



St. Stephen's R C Church.

8 Bank Street Blairgowrie Ph10 6DE, 872171

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

29th Sunday, Year B. 19/10/25

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 19/10/25



October Devotions. Rosary and Litany: Encouraged in Church before mass, at home/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.

Wed - 10am Holy mass at St. Stephen's.

6.00pm Rosary, adoration, St. Stephens.

- 7pm. Holy mass at St. Stephens.

Thurs - Prison ministry all day.

Frid -

No mass today Pls

Saturday -

No vigil Mass Pls

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.

- Don Bosco Group with activities tailored to children & young people & open to everyone in the community. Every fortnight.

This week:

Opening Prayer: Lord, tireless guardian of your people, always ready to hear the cries of your chosen ones, teach us to rely, day and night, on your care. Support our prayer lest we grow weary. Impel us to seek your enduring justice and your ever-present help. Grant 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: *Exodus 17:8-13* — The people of Israel trust in God's help, communicated to them through their leader Moses: his determination wins the day. *2 Timothy 3:14 to 4:2* Paul urges everyone in the Christian community to action — especially preachers. *Luke 18:1-8* — Jesus uses a parable to show that persistent prayer works.

The widow's persistence, symbolise her commitment to prayer.— A Reflection from: OCP

The parable of this Sunday is centered on a very human conflict between a widow and a corrupt judge. The widow, stripped of her power and influence in a patriarchal society because of her husband's death, implores the judge to render judgment in her case against an unknown adversary. The judge couldn't care less about this widow, but she is persistent.

The judge was unwilling but he eventually thought, "While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her, lest she finally come and strike me."

Three things stand out here:

1. The widow's persistence, symbolizing her commitment to prayer
2. The judge's reluctant turning of a favourable verdict, which pales in comparison to God's graciousness
3. Jesus' final question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

In our Christian journey through life, we must ask ourselves: Are we praying? And not only that. Are we faithful? Prayer goes hand in hand with faith. Prayer without faith is nothing but empty words. It is our faith in Jesus Christ that anchors our lives and empowers our prayer. Believe! And pray unceasingly!

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 McInnes.

Today's and Up Coming: 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: £496.92. 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 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: 31st 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, **Pope Leo XIV Papal Exhortation** *Dilexi te* just released. 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.

Don Bosco Group: The Parish is beginning a programme, Don Bosco Group with activities tailored to children and young people and open to everyone in the community. The aim is to meet every other Friday from 6-7:15pm. St. Stephen's Hall.

Basic idea: This project seeks to engage young people with meaningful activities. We **Learn** skills, **Perform tasks,** **Gain confidence,** **Grow together** and **Pray** together.

This October 24th, we begin with short projects to get the group up and running. In November we can start preparing a quiz/play for a parish Christmas social night.

Contact person: Esther Brown sdjbya@gmail.com.

St. Stephen's Outfit Library for Confirmation and Holy Communion clothing. Do you have an outfit that's too beautiful to be forgotten in a wardrobe? Share the joy and donate the items that your children have outgrown. We will store items of clothing (shoes, dresses, kilts, suits etc.) and they can be worn again.

Anyone can borrow clothing for Holy Communion and Confirmation free of charge or for a donation. If you're interested, speak to Esther or email sdjbya@gmail.com.



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.

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).

Reflection: Holy See renews calls for abolition of death penalty

The Holy See calls for universal abolition of the death penalty, noting that the unchallengeable, God-given dignity of every human person is immutable from conception to natural death. The Holy See addressed the 2025 Warsaw Human Dimension Conference during the plenary session on the rule of law, and reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to defending the inalienable dignity of every human person.

Truth for human dignity

Msgr. Lucas Marabese, Deputy Head of Mission of the Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), emphasized that human dignity, given by God, is inviolable from conception until natural death. It has also condemned any form of mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, and attempts to coerce the will itself. The Delegation reiterated the Church's consistent rejection of torture and all forms of inhumane treatment, citing international human rights instruments that preserve the absolute exclusion of torture as a non-negotiable principle.

Institutions entrusted with establishing criminal responsibility should diligently pursue the truth, he said, while ensuring that their proceedings are conducted in full respect for the dignity and rights of the human person, underscoring the necessity of just and humane procedures in criminal investigations.

Safeguarding the common good

He noted the increasing awareness that even those guilty of grave crimes do not lose their inherent dignity, alongside the development of penal systems that protect society without depriving offenders of the possibility of redemption.

"Bearing this in mind, the Holy See considers the death penalty excluded because it is an attack on the sacredness and dignity of the person," Msgr. Marabese declared. "Therefore, it will continue to press with determination for its abolition worldwide."

Wishing you a lovely weekend, Fr. Gregory

