



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

28th Sunday, Year B. 12/10/25

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

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 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 12/10/25

Continuing our Jubilee of Hope Celebration, we are happy to welcome Ms Lyndsey Smith, the Head Teacher of St.

Stephens Blairgowrie who will be sharing her experiences with us this Sunday at the 11am mass as we mark the Jubilee of Education.



October Devotions. Rosary and Litany: There is a plenary indulgence for the recitation of these in Church, family or pious associations.

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. Our Lady of the Rosary

Wed — 10am Holy mass at St. Stephen's. Diamond Wedding anniversary of George and Mary Flockhart

Thurs — Prison ministry all day.

Frid - 10.00am. Holy mass at St. Stephens. St. Ignatius of Antioch

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

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 — Session, Every fortnight.

This week:

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. Amen.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

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: 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: £481.85; BMF 236.72. 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.

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: 17th 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, **Kinds of Baptism:** Baptism by desire, blood and water 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.

Mass offered each month to pray for an increase of priestly and religious vocations: There is a Mass offered each month to pray for an increase of priestly and religious vocations and for our priests, and a Holy Hour before it. It is in the Immaculate Conception, Lochee on 2nd Tuesday of the month - Holy Hour 6pm, Holy Mass, 7pm. The next one is on Tuesday 14th October. All are most welcome. Thank you for your cooperation, Sincerely, Norah Sloan. Dunkeld Serra.

Dunkeld Mission Day Event: Date: Saturday 18 October 2025. Time: 9.30 am tea & coffee to 3.30 pm at *St Mary's Forebank*.

Eucharistic Ministers, Diocese of Dunkeld: A Day of Formation & Celebration – one being held in Dundee and one in Perth. Mandatory of all Eucharist Ministers throughout the diocese

The first will take place at the Diocese of Dunkeld Pastoral Centre, St Mary's Church Hall and Church, Forebank Road, Dundee on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 10am until 1pm (primarily for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the Dundee, Fife and Angus Parishes) and the same event of Formation and Celebration will be repeated on Saturday 15 November in the Church Hall and Church at St John's, Perth (primarily for those in the Perth and Kinross areas and Clackmannanshire).

The programme will be as follows:

10am Welcome, Gathering Hymn and Prayer.

10.10am Input: *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.* The liturgical experience as *food for the journey*.

10.45am: break for tea, coffee and cake.

11am: Spiritual conversation, guidelines, practicalities and questions.

12noon: Celebration of the Eucharist with commissioning of new Extraordinary Ministers.

1pm: Depart.

Reflection: In our Gospel passage, we see Jesus in his compassion healing ten people from leprosy, a disease that

would have forced these people to remain outside of the community, a particularly painful problem in a close-knit society. These people had been rendered outcasts, and now, through Jesus' healing action, they can re-enter society. The joy and excitement must have been palpable, and it is more than just probable that they did, in fact, feel gratitude toward Jesus, but it is only one, a Samaritan, who returns to actually thank him. The fact that it is a Samaritan is a particularly poignant lesson. The rapport between Jews and Samaritans at the time of Jesus was not good to say the least. Jesus himself refers to the man as a "foreigner." So, the man would have been an outcast on two levels, as a person suffering from this skin disease and as a Samaritan. But this is the one who gives us such a beautiful lesson about having an attitude of gratitude.

We have so much for which to be grateful. It is too easy in life to focus solely on the negative. If we but look at the gifts we have, it can help us to develop that attitude of gratitude. Our reading from Second Timothy can help to remind us of what we can focus upon, that as chosen ones, we may strive to "obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory." Putting that into its proper perspective, how can we not feel grateful?

News from the Vatican: Pope Leo: Faith cannot be separated from love for the poor.

Taking up Francis' desire "that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor", Pope Leo XIV issues his first Apostolic Exhortation, "Dilexi te", as a call to Christ's disciples "to recognize him in the poor and the suffering".

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more.

Dilexi te ("I have loved you", from Rev 3:9) unfolds in 121 numbered paragraphs spread throughout five chapters, and flows directly from the Gospel of the Son of God, Who in the very act of entering into our world through the Incarnation became poor for our sakes. At the same time, it reposes the Church's social teaching, especially that of the past 150 years, as "a veritable treasury of significant teachings" concerning the poor. Following in the footsteps of his predecessors

With this document, signed on 4 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo situates himself firmly on the path laid out by his predecessors, including Saint John XXIII, with his appeal, in *Mater et Magistra*, to wealthier countries not to remain indifferent to nations oppressed by hunger and extreme poverty (83).

Saint Paul VI added his own voice with *Populorum progressio* and his appearance at the United Nations as an "advocate of the poor"; as did Saint John Paul II, who consolidated the doctrinal foundations of the Church's "preferential option for the poor".

More recently, Benedict XVI, in *Caritas in veritate*, offered a more markedly political take on the crises of the Third Millennium; while Francis made care for the poor and solidarity with the poor one of the key themes of his pontificate... -- *Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory*