setting: Flags A4size, multi linguistic mass celebration and prayers, songs, poems, cloths, prints, culinary and many other initiatives from our diver communities in the parish.

An Amazing Evening to remember: It was a truly lovely night yesterday when the Concert group treated the audience with a most captivating concert and topped up with the best of Tom Buckham's musical mastery.

Many thanks to Esther Brown and her team of professional actors and actresses. Well done boys and girls. You were amazing.

Putting aside pride

Part of today's business culture is assertiveness training, aggressive marketing and general one-up-manship. In this context the call to self-effacement, gentleness and respect for non-influential people seems like nostalgia for a more gentle age, a bygone world. Signs of pride are all around us. The media too glibly distinguish between "Winners" and "Losers." Hierarchy, whether in church or state, at work or recreation, is highly prized. As in Luke's Gospel, seating plans are carefully arranged and the pecking order tightly observed.

In the opening prayer we ask God to bring our gifts to perfection. Whatever we have, talent, wealth or the ambition which enables us to achieve, we have it from God. If "a generous rain" has been poured on us, if we have been given a home to live in, if we are in a comfortable position it is by the gift of God and we are meant to be sharers and carers.

If we let pride rule our heart, we turn aside from God. It is illusory to devote ourselves to social climbing and seek the glare of the camera.

In the city of the living God, everyone is like a firstborn child. As members of God's family, we all have equal dignity. Can we reshape our lifestyle in the light of this? We are not required to deny our gifts, just to know them as God-given and act responsibly towards those less gifted or otherwise gifted.

News from the Vatican: 'Peace begins with what we say and do'- Pope Leo XIV. To mark the Solemnity of Saint Augustine, Pope Leo XIV sent a video message to the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

Reflecting on the saint's life, Pope Leo noted that Augustine's journey "was full of trial and error, like our own lives." Yet through grace, the prayers of his mother Monica, and the witness of the community around him, he discovered "the way to peace for his restless heart."

"Jesus reminds us in the Gospel to love our neighbour," the Pope stressed, urging all to look at one another with the eyes of Christ and to rediscover our identity "as sisters and brothers in Him." Quoting then Augustine's words—"Do not have your heart in your ears, but your ears in your heart"—the Pope invited the human family to embrace a spirit of listening. "Before we speak, we must listen," he said, adding that in a synodal Church, the call is to listen to the Holy Spirit, to one another, and especially to the voices of the poor.

He encouraged all to filter out the noise and division of the world in order to hear God's loving voice, which alone can bring peace. "When we hear that reassuring voice," he said, "we can share it with the world as we strive to become one in Him."

Pope Leo concluded by entrusting the Augustinian family to the Virgin Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, praying that "God bless you all and bring peace to your restless hearts, and help you continue to build a community of love, one in mind and heart, intent upon God."

--Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory