



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

25th Sunday, Year B. 21/9/25

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 Holy 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 21/9/25

Please remember that there will be only one mass on Sunday the 28th as we celebrate our Parish Family Diversity Day.

Please join us in this celebration.



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. **Mass int: Laura**

Campbell. Anniversary.

Monday — Prison ministry all day.

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

Wed — 10.00am Holy mass at St. Luan's.

- 1pm - 5pm Personal Protection Training, HMP Perth
- 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.

- 7.00pm. Anniversary Mass in Holy Family Dunblane

Sunday: - 11.00am: Parish Family Diversity Day Holy mass at St. Stephen's and Reception in the Hall afterwards. Everyone is invited.

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.

- Journeying together in Faith Group — Every fortnight.

This week: No pockets in a shroud

"The love of money is the root of all evil" says St Paul. He did not call *money itself* the root of all evil, but rather the *love of money*. Of course money is needed as a means of exchanging goods in every organised society. But a person can become its slave through excessive love of money. It can become a substitute for God in one's life. Possessions are only on loan to us, and in time we must leave them all behind. "Naked I came from my mother's womb," (Job 1:21), "and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away." Deep down, we know that there are no pockets in a shroud. **Ass. of cat. Priest.**

Opening Prayer: God our Saviour, you call us into your service. Make us wise and resourceful: children of the light who continue your work in this world with untiring concern for integrity and justice. 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. *Amos 8: 4-7* A warning to treat others justly. *1 Timothy 2: 1-8* Paul reminds us to offer prayers for everyone. *Luke 16, 1-13* We cannot be slaves both of God and money.

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, Morag McInness.

Today's and Up Coming: 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. **Feb. 18th 2026, Ash Wednesday; 5th April 2026 Easter; 31st May 2026: Confirmation; 7th June 2026 First Holy Communion; 25th/26th June Joint Anniversary Celebrations for St. Luan's and St. Stephen's "300 years of Catholicism."**

-Details of Parish account: Name: **St. Stephens RC Blairgowrie.** Account Number: 28075068; Sort Code: 80-22-60.

Last Sunday offertory collection: £447.55; Sick and Retired Priests £323.31. 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 Thanks.

Wednesday 24th Sept. Messa in lingua italiana 12noon Our Lady of Lourdes Struan Road Perth PH1 2JP

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.

Journeying together in Faith Group. Next Session: 3rd Oct. 6pm. Topics discussed so far: **Prayer**: How, when and where to pray, types of prayer; **Purgatory**: meaning, why and how long before they are freed, Should we pray for or to those in purgatory; **Sin**: venial and mortal sins; **Reconciliation**; **Hell**, a state of deprivation not a place, devil, fallen angels, will and choice; **Mercy of God**: works of charity, etc. 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.

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 Reflection: Reflection from: U.S. Catholic

Luke's passage makes it clear that "no one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and wealth." Money is a terrible master as it distorts our worldview, so we stop seeing people as neighbours and begin seeing them as resources or threats. To serve God means orienting every part of our lives around love, grace, and justice. We cannot claim to serve God while our hearts are captive to consumerism, power, status, or self-interest.

Every day, we make choices that declare who our true master is. Will we follow God, or will we serve the idol of accumulation and wealth? We must choose.

In a world that urges us to "go big or go home," Jesus teaches the power of small, consistent acts of love, honesty, generosity, and justice. One's character is revealed in everyday decisions with how we handle small things, such as our words, our time, our money, and our relationships. True wealth is not gold or bank accounts; it is grace, justice, compassion, generosity, and peace,

which are the gifts of the Spirit. We cannot pursue those things while worshiping wealth, as we need to see care of our neighbours, the environment, and the vulnerable as a holy responsibility.

We need to become faithful to God and not to money. Our faith must be embodied not just in church, but in how we spend money, treat people, respond to injustice, and care for creation. Being faithful in the little things is a revolutionary act in a world that often ignores the quiet, humble, and everyday acts of love and justice. Faithfulness is doing the right thing when no one is watching and giving a little when you don't have a lot.

News from the Vatican: Pope: Religions are wellspring of healing, not source of division. --- By Devin Watkins

Pope Leo XIV sends a message to the 8th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Kazakhstan, and invites the faithful of all religions to help build a future of peace, fraternity, and solidarity.

The Pope said the religious leaders have come together at a time marked by violent conflict to "renew friendships and forge new ones, united in our common desire to bring healing to our fractured and wounded world."

Reflecting on the event's theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future," Pope Leo noted that every authentic religious impulse seeks to foster dialogue and cooperation, since they transcend borders and unite people everywhere.

"Working together in harmony is not merely a pragmatic choice, but a reflection of the deeper order of reality," he said. "Solidarity, then, is synergy in action: the lived expression of loving our neighbour as ourselves on a global scale."

Far from erasing differences, cooperation among religions invites the faithful to embrace diversity as a source of enrichment.

The Pope recalled that the Second Vatican Council upheld the Catholic Church's acknowledgement and esteem for all that is "true and holy" in other religions, in its 1965 declaration *Nostra Aetate*.

"[The Church] seeks to foster authentic synergy by bringing the distinct gifts of each tradition to the table of encounter, where each faith contributes its unique wisdom and compassion in service of the common good," he said.

The Pope recalled that his predecessor, Pope Francis, attended the previous Congress in Astana in September 2022, when religious leaders condemned violence and upheld the need to care for refugees and work for peace.

Pope Leo XIV called for leaders of all religions to commit to building a "future of peace, fraternity, and solidarity" by bearing witness to the truth that faith "unites more than it divides."

"Synergy," he said, "becomes a powerful sign of hope for all humanity, revealing that religion, at its core, is not a source of conflict but a wellspring of healing and reconciliation."

In conclusion, the Pope expressed his hope that the interreligious congress will inspire believers to work for harmony and create a "synergy for peace," which is "unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering." -- *Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory*